

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 - APRIL 2009



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS



JOINT UNDP/WORLD BANK/UNAIDS PROGRAMME FOR INTEGRATING AIDS INTO POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPERS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

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The Joint UNDP, World Bank and UNAIDS Programme on Strengthening Capacity for Integrating AIDS in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)¹ and National Development Plans is pleased to present the third issue of its newsletter.

The current issue provides a broad overview of the programme's activities for 2007 and 2008.

HIGHLIGHTS

Second Progress Review Workshop: Johannesburg, July 2008

Forty-three delegates from 14 countries participating in the Joint Programme came together for a three-day-long regional progress review held in Johannesburg from 15-17 July 2008, including seven Round One countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, and Zambia) and seven Round Two countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda). Country delegations were composed of three-member national teams, each of which included representatives from civil society, National AIDS Commissions/PRSP Planning Units and the UNDP/UN HIV project focal points.

The objectives of the Second Review Meeting were to:

- Review progress in supporting activities to mainstream AIDS into PRSPs
- Assess implementation challenges and compare lessons learned and good practices among 'mature' and 'younger' implementing countries
- Assess the usefulness and suitability of the mainstreaming tools and approaches for integrating AIDS in national development planning
- Document best practices from country experiences on mainstreaming AIDS in PRSPs
- Collect the experiences and challenges of the Round 2 implementing countries for the development of a second Joint Programme Progress Report

1. The Joint UNDP, World Bank and UNAIDS Joint Programme on Strengthening Capacity for Integrating AIDS in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and National Development Plans is referred to as the 'Joint Programme' in this newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS

The progress review focused on country activities in relation to four key steps in the PRSP process that present opportunities for integrating AIDS:

- i) *Participatory Process*: ensuring participation and representation of key stakeholders in designing and implementing AIDS responses within the PRS processes;
- ii) *Poverty and AIDS Diagnostics*: providing empirical evidence on poverty and HIV indicators and analysis of vulnerable groups for the formulation and implementation of national programmes;
- iii) *Policies, Strategies and Resources*: taking account of AIDS in macroeconomic, structural and sectoral policies and ensuring these are prioritised and costed;
- iv) *Monitoring and Evaluation*: Developing key indicators for monitoring and assessing the implementation of the AIDS strategies in the PRSP, as part of the overall M&E framework of the poverty reduction strategy.

KEY ISSUES, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS INCLUDED:

- Workshop discussions highlighted the unique contribution and usefulness of the Joint Programme in supporting the public sector response on AIDS. Through the implementation of Country Follow-up Activities (CFAs), each country was able to establish a better understanding of weaknesses and strengths in terms of understanding knowing their epidemic and engaging the public sector in leading and planning a more effective response.
- Many countries shared concerns on how to operationalize mainstreaming in a multisectoral setting. Discussions stressed the unique contribution of the Joint Programme to support integration of AIDS as defined by the National AIDS Strategy.
- Countries with low prevalence or concentrated epidemics raised a common challenge for mainstreaming linked to cross-sectoral issues of Human Rights legislation. They reported on emerging priorities for key sectors (such as Justice, Peace and Security, and Armed Forces) including better understanding of the vulnerabilities and drivers of the epidemic among specific population groups such as sexual minorities and commercial sex workers.
- Countries agreed on the need for supporting and strengthening the capacity of civil society at all levels of the AIDS response, particularly to support decentralized responses.
- Some countries highlighted increasing recognition of the needs of Populations of Humanitarian Concern, and the workshop proved extremely useful for experience-sharing with respect to AIDS in situations of political instability.
- For those countries with a large Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget for AIDS, the workshop discussions validated findings that Dutch Disease (which refers to the loss of competitiveness in a country's export and import-competing sectors due to higher currency values) is still viewed as a concern that can impact on the use of funds for AIDS and the planning of HIV resources for implementing the National Strategic Framework.
- Drawing on the example of Rwanda and Malawi in documenting their experience of integrating AIDS in the PRSP as a published booklet, several countries expressed an interest in supporting preparation of Country Reports on mainstreaming AIDS in national development planning processes.

Updates in this issue are based on information provided in quarterly progress reports prepared by Joint 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 reviews.²

Round 3 Countries have started implementing of their CFAs in 2008. Highlights from **Armenia, Cameroon and Haiti** are presented in this issue.

ARMENIA

In Armenia the CFA was subsumed into the UNDP Annual Workplan which also presented some HIV activities to facilitate co-ordination and build synergy.

Discussions on mainstreaming HIV issues into strategic development documents took place throughout the course of 2008, which resulted in a detailed action plan, with relevant steps, responsible persons, timing and fund allocation. Implementation of the following main activities from the action plan was completed:

- i) a Situational Needs Assessment survey was conducted among mobile populations in two regions (Ararat and Gegharqunik);
- ii) an analysis of registered HIV cases by region and risk group was developed;
- iii) activities in the PRSP II action plan including HIV specific monitoring indicators were developed;
- iv) distribution of 300 copies of the English version of the PRSP II.

