



UNAIDS Second Independent Evaluation  
Oversight Committee

**Address: Room V25**

c/o UNAIDS  
20 avenue Appia  
CH-1211, Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Telephone: (+41) 22 791 5528/4555

Facsimile: (+41) 22 791 4187

Email: [IndependentEval2@unaids.org](mailto:IndependentEval2@unaids.org)

<http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/IndependentEvaluation/>

**From the Oversight Committee Chair**  
**October 2008**

Dear Stakeholders,

In late July, the PCB approved the recommendation of the Oversight Committee to select the ITAD/HLSP consortium as the Evaluation Team. ITAD is an independent UK-based evaluation and management consultancy, and HLSP an international consultancy in the health field with offices world-wide. For the evaluation, the consortium has established a global network of associates in Kenya, Zimbabwe, India, Georgia, and Honduras.

The consortium has a strong track record in all areas of competencies required, including institutional, multi-sectoral, multi-country and UN-system evaluations. Their technical expertise covers health and HIV/AIDS sectors, monitoring and evaluation, governance and institutional change in national and international organizations, both public and private sectors, community development, human rights, and vulnerable groups such as women and children. The Evaluation Team Leader has many years of experience leading complex evaluations and managing multi-sector projects. The Oversight Committee is confident that the ITAD/HLSP consortium and associated partners are well-qualified to deliver a quality evaluation report.

The Evaluation Team submitted the draft Inception Report, outlining the overall concept, design, and proposed work-plan for the evaluation, on 8 September. The Report was widely circulated to stakeholders for comments, and on 15-16 September, a Stakeholder Workshop was held in Geneva to discuss it. Some 80 persons, drawn from a broad representation of stakeholders, including Member States, all 10 Cosponsors, civil society, international organizations, and the UNAIDS Secretariat, met to discuss the IR and evaluation issues with the Oversight Committee and Evaluation Team. In addition, the Committee received some 50 written comments on the Inception Report. Comments received by 15-16 September were made available to participants in the Workshop, and others received by the 26 September deadline were forwarded to the Oversight Committee and Evaluation Team to take into account in revisions to the Inception Report. All document pertaining to the Workshop – the agenda, presentations, list of participants, proceedings of the plenary and study group sessions, and feedback are posted on the SIE webpage at:

<http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/IndependentEvaluation/default.asp>

One of the major decisions for the evaluation was the selection of countries for the study. After careful review of the criteria in the terms of reference and other factors to ensure a sound basis for comparisons of the different settings for UNAIDS, and taking into account discussions in the Stakeholder Workshop, written comments, and practical considerations from the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, the Oversight Committee has approved the following 12 countries for the evaluation:

*Africa:* Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Swaziland, Democratic Republic of Congo

*Eastern Europe and Central Asia:* Kazakhstan, Ukraine

*Middle East and North Africa:* Iran

*Asia:* India, Indonesia, Vietnam

*Latin America & the Caribbean:* Haiti, Chile

The revised Inception Report is expected to be approved by 16 October and will be posted on the SIE webpage.

The Evaluation Team will start the country programme visits with an initial country visit to Ethiopia in October, during which they will refine and agree their methodology and approach for country studies. They expect to complete another four country studies by December 2008, and the other seven by March 2009.

A revised timeline for the Evaluation is available on the SIE website.

The Oversight Committee is pleased that the evaluation is firmly launched. It is committed to its oversight role to monitor progress on the evaluation, for adherence to budget and timelines, but also to ensure that emerging findings are consistent with the approved terms of reference, and the basis for a credible, practical, final Report.

We also welcome our new Committee Member, Anandi Yuvaraj. Anandi brings a wealth of experience and insight to our work, and we look forward to her contributions.

The Oversight Committee is also committed to involving stakeholders in the evaluation process, and will continue to consult you, in particular on preliminary drafts of the Final Report. We would also welcome comments or suggestions from stakeholders at any time. You can contact us by email at [IndependentEval2@unaid.org](mailto:IndependentEval2@unaid.org), or by fax or telephone at the numbers noted on the letterhead.

I look forward to reporting to the PCB in December 2008 on the progress to date.

Catherine Hodgkin  
Chair  
Oversight Committee  
Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS