

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - DECEMBER 2009



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS



THE WORLD BANK



UNDP/WORLD BANK/UNAIDS PROGRAMME ON MAINSTREAMING AIDS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROCESSES

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The UNDP, World Bank and UNAIDS Programme on Mainstreaming AIDS into National Development Plans and Processes¹ is pleased to present the fourth issue of its newsletter.

The current issue provides a broad overview of the programme's activities for 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS

ROUND 4 CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP: JOHANNESBURG, September 2009

As a follow up to the Country Preparatory Missions which took place in June and July 2009 in the four Round 4 countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland) joining the Mainstreaming Programme, Issues Papers detailing the bottlenecks as well as the opportunities for strengthening HIV and Gender integration into NDPs and PRSPs were drafted by national technical teams on mainstreaming. Thirty-four delegates from the four countries came together for a five-day-long capacity building and knowledge sharing workshop, held in Johannesburg from 28 September to 2 October 2009. These countries were characterized by the fact that they are all hyper-endemic countries experiencing some of the highest rates of HIV globally. In addition, two representatives from Sierra Leone attended the workshop to build their skills in view of their planned sectoral mainstreaming activities. Country delegations were composed of six/ten-member national teams, each of which included representatives from civil society, National AIDS Commissions, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Gender and Youth and the UNDP HIV project focal points.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Enhance skills transfer and innovation, promoting experience sharing and establishing practitioner networks among participating country technical teams to take advantage of the NDP/PRSP process to identify key issues and opportunities for reflecting AIDS and gender priorities in the NDPs and PRSPs;
- Strengthen skills of country-level personnel to ensure stronger analysis, integration and implementation of AIDS strategies within ongoing NDPs/ PRSPs;

1. The UNDP, World Bank and UNAIDS Joint Programme on Mainstreaming AIDS into National Development Plans and Processes is referred to as the 'Mainstreaming Programme' in this newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore ways of identifying and addressing the governance and M&E related challenges to implementation of mainstreamed activities within NDPs/PRSPs;
- Develop and ensure implementation of “results based” Country Follow-Up Activities (CFA) based on the Country Specific Issues Papers.

The training programme was designed specifically for the context of these four hyper-endemic countries, considering that they all face similar challenges in light of their epidemic contexts. The workshop built on the experiences of Rounds 1, 2 and 3 countries in mainstreaming HIV in the processes of national planning and development. Round 4 workshop incorporated a strong emphasis on gender as well as on the current global economic crisis and on strengthening linkages between AIDS responses and the other MDGs, through cost-effective mainstreaming strategies. Further, on the Mainstreaming Programme methodology, Monitoring and Evaluation was particularly emphasised, with the need for M&E capacity to be developed at all levels (including UNDP).

Conclusions and findings included the following:

- The workshop was the final stage of preparing the four countries to implement action plans (CFAs), which is a key component of the Mainstreaming Programme’s methodology. A new development for Round 4 is the strengthened collaboration between UNDP, UNAIDS and civil society on an

extended involvement in the implementation of the country programme and an increased focus on mainstreaming gender priorities.

- The countries expressed a strong interest in learning from the experiences of the first three rounds, for practical information on what works to raise levels of commitment and leadership, to secure stable and predictable funding for HIV programmes, on tools for gathering evidence to inform policies on HIV and on monitoring their AIDS responses. The participants appreciated the availability of tools and resources for mainstreaming that would assist them in their everyday work on AIDS, and found the sharing of Rwanda and Zambia’s experiences in the Programme particularly useful.
- One concrete indicator of the success of the workshop is the draft CFAs prepared by each of the four national technical teams present. These action plans were finalised following the workshop at stakeholders’ meeting in the countries and all the four countries started implementation of their plans in November 2009.
- It was apparent that the national teams clearly understood the process of mainstreaming and the challenges involved and further strengthened their skills through the entry points and issues for mainstreaming HIV that were identified during the course of the workshop.

Updates in this issue are based on information provided in quarterly progress reports prepared by Mainstreaming Programme focal points. The reports highlight the range of activities taking place in countries, while detailed and comprehensive reviews of country follow-up activities are reported separately in annual progress reviews².

ROUND 3 COUNTRIES have started implementing of their CFAs in 2008. Highlights from **Guinea, Liberia, and Nigeria** are presented in this issue.

Guinea

In Guinea implementation of the following main activities from the action plan was completed:

- A mapping of risks and vulnerability in collaboration with the NAC, UNAIDS, USAID and Faisons Ensemble. The mapping included the analysis of services provided and interventions within the country AIDS response with the objective to improve the quantity and the efficiency of these interventions and of the national response. This study was in line with areas of priority of the National AIDS Strategic Plan (2008-2012).
- Two regional training workshops on strategies for strengthening the AIDS component of the monitoring and evaluation system in the PRSP and the sectoral policies were held in order to build a pool of planners able to provide technical support on mainstreaming AIDS in national and sectoral planning tools.

Planned activities include the strengthening of the capacity of civil society and of networks of people living with HIV (PLHIV), youth and women.

Liberia

Following a series of planning and follow-up meetings with the NAC Secretariat to finalize the Act to Establish the National AIDS Commission and develop a six months plan for rolling out the Country Follow-up Activities, a validation of the National Strategic Framework and Operational Plans was organized to: (i) develop consensus on the National Strategic Framework and operational plan; (ii) endorse the National Strategic Framework and operational plan; and (iii) promote integration of HIV and AIDS in sector activities (AIDS+MDG).

Importantly, a five-day workshop on sectoral mainstreaming for Ministers, Government Agencies' Heads and AIDS Focal Points took place to: (i) increase line ministries' and government agencies' leadership and knowledge on HIV; (ii) increase line ministries' and government agencies' understanding of the link between development and HIV and; (iii) initiate line ministries' and government agencies' inclusion of HIV in plans. Around 60 participants attended the training and follow-up activities are currently taking place to support the mainstreaming of AIDS in five key sectors in line with the National Strategic Plan, namely health, gender, education, youth and sports and defence.

Nigeria

After consultation with key national stakeholders, the Nigeria national technical team managing the CFA favored the organization of a four-day workshop to build the capacity of state actors to mainstream AIDS in their state-level development plans. This was believed to be crucial, considering that state-level development plans (SEEDs) are the main planning instrument for all the states in Nigeria. Six states (Adamawa, Benue, Delta, FCT, Kaduna and Rivers), were selected to attend the workshop in view of their planning cycles and participation in UNDAF. Representatives from state Planning Commissions as well as state-level AIDS commissions (SACA) of these states gathered to increase their capacity to understand AIDS as a development issue. The workshop resulted in the drafting of strategic state action plans to mainstream AIDS into their SEEDs.

2. For details of Round 1 activities and results in 2006, refer to the progress review, 'Joint Programme on Integrating AIDS into PRSPs – A Review of Experiences – Round 1'

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT OF THE UNDP/WORLD BANK/UNAIDS PROGRAMME ON MAINSTREAMING AIDS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROCESSES

In September, the Mainstreaming Programme published a second report on the experiences of the Round 1 (Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia) and Round 2 (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda) countries participating in the initiative. The report includes individual country reviews of the activities, results, challenges, good practices and lessons learned in each of the countries in the initial years of programme implementation. It also provides a cross-country synthesis of the issues, activities, results and lessons learned in supporting the integration of AIDS at various stages of the Poverty Reduction Strategy process. The review aims to capture, synthesize and share practical knowledge so that countries can consider and learn from the experiences of others in planning and implementing effective strategies and methods to support the integration of AIDS.

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