

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH:

Scaling Up HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme towards Universal Access with Increasing the Partnership of Non-Government Sector

Why is it important?

Globally there are 34 million people living with HIV. While new HIV infections have declined by 20 percent between 2001 and 2011, the HIV epidemic continues to outpace the response. In 2011, 2.5 million people were newly infected with HIV and 1.7 million people died from AIDS-related causes.

As of March 2013, 26,125 HIV+ have been registered (90% men) in Iran. Transmission through unsafe drug injection accounts for 68.6% of cases according to the Ministry of Health data. The growing HIV prevalence among injecting drug users (IDUs) has shifted the country from a low prevalence to a concentrated epidemic over the past decade, giving rise to concern about increased HIV prevalence among IDUs and other most-at-risk populations.

Despite the efforts, implementation of the National Strategic Plan is facing some gaps including the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and access to prevention, care, treatment and social support services for the HIV+.

This project builds on the achievements of a precedent project titled: ‘the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Iran through public, civil society, and private partnership.’

What is our goal?

The project is aimed at contributing to the national stride to halt and begin to reverse HIV/AIDS spreading among general population and most at risk groups by 2015.

How will we reach it?

In partnership with national institutions and local communities, the project aims to:

- Increase universal knowledge about HIV and its transmission routes among general population, adolescents, prison inmates and their families;
- Provision of voluntary counseling and testing services;
- Enhancement of prevention, care and treatment services
- Provision of professional medicine to HIV positive pregnant women and patients with resistant to regular AIDS control medication;
- Provision of psychosocial facilities/services to HIV positive individuals and their families;
- Engaging of, and capacity building for, NGOs to deliver effective HIV services; and
- Capacity building for national health system to ensure successful implementation of National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS.

What have we achieved?

The HIV/AIDS control program in Iran has been introduced as one of the best practices by WHO and UNAIDS in some publications and articles. This program was developed and revised to meet a proper response to HIV/AIDS epidemic. The 7 expected outcomes to be achieved through this program are as following:

- Training of more than 2,000,000 university and school students, prisoners & their families, injecting drug users, HIV vulnerable women, People living and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, refugees and also health system staff;
- Scale up of harm reduction services: establishment and running of 105 male and female Harm Reduction centres and Outreach teams in selected districts across the country;
- Establishment of more than 320 Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centres, Triangular Clinics and Drop-in Centres in prisons and target districts;
- Strengthening prevention services against the 'mother-to-child' transmission of HIV;
- supporting 737 AIDS patients by provision of the second line antiretroviral medicines;
- Provision of 36 units of high-tech HIV laboratory equipment (CD4 count machines) for patient monitoring; and
- Provision of Psychosocial support to people living with, or affected by, HIV through establishment and running of 14 Positive Clubs in collaboration with the UNAIDS.

Project at a Glance:

Project Title: Scaling Up HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs towards Universal Access with Increasing the Partnership of Non-Government Sector – GF Grant Round 8

Starting Date: April 2010

End date: March 2015

Grant Budget: 28,894,309 USD

Implementing Partner:

- Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education
- Prisons Organization
- Ministry of Education
- Welfare Organization
- 48 medical universities
- UNAIDS
- NGOs
- People Living With HIV/AIDS

Location: All over the country