

## Argentina

July, 2008

## Country Situation

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Currently, Ministry of Health leads National AIDS response and the National Strategic Planning process at country level. The response is mainly focused on the provision of antiretroviral treatment. The financial support to prevention efforts come mainly from the Global Fund in Argentina. In 2007 there was a review of the National Strategic Planning more broad-based participation of civil society and other governmental representatives, but during this process only have been defined lines of action, considering most-at-risk population and gender perspective. In Argentina, the Gender UN Theme Group has addressed gender prevention activities. It is necessary to overcome this barrier to increase multisectoral response to the epidemic including a sustain participation of other sectors of the government and civil society. The way forward will be the support of the “Three Ones” Principles implementation.

There was a clear improvement of the articulation among Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education due to the project of harmonization of sexual education public policies. It is important to highlight that the Southern Cone Region is a low priority area for bilateral donors.

### UNAIDS Support to the National Response

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

##### ***Building and supporting multisectoral participation***

The UNAIDS Southern Cone Office has technically and financially ensured civil society participation in National Strategic Plan and UNGASS process.

In April 2007, the 4th Latin-American and Caribbean Forum on HIV/AIDS and STI was held in Buenos Aires. This event was a clear example of multisectoral participation and a major opportunity to exchange experiences of the region.

##### ***Establishment and sustainability of a multisectoral national response***

The NSP process has been supported technically and financially by UNAIDS Southern Cone in collaboration with PAHO/WHO. It was led by the National AIDS Programme of the MOH, and key stakeholders from government, civil society and the UN system were included. Consensus

building seminars have been addressed at a national and regional level to review previous national strategic plans in order to identify priority areas that should be considered in the national response to the epidemic. A preliminary document has been produced that contains strategic lines of action.

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

### ***Participation of PLHIV, civil society and other non-state actors***

In April 2007, the 4th Latin-American and Caribbean Forum on HIV/AIDS and STI was held in Buenos Aires. The multisectoral participation was ensured not only in the preparation of the meeting but also during the forum. It was a clear example of multisectoral participation and a major opportunity to exchange experiences of the region.

### ***Mainstreaming***

In January 2007, UNAIDS Southern Cone Office led the development of a proposal in order to harmonize sexual education public policies in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. After that the UCC addressed a resources mobilization process to support the project. External donors – GTZ and CICT – have allocated financial resources to ensure project sustainability for the period 2007-2009.

There was a clear improvement of the articulation among Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education due to the project of harmonization of sexual education public policies. It should be considered one of the main achievements on mainstreaming and harmonization within health and non-health sectors in the response to the epidemic.

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

- ▶ National Strategic Planning: UNAIDS will support the harmonization of a clear linkage among National Strategic Plan goals, UNGASS indicators and universal access targets set and National Strategic Plan budgeted.
- ▶ "Three Ones" Principles Implementation: UNAIDS Southern Cone Office will sustain the support for the establishment of a National AIDS Coordinating Authority at country level, as well as a Technical M&E Commission to strengthen the M&E framework.