Upcoming activities include the completion of HIV prevention activities among mobile populations and the preparation of a national consensus workshop on the PRSP II HIV action plan and its monitoring indicators.

CAMEROON

The focus during implementation of the CFA has been to build capacity of the NAC to support integration of HIV into national

development plans and programs. This includes coordinating, following-up, and evaluating sectoral plans to address HIV, given that existing plans and budgets do not take account of the epidemic. The CFA also aims to develop appropriate indicators for monitoring a multisectoral response to the HIV epidemic, linked to poverty reduction.

A national capacity building workshop on mainstreaming AIDS as a major development challenge in the respective sector plans was organized for key sector personnel comprising more than 60 government officials and stakeholders. This workshop sought to reinforce technical capacities of AIDS and PRSP focal persons of almost all the different ministerial departments. Preparatory work is underway to develop an advocacy strategy which will enhance the perception of AIDS as a developmental issue that needs to be addressed by stakeholders at both local and national levels.

A workshop was organized in late November to build the capacity of eight mayors and representatives of associations of PLHIV on elaboration of micro projects for income generating activities, in collaboration with the NAC and the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa (AMICAALL).

Finally, eight consultants were recruited by the NAC to carry out a study on the situational analysis of HIV within the ministerial departments.

HAITI

To ensure the effective participation of the various sectors in the integration of AIDS in the poverty reduction process, a Committee for the integration of AIDS in the PRSP was set up in September 2008 led by the Ministry of Public Health and Population and coordinating five sectors: Education, Social Affairs, Women's Affairs, Justice and Youth & Sports. Additionally, a workshop on the processes on multisectoral coordination was organized, while the CFA provided technical assistance to facilitate the process of elaboration of sectoral plans.

To guarantee that reliable data on vulnerable groups is available to facilitate effective planning and implementation, a study on vulnerable groups was carried out and was in the process of being finalized in December. Finally, guidelines for HIV interventions during emergency situations were elaborated in partnership with UNICEF, supporting existing interventions and mobilizing additional resources.

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'

Round 2 Countries have been building their activities around existing national planning processes in order to mutually reinforce mainstreaming efforts and strengthen the catalytic role of the Joint Programme. Updates from three of the Round 2 countries- **Burundi, Kenya and Malawi** -illustrate how start-up activities in the course of 2007 involved the engagement of multiple actors and stakeholders and the integration of initiatives in the national planning processes.

BURUNDI

In Burundi, CFA activities implemented during 2007 focused on:

- 1) engaging stakeholders in HIV mainstreaming,
- 2) developing capacities for HIV mainstreaming at the central and regional levels,
- 3) developing a research plan on HIV and poverty, and
- 4) identifying key indicators that will constitute the basis for monitoring the issues of HIV and poverty.

The participatory process was strengthened through the development of a training kit for parliamentarians on responding to HIV as a means of advocating HIV mainstreaming. Further, a workshop on mainstreaming HIV in business enterprises was organized for business owners and managers by the Association of Employers of Burundi and a tripartite planning meeting between Government, Employers and Workers was held with the support of the ILO.

Developing capacity to integrate HIV into sectoral and decentralized planning was supported through workshops on mainstreaming HIV at the central and provincial level. As a result, senators and members of government were able to engage in integrating HIV into sectoral plans. In addition, local actors came to understand the necessity of integrating HIV into sectoral and local planning.

KENYA

In Kenya the 2007 CFA supported the integration of HIV in Kenya's new Vision 2030 and the Medium Term Plan 2008-2012 by means of a concept paper developed through a stakeholder consultative workshop. The CFA coordinator, the HIV and AIDS

Advisor in the Ministry of Planning and National Development (MPND), was a member of the Technical Committee that prepared the Medium Term Plan for 2008-2012. The MPND worked closely with the NACC and all sectors through the AIDS Control Units and the Central Planning and Monitoring Units in each Ministry to factor HIV into their sector strategies for economic growth.

The CFA helped to develop capacity for integrating HIV in planning, budgeting and resource allocation processes at the sectoral, provincial and district levels by bringing together and training public sector officials (including the AIDS, planning, economic and finance officials in all ministries) on integrating HIV in planning, budgeting and resource allocation processes.

A four-day workshop jointly funded by the MPND, UNDP and the UK Department for International Development (DfID) trained eight Provincial Planning Officers and 175 District Development Officers and Assistant DDOs from all districts on integrating HIV into District Development Plans.

MALAWI

In Malawi, the 2007 CFA provided support to the following initiatives aimed at guiding the implementation of HIV mainstreaming efforts:

The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, with the support of the CFA, and in collaboration with various stakeholders updated and finalized the National Business Plan for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS to guide and coordinate the implementation of national strategies, policies and programmes on nutrition, HIV and AIDS, including those in the MDGs. The Business Plan identifies the key stakeholders among civil society organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and development partners, and describes their key roles and responsibilities in promoting nutrition and responding to HIV.

