

Sierra Leone: HIV programme for displaced populations in the Mano River Basin

Objective

The programme aims to prevent the spread of new HIV infections among refugees, internally displaced populations and their host communities in the Mano River Basin Countries and Côte d'Ivoire and to provide psychosocial support to those living with HIV.



The programme will target internally displaced populations, refugees and their host communities

Partners Involved:

- African Development Bank
- Joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- UN Country Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS
- Mano River Basin Council of Ministers
- Mano River Basin Secretariat
- Governments

- Ministries of Health and HIV programmes in the respective countries

Overview of the situation

The key determinants of HIV transmission in West Africa are poverty, mobility, conflicts and negative socio-cultural practices.

Sustained conflicts in the Mano River Basin and Côte d'Ivoire over the past decade have resulted in increasing poverty and massive mobility of internally displaced populations and refugees.

The out posting of both national and international uniformed personnel, some of which originated from countries with very high HIV prevalence has created a platform for HIV transmission in the Mano River Basin. It is estimated that the HIV prevalence rate in the four target countries is around 5% and three of these countries have a prevalence rate exceeding 10%.

Description

The three year programme will focus on three main components which include:

- Strengthening prevention programmes and care and treatment of infected and affected people;
- Promotion of multi-sectoral and sub-regional coordination;
- Project management

Programme deliverables

- Improve prevention, care and treatment regarding sexually transmitted infections and HIV;
- Strengthen blood transfusion services;
- Promote positive behaviour and condoms use;
- Establish voluntary HIV counselling and testing centres;
- Develop appropriate training of health workers to provide medical and psychosocial support to people living with HIV and their families;
- Strengthen monitoring and supervision;
- Develop an exchange of health information and experience on HIV;
- Improve management and administrative capacity of the Mano River Basin Secretariat to effectively coordinate the project implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the project;
- UNFPA will provide overall technical assistance. A joint mid-term review with the African Development Bank, UNAIDS and the Mano River Basin Secretariat will be undertaken.

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Next steps

The project was officially launched in June 2005. A comprehensive progress report on the implementation and lessons learned will be presented during the consultative meeting of the UN Country Teams and the Mano River Basin Secretariat which is scheduled for May 2006 in Monrovia, Liberia.

Contacts

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