

Honduras: Greater involvement of people living with HIV

Objective

GIPA - greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS - is a principle which aims to strengthen the capacity of networks and community based organizations in participating fully at all levels, in stimulating the creation of supportive political, legal and social environments and reduce stigma and discrimination.



A volunteer teaches participants how to use condoms correctly during a workshop in Honduras

Overview of the situation

Honduras is the country in Central America which has been most affected by HIV. Some 22,369 people were reported to be living with HIV at the end of 2005 although some estimates suggest that the number of may be as high as 79,513. The majority of Hondurans do not know their HIV status. Estimated prevalence was at 2% at the end of 2005. Poverty, unemployment and HIV coupled with stigma and discrimination is causing people living with HIV to live in the margins of society. There is therefore a need to create employment opportunities for people living with HIV and to fight

stigma and discrimination related to HIV, especially through media and appropriate use of information and language related to the epidemic.

Description

The joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Honduras has recruited six volunteers across the country to work in six specific areas:

- Community support (through strengthening self-support groups, home visits to people living with HIV and their families, advocate for better health services for people living with HIV, training of health workers, teachers and employers on HIV and how to work with people living with HIV).
- Reduce stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV, men who have sex with men and sex workers (by promoting structured support mechanisms such as the National Commission of Human Rights and the Special Law on HIV).
- Creating and strengthening social communicators' networks to promote appropriate use of language and information about HIV (through training of journalists and distribution of information on HIV, etc).
- Strengthening the regional chapters of the National Forum on AIDS (by involving people living with HIV in the creation of the Forum's planned activities).

- Generation of income for people living with HIV and their families through the creation of micro-enterprises.
- HIV prevention and human rights education in rural communities and marginalized urban areas (through strengthening organizations of people living with HIV, women and the participation of young people in HIV and STD prevention among young people through workshops, seminars and recreational activities).
- Improvement in the delivery of services and care to people living with HIV.
- The number of self-support groups that have been strengthened.
- The number of personnel and volunteers from non-governmental organisations who are trained in the creation and management of HIV prevention projects.

Contacts

Juan Ramon Gradelhy
 UNAIDS National Adviser
 Email: juan.gradelhy@onusida.un.hn



Members of the micro-enterprise "Positive Images"

Deliverables

The project aims at improving the quality of life of people living with HIV in Honduras and reducing stigma and discrimination towards them.

There are a series of indicators that will determine the outcomes of the project which include:

- Improving attitudes towards people living with HIV, especially in the media.
- The number of people enrolled in the Post-Graduate Diploma in integral attention and approach to HIV/AIDS and people living with HIV.
- The number of organizations that have introduced programmes on HIV or private companies that have implemented prevention programmes in the workplace.