
UBRAF thematic report: support for multisectoral national AIDS plans

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Results

In the 2012–2013 biennium, the Joint Programme supported strategic planning through new guidelines and training, dedicated in-country support and ad hoc technical assistance. The 12 members of the Joint Programme supported the multisectoral nature of national AIDS plans by providing expertise, guidance and advocacy across the broad sectoral competencies they represent, bringing a much needed focus in AIDS planning on issues such as gender, education, drugs and humanitarian challenges.

1) Country specific assistance improves multisectoral nature of national strategies (428)

The Joint Programme provided in-depth and ad hoc assistance to the development of multisectoral national AIDS strategies. The UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors supported NSP development with targeted technical assistance to countries in the following areas: costing; developing epidemiological databases and references; developing results frameworks; analysing data quality; implementing efficiency; budgetary allocation efficiency; and peer reviews.

The World Bank provided country specific assistance to 58 countries across the 4 pillars of strategic planning, improving understanding (epidemic appraisals, Know Your Epidemic / Know Your Response, programmatic mapping ...), design (allocative efficiency studies and tools), delivery (implementation efficiency studies, cash transfer studies and programs, monitoring and evaluation ...) and sustainability (financial sustainability studies) of the multisectoral response.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) gave technical support for the drafting, review or finalization of national strategies in 43 countries. The ILO inputs focused on strengthening human rights in employment, social protection for formal and informal workers, and HIV testing and treatment and prevention in the workplace, based on the six basic programmes of the investment framework in the workplace. Thirty-three countries were helped to develop or review their national action plans.

The World Food Programme (WFP) provided countries with critical technical assistance on food and nutrition in multisectoral strategic plans for HIV. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, WFP integrated for the first time a nutrition component into the Country Coordinating Mechanism's concept note to be submitted to the Global Fund. WFP has helped make national prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) strategies more multisectoral, ensuring food and nutrition support for pregnant, malnourished women was integrated in maternal and child health services. WFP also enhances multisectoral efforts by making sure the nutrition sector is HIV-sensitive. For example, in Côte d'Ivoire, WFP trained staff at the country's national nutrition programme to collect and monitor nutrition data in the context of HIV.

Ministries of education in 75 countries strengthened the education sector HIV response with UNESCO support. UNESCO has also helped seven Eastern and Southern African (ESA) countries develop HIV workplace programmes and is working to support West and Central Africa (WCA) countries to adapt the workplace policy developed for ESA.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) provided technical assistance and training to ensure the inclusion of HIV in the humanitarian response and vice versa. Examples include: (i) a joint collaboration with IOM and UNAIDS to strengthen national multisectoral HIV preparedness in emergency settings; (ii) inclusion for the first time in the National Strategic Plan (NSP) in Sudan of HIV in Humanitarian

settings; (iii) organization of a national workshop in Myanmar in 2012 on how best to integrate HIV into humanitarian response.

2) Guidance enables more prioritized AIDS strategies in times of budget constraint

The UNAIDS Secretariat, the World Bank and UNDP developed guidance on the implementation of national AIDS strategies, which asks countries to make expressly drive hard choices in prioritizing actions and reallocating funding to those activities that will have the biggest, measurable impact on the epidemic. For example, countries are asked to allocate fewer resources to generic HIV prevention activities in favour of those that meet the needs of key population groups most at risk of HIV. The investment approach supports national governments and their funding partners in maximizing returns on investment in the HIV response, and calls for three main types of investment that will have the most impact on HIV and AIDS: basic programme activities, critical enablers, and synergies with other development sectors. This approach forms the basis of the new generation of NSPs.

3) Evidence, tools and teams improve the sustainability of the response

The World Bank allocative efficiency and financial sustainability programme helps governments improve their HIV allocations for maximum impact and the financial sustainability of their national AIDS response. As part of this programme, the bank completed multiple allocative efficiency study, including a 53-country review in the WHO European region, HIV return-on-investment studies in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Swaziland and Viet Nam, and fiscal space analysis in Botswana, Jamaica, Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland and Uganda. The Bank has also initiated several investment case studies and developed dedicated tools, two of which are now integrated, a global fiscal space analysis tool, and an allocative efficiency tool, OPTimize.

UNDP researched sustainable financing in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, examining the shortcomings of conventional cost–effectiveness techniques for cross-sectoral investments in AIDS responses, for an article, *Financing structural interventions: going beyond HIV-only value for money assessments*. UNDP also co-authored a paper, *Policy and programme responses for addressing the structural determinants of HIV*, with USAID/AIDSTAR-One, to stimulate thinking on the importance of cross-sectoral approaches in the global response to HIV. The UNDP regional project on the sustainable financing of HIV responses in selected CIS countries (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), which is financially supported by the Russian Federation, was launched in 2013. The project aims to promote sustainability of national responses to HIV and incorporates the modelling of three alternatives for transitioning to national funding.

The UNAIDS Secretariat set up an investment case task team to support the development of an investment case instrument for strategic decision-making. In 2013, The Joint Programme launched or is actively planning to launch investment case studies in multiple countries.

Constraints, challenges and lessons learned

Many important lessons can be drawn from this biennium:

- There is a modest scope for increased allocative efficiency in generalized epidemics and major scope in concentrated epidemics
- Better geographic and key population targeting may increase efficiency and impact
- There is scope for increased implementation efficiency, although apart from gross examples and

potential savings from commodity gains (e.g., 1,000% reduction in the annual cost of ARV drugs), inefficiency can be hard to spot and harder to reverse

- Integration of health-related AIDS services delivered at facilities into HIV Sentinel Surveillance Surveys (HSS and national health financing is critical, overdue and likely to be cost saving
- The closer integration of HIV and TB is a major missed opportunity that must be seized

Key future interventions

The Joint Programme will continue to support improvements in the multisectoral nature of national AIDS plans. The collaboration of the 12 members of the Joint Programme is crucial, as each brings a different expertise and focus to strategic plans at country level.

Given the economic and financial context, the Joint Programme will continue to focus attention on the sustainability of the response. Investment case studies are being initiated or planned in multiple countries, and the Joint Programme is working to improve the evidence, tools and technical support available for governments. The World Bank is, for example, developing user-friendly interfaces and handbooks for the two key tools it uses for allocative efficiency studies (OPTimize and fiscal space model) to enable countries to replicate the studies.

Supporting documents

- *Assessing the financial sustainability of Jamaica's HIV Program.*
http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/12/27/000333038_20121227000440/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf
- *The Global HIV Epidemics Among People Who Inject Drugs.*
<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/GlobalHIVEpidemicsAmongPeopleWhoInjectDrugs.pdf>
- *Effect of a cash transfer programme for schooling on prevalence of HIV and herpes simplex type 2 in Malawi: a cluster randomised trial.*
[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(11\)61709-1/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)61709-1/abstract).
<http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140673611617091.pdf?id=caaj2FL713UdMc34Mj-xu>
- *HIV Epidemic Appraisals in Nigeria: Epidemic for Prevention Programme Planning and Implementation: Data from the first eight states*

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