Joint Programme activities also supported an initiative for the National Mainstreaming Task Force to develop mainstreaming guidelines for implementation of HIV workplace programmes in the public sector. The guidelines provide a standardized approach for a minimum package of interventions to be implemented by all departments, including promoting prevention and behavior change in the civil service, mitigating the impact of HIV on delivery of services in the public sector, and providing care, support and treatment for civil servants and immediate dependants who are affected by HIV.

Round 1 Countries featured below (*Tanzania Mainland, Zanzibar and Zambia*) finished implementation of their CFAs in 2007, which was the second year of supporting the integration of AIDS in the PRSP and national planning processes. The focus during the second year has been on developing capacities for planning and implementation of the AIDS-related aspects of the PRSP at the sector, district and community levels.

TANZANIA (MAINLAND)

Developing capacities for HIV mainstreaming at the decentralized level: An Implementation Guide for the Minimum Essential Package for AIDS Interventions was developed for local government authorities (LGAs) and implementing partners at the local level. In addition, new Planning and Budgeting Guidelines were developed incorporating HIV, and training on the use of the guidelines was provided to Regional Secretariats, LGAs and CSOs.

Supporting other national mainstreaming activities: In Tanzania most HIV mainstreaming activities are supported by the World Bank Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program for Africa (MAP), therefore in addition to the CFA-funded activities, CFA resources were used to further leverage existing mainstreaming activities. This included a sectoral situational analysis for 21 ministries, departments and agencies; a 2007 annual multi-sector HIV/AIDS public expenditure review (PER); and the training of 1,581 participants on output monitoring systems for non-medical HIV interventions.

ZANZIBAR

Finalization of HIV situation and response analyses in the Education and Tourism sectors: Situation and impact analyses of HIV in the Education and Tourism, sectors were finalized in 2007.

Complementary national HIV mainstreaming activities: The country team supported several mainstreaming activities that were not funded through the CFA, including a two-day forum to orient stakeholders on the HIV content of the PRSP (ZSGRP/MKUZA); the development of a manual to guide sectors on HIV mainstreaming; and a Joint Midterm Review of the Zanzibar National Strategic Plan (ZNSP) to assess the national response. Further, Zanzibar's experience in mainstreaming AIDS in the

PRSP was documented in a publication entitled 'Lessons Learnt, Achievements and Challenges in mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (ZSGRP/MKUZA)'.

ZAMBIA

During the second year of implementation the Zambian CFA focused on providing support to facilitate the implementation of the HIV-related aspects of its PRSP, the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP).

Mainstreaming AIDS at the sector and district levels:

Building on mainstreaming guidelines developed in 2006, an AIDS mainstreaming toolkit was validated with input from the mainstreaming modules of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Fifteen national trainers and a total of 60 trainers at the provincial level were trained in the use of the national mainstreaming toolkit. The training of trainers is ongoing, which aims to cover all nine provinces and is being implemented with financial support from Irish Aid and technical support from several national and international organizations.

Selecting indicators to track the HIV aspects of the FNDP:

Outcome and impact indicators to track implementation of the HIV components of the FNDP were drawn from a monitoring and evaluation framework developed by the NAC and adopted. In addition, a compendium of HIV mainstreaming indicators for District AIDS Taskforces was developed in a consultative process.

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STUDY ON “ADDRESSING THE MACRO-MICRO ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF FINANCING MDG LEVELS OF AIDS EXPENDITURE”

The Joint Programme experience in 23 countries provided a unique opportunity to build on previous work by UNDP, the World Bank and UNAIDS Secretariat on the Macroeconomic Implications of Scaling-up AIDS Funding. As a follow-up to the 2006 International Brasilia Conference on “Gearing Macroeconomic Policies to Reverse the AIDS Epidemic”, the Joint PRSP Programme commissioned a study on the Macroeconomic and Microeconomic implications of AIDS funding based on three country case studies: Armenia, Malawi and Zambia. The study was presented at the UNAIDS/World Bank Economics Reference Group Meeting on “Health Systems and HIV Programmes: the Vertical/Horizontal Debate”, in Washington DC-28/29 April 2008.

RESOURCE GUIDE ON “UNDERSTANDING THE MACROECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SCALING UP ODA FUNDING FOR HIV AND AIDS”

The learning resource builds on findings of the Joint Programme and the Brasilia conference on ‘Gearing Macroeconomic policies to Reverse the HIV/AIDS Epidemic’, providing concise information in order to overcome concerns on the effects of scaling up ODA for HIV on the economic performance of a country, exploring existing policy responses to these concerns, and familiarizing members of civil society and other government officials to macroeconomic concepts/theories/policies on AIDS financing.

CONTACT

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