

Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS

Country Visits

Background to the Evaluation

An initial evaluation of UNAIDS was completed in 2002 and covered the first five years of UNAIDS (1996-2002). This Second Independent Evaluation will cover the period (2002-2008) during which the AIDS epidemic, the global response to it, and UN organizational reform efforts, have considerably changed UNAIDS environmental context.

Following a competitive international selection process, ITAD Ltd., in association with HLSP, has been contracted to conduct evaluation. The Evaluation Team is lead by Derek Poate of ITAD.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Evaluation is to assess the efficacy, effectiveness and outcomes of UNAIDS (including UNAIDS Secretariat, the PCB and Cosponsors) at the global, regional and country levels.

The assessment will relate to how UNAIDS has met its ECOSOC mandate for an internationally coordinated response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and assess to what extent UNAIDS has met its objectives, and the continuing relevance of its mandate and objectives in the current global environment.

The Evaluation will cover global, regional and national levels and all components of UNAIDS, including the PCB, CCO, UNAIDS Secretariat, and AIDS-related work of the ten Cosponsors as described in the Unified Budget and Workplan (UBW).

Twelve country studies will be carried out as to feed directly into the overall Evaluation which will draw together assessments of all components into one synthesis report with conclusions on UNAIDS performance as a whole.

Country visits

Country visits are central to the evaluation, since it is in countries that the desired expanded response must materialise and UNAIDS must demonstrate its added value. Country case studies seek to address the evaluation questions from a national perspective, enabling country stakeholders to make their views known and providing an understanding of progress and constraints in a range of settings, as well as identifying examples of success stories.

Schedule of country visits

The country visits follow the initial country visit to Ethiopia in October 2008. The visit was a substantive data collection exercise and was also used to validate the methodology and to ensure that the Evaluation Team had a clear grasp of issues from a country perspective before finalising the approach to country visits and interacting more closely with the Secretariat and Cosponsors.

The Team Leaders for each of the country visits took part in a briefing workshop with the core evaluation team to revise aspects of the methodology where necessary and standardise the approach and methodology.

The remaining country visits are to take place between November 2008 and March 2009.

Team composition

Country visits will be conducted by teams of three consultants – an international consultant, a regional consultant and a national consultant. The evaluation team attaches great importance to including experienced regional and national consultants in the country visit teams, not least because such individuals will be able to set country level findings in context.

Country visit methodology

The evaluation team has structured the issues and questions to be addressed in an evaluation framework. The framework will be used to develop standard checklists to guide interviews and group discussions, in order to structure answers in a way that allows for unbiased analysis and inter-country comparison.

Specific methods to be used include semi-structured interviews with individual stakeholders and focus-group discussions with groups of stakeholders, the latter employing participatory methods as appropriate. Interviews and group discussions at country level will seek to cover a wide range of stakeholders including government, the donor community, NGOs and FBOs.

Country visit programme

The visit will start with briefings at the UNAIDS country office and the NAC (or equivalent national AIDS programme) and a meeting with the partnership forum or equivalent. At an early stage the team plan to meet with government ministries, Cosponsor, civil society and PLHIV representatives. The remainder of the visit includes interviews and group discussions with stakeholders listed above and, if appropriate, a field visit to assess issues at district level and to review projects with a focus on rights, gender, PLHIV and most-at-risk populations.

The team will prepare a summary report and a presentation and hold a feedback workshop at the end of the visit. This will be open to all stakeholders contacted and will serve both as an opportunity for debriefing and for checking findings.

Visits to Regional Offices and Co-sponsor Head Offices

The evaluation team will be making visits to selected regional organizations and offices of the Cosponsors and Secretariat. The team will also visit Cosponsor headquarters in Europe and North America.

The core Evaluation Team will be present at the PCB meeting in Geneva in December 2008.

