



EXO 4072

— Eva

cc : GDU
APM

Beirut, April 17th, 2003

To: Dr. Peter Piot
Executive Director
UNAIDS

From: Dr Mostafa El Nakib
Lebanon National AIDS Program Manager

NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMME
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BEIRUT, LEBANON

Dear Sir,

In relation to the letter of the Secretary General of the United Nations concerning the Annual Review by the General Assembly on the progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the declaration of the UNGASS, please find enclosed the questionnaire filled by the National AIDS Control Program– Ministry of Public Health Lebanon, to be included in the Secretary General report.

Thank you and best regards.

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23 APR 2003

Action requested: _____

(Please copy reply to EXO)

CRD-EVA-EXO-GDU-PDC-PSG-RMB-SMI

National Composite Policy Index Questionnaire

Strategic Plan

1. Has your country developed multisectoral strategies to combat HIV/AIDS? (Multisectoral strategies should include, but not be limited to, the health, education, labour, and agriculture sectors.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: A national strategic plan to fight HIV/AIDS is being developed by the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) through the National AIDS Control Program (NAP) with a multisectoral focus involving a multitude of stakeholders.			

2. Has your country integrated HIV/AIDS into its general development plans (such as its National Development Plans, United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Common Country Assessments)?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: HIV/AIDS has already been integrated into the national general development plan and being regularly updated by the MOH.			

3. Does your country have a functional national multisectoral HIV/AIDS management/coordination body? (such a body must have terms of reference or equivalent, defined membership, action plans and staffing support, and should have met at least once in the last 12 months.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: This body is represented through a committee of the NAP defined as National AIDS Committee, Technical Committee and IEC Committee. All are multisectoral with defined terms of reference.			

4. Does your country have a functional national HIV/AIDS body that promotes interaction among governments, the private sector and civil society? (such a body must have terms of reference or equivalent, defined membership, action plans and staffing support, and should have met at least once in the last 12 months.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: Represented by the NAP.			

5. Does your country have a functional HIV/AIDS body that assists in the coordination of civil society (such a body must have terms of reference or equivalent, defined membership, action plans and staffing support, and should have met at least once in the last 12 months.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: Through the NAP.			

6. Has your country evaluated the impact of HIV/AIDS on its socioeconomic status for planning purposes?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: Partially evaluated through the report done for the purpose of participating in the rapid access initiative to ARDs.			

7. Does your country have a strategy that addresses HIV/AIDS issues among its national uniformed services, including armed forces and civil defense forces?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: The NAP in coordination with the health department of the different sectors of the armed forces.			

Prevention

- 1- Does your country have a general policy or strategy to promote information, education and communication (IEC) on HIV/AIDS?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: The IEC committee develops and updates regularly its policy with the cooperation of different other sectors and UN agencies, with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and the MOH.			

- 2- Does your country have a policy or strategy promoting reproductive and sexual health education for young people?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: Through the Ministry of Social Affairs, the MOH, WHO and UNFPA.			

- 3- Does your country have a policy or strategy that promotes IEC and other health interventions for groups with high or increasing rates of HIV infection? (such groups include, but are not limited to, IDUs, MSM, sex workers, youth, mobile population and prison inmates.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
If yes, please list the groups:			
IDUs, MSM, sex workers, youth, and prison inmates.			
Comments: Addressing those groups through outreach and peer education.			

- 4- Does your country have a policy or strategy that promotes IEC and other health interventions for cross-border migrants?

Yes	No	X	N/A
Comments:			

- 5- Does your country have a policy or strategy to expand access, including among vulnerable groups, to essential preventative commodities? (these commodities include, but are not limited to, condoms, sterile needles and HIV tests.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
If yes, please list			
Groups: IDUs, MSM, sex workers, youth, and prison inmates.		Commodities: Condoms, HIV tests, ARDs.	
Comments: Sterile needles are readily available but needle-exchange programs are not developed yet.			

- 6- Does your country have a policy or strategy to reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: MTCT, prophylaxis by ARDs is readily available and free of charge.			

Human Rights

1. Does your country have laws and regulations that protect against discrimination people living with HIV/AIDS (such as general non-discrimination provisions and those that focus on schooling, housing, employment, etc.)?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: General non-discrimination law that applies to all Lebanese nationals. Specific decrees on non-discrimination on patients with HIV/AIDS.			

2. Does your country have laws and regulations that protect against discrimination groups of people identified as being especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS (i.e., groups such as IDUs, MSM, sex workers, youth, mobile populations, and prison inmates)?

Yes	No	X	N/A
Comments: Decrees apply to general population. Specific groups are included.			

3. Does your country have a policy to ensure equal access for men and women to prevention and care, with emphasis on vulnerable populations?

Yes	X	No	N/A
Comments: No gender difference in access to prevention and care. Vulnerable populations are specifically targeted by special projects.			

4. Does your country have a policy to ensure that HIV/AIDS research protocols involving human subjects are reviewed and approved by an ethics committee?

Yes	No	N/A	X
Comments:			

Care and Support

1. Does your country have a policy or strategy to promote comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and support, with emphasis on vulnerable groups? (Comprehensive care includes, but is not limited to, VCT, psychosocial care, access to medicines, and home and community-based care.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
If yes, please list			
Groups: IDUs, MSM, sex workers, youth, prison inmates, and general population.		Commodities: Condoms, IEC material, ARDs, financial support.	
Comments: The NAP, in partnership with NGOs, facilitate the reach to these services.			

2. Does your country have a policy or strategy to ensure or improve access to HIV/AIDS-related medicines, with emphasis on vulnerable groups? (HIV/AIDS-related medicines include antiretrovirals and drugs for the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and palliative care.)

Yes	X	No	N/A
If yes, please list			
Groups: IDUs, MSM, sex workers, youth, prison inmates, and general population.		Commodities: ARDs, treatment of opportunistic infections, hospitalizations.	
Comments: ARDs are being provided to all eligible patients following national guidelines for treatment free of charge through the MOH. Hospitalization for sick patients with HIV/AIDS is completely covered by the MOH.			

3. Does your country have a policy or strategy to address the additional needs of orphans and other vulnerable children?

Yes	No	X	N/A
Comments: Specific government policies do not exist yet. Nevertheless, the NAP with the support of NGOs, work in case-by-case problem solution.			