



**UNAIDS**  
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

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**Algeria**  
July, 2008

## Country Situation

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The Algerian Government made major achievements in the response to AIDS in 2007. The Government has made a political commitment at senior level to approve the Renovation of the National AIDS Coordinating Authority to make it more operational and efficient; it is also envisaged to bring the topic to the Prime Minister or the Head of State given the fact that the main development issues in the country are put directly under the Head of State's responsibility so that appropriate focus and priority is given to the AIDS Response.

The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) has also been restructured and a new chair has been elected as since the grant was signed major governance problems have occurred which, among others, contributed to hinder implementation of the GF proposal. The civil society organization in the National Response has suffered the most from delays in the implementation of the grant and this fact has led to more solidarity and mutual support, especially for PLHIV.

In the context of the restructuring exercise of the CCM the chair of an important private company in Algeria has been elected as the Vice Chair of the CCM, the UNAIDS country officer and the RC have played an important role in convincing him to present his candidature for the elections.

In the cultural context of Algeria, it is difficult to say that the situation of women is excellent but all reports including UNFPA and UNDP/MDG are providing information on specific improvements. As for young people, vulnerable groups and most-at-risk populations, the situation regarding the AIDS response, while improving, still remains a challenge. Prevention, care, treatment and support is made equally available to the entire population in Algeria but the populations concerned still fear stigma and discrimination and the huge cultural taboos surrounding AIDS.

Whilst stigma and discrimination are the most important obstacles in Algeria to scale-up the response it is also important to mention that prevention efforts are far behind the treatment, and the know how of the actors is probably one explanation although the SCO are more and more involved in setting very efficient out-reach programmes to address the prevention gaps.

The AIDS Response is included in the Algerian National Development Programme and some components of the AIDS Programme are included in the Reproductive and Sexual Health Programme of the Ministry of Health. However, coordination between all the partners is lacking and therefore a high level of duplication of efforts is noted between the different programmes.

### **UNAIDS activities at country level during 2007**

Mainly in 2007 the Joint UN Actions were completely focused around three main areas:

- ▶ Joint support for the “Three Ones” principles and specifically support for the restructuring of the National AIDS Coordinating Authority and the establishment of a functional M&E unit.
- ▶ Joint Support for the development of a UN Joint Programme on AIDS.
- ▶ Joint UN Support for the development of the new National Strategic Plan.

### **UNAIDS achievements at country level during 2007**

#### ***National strategic and operational planning***

Support for the elaboration of the new National Strategic Plan is considered the most important achievement in 2007 as it has given us the opportunity to integrate the universal access targets to define the indicators accordingly to integrate a matrix for technical support needs as well as an accountability framework for each actor. The innovation in this new NSP is also that it is accompanied with a comprehensive 5 year action plan as well as annual plans. It has also included that the “Three ones” principles is a prerequisite to the implementation of the 5 year action plans and it has been developed in the most participatory manner involving all stakeholders and partners. It has also been budgeted.

#### ***Joint UN planning and programming***

The logical second most important achievement is the Joint UN Programme on AIDS, which is the first that has been signed both by the government and the cosponsors. It has been developed in a very participatory process and based on an adapted division of labour.

### **Main challenges / activities for 2008**

In 2008, stakeholders in Algeria will have to look at some priority issues:

- ▶ Launch of the new operational National AIDS Coordinating Authority.
- ▶ Establish an operational and functional HIV surveillance and M&E unit.
- ▶ Start implementation of the Action Plan of the new National Strategic Plan.
- ▶ Submit a proposal to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to mobilize the required resources.
- ▶ Implement the UN Joint Programme of Support with the UN Joint Team on AIDS.