Country Visit: Field visits

Objectives:

- Assess UNAIDS¹ engagement with state/provincial/district government; technical support/capacity building for local government/civil society organisations; Joint Programme/UN agency activities on the ground
- Assess awareness of national policies and plans; UNAIDS guidance
- Seek perceptions about role and value of UNAIDS
- Assess government and donor funding flows (for government and civil society organisations); coordination; M&E at local level
- Seek perceptions of civil society and PLHIV organisations at local level about their engagement in policy-making, implementation, M&E; about voice and representation, including representation at national level by umbrella organisations; and the extent to which policy and programming is responding to evidence about the epidemic
- Review extent to which programmes and services are addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised populations

Scope:

- Meetings with state/provincial/district HIV, health, finance officials
- Meetings with civil society organisations including NGO and PLHIV networks and/or organisations
- Meetings with local UNAIDS staff including personnel provided as TS, or under JPO and UNV schemes

¹ UNAIDS refers to the Secretariat and all Cosponsors

UNAIDS evaluation: Country visit

1. Meetings with key stakeholders to be arranged for the team

Government

- NAC (or equivalent)
- Line ministries – health, finance (multilateral relations/PER), education, youth, women/gender, social development/affairs, other relevant ministries
- National Partnership Forum (or equivalent)
- CCM chair

UNAIDS/UN

- UNAIDS Secretariat – UCC, Secretariat Administrator, Partnership/Social Mobilisation Adviser, M&E Adviser, other relevant staff
- UN Resident Coordinator and RCO Coordination Officer
- Chair of UN Theme Group (or Expanded Theme Group) or equivalent
- UNAIDS Joint Team and management committee (or equivalent)

All Cosponsors with presence in country and other agencies where present in the Joint Team – Heads of Agency, staff in the Joint Team on AIDS, staff responsible for specific areas covered by evaluation questions:

- ILO
- UNDP – including UNDP Operations Officer
- UNESCO
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNODC
- WFP
- WHO
- World Bank

Key donors for HIV and health

- Multilaterals – EC, regional IFI
- Bilaterals – USG (USAID, CDC, PEPFAR Coordinator), DFID, RNE, NORAD, SIDA, CIDA, AusAid, Irish Aid, GTZ etc
- Chair of HIV and/or health donor forum

Civil society

- HIV NGO umbrella organisations
- HIV and youth, HIV and women umbrella organisations
- National PLHIV networks, including networks of positive women
- Business Coalition Against AIDS
- FBO umbrella organisations

2. Background documents to be available for the team (covering period 2002-2008)

Government

- PRSP (or equivalent)
- HIV/AIDS policy
- HIV/AIDS strategy/strategic plan; UA plan; related progress or performance reports
- HIV/AIDS M&E framework
- Health sector strategy/strategic plan; related progress or performance reports
- UNGASS report
- Public Expenditure Review reports (if HIV reviewed specifically)

UN

- UNDAF; annual report and MTR/end of cycle evaluation (if available).
- Any document that describes the organisation, composition and working arrangements of the Joint Team.
- Joint Programme on AIDS/Joint Team work plans and indicators; related progress or performance reports
- Minutes from AIDS Theme Group/Joint Team meetings.
- Copies of self assessments or reviews carried out of working of the Joint Team.
- Specific policies, plans or guidance relating to working with civil society, PLHIV involvement, gender and HIV, human rights and HIV
- Technical support needs assessment; technical support plan; related progress reports and evaluations
- National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA)
- National Policy Composite Index
- Stigma Index
- MOU/agreements between UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors

Other

- DHS
- BSS
- PEPFAR Plan
- GF proposals
- Civil society, donor reviews and evaluations

SIE UNAIDS
Timing of Country Visits

NB Shaded countries have not been confirmed
 TBC – To be confirmed

Country	Dates	Note
Ethiopia	8 – 23 Oct 08	Visit & Report Complete
Indonesia	12 – 27 Nov 08	Visit Complete
Ukraine	1 – 12 Dec 08	Visit in Progress
Haiti	1 – 14 Feb	UCC confirmed OK
India	19 Jan – 5 Feb	UCC confirmed OK
Swaziland	12 – 23 Jan 09	UCC confirmed OK
Vietnam	5 – 18 Jan 09	UCC confirmed OK
Chile	8 – 21 Feb 09	TBC
Iran	2 – 14 Mar 09	UCC confirmed OK
Kazakhstan	23 Mar – 3 Apr 09	UCC confirmed OK
Cote d'Ivoire	5 – 19 Jan 09	UCC confirmed OK
DRC	2009 (TBC)	Before end of Feb 09

