



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

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Ethiopia
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Country Situation

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The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia joined UN Member States in June 2006 at the UN General Assembly to issue the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which included a commitment to move towards the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. Since that commitment was made, the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (HAPCO) has updated its planning framework with ambitious targets to achieve universal access, and the government has launched a “Millennium AIDS Campaign” that has catalyzed quicker scale-up of key prevention and treatment programs. ANC surveillance and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) of 2005 indicate that the epidemic may be less severe, less generalized and more heterogeneous than previously believed. An assessment of data gathered over the last four years suggests that the epidemic has stabilized, with adult HIV prevalence estimated at 2.1% in 2007. The rural epidemic appears to be relatively widespread but heterogeneous, with most regions having a relatively low prevalence of HIV, but a few demonstrating adult prevalence greater than 5%. In general, HIV incidence is leveling off after declining over the last few years. Several programmatic achievements deserve particular note:

- 1) Site expansion for the delivery of HIV counseling and testing, PMTCT and antiretroviral treatment services has dramatically increased over the last three years. Between June 2004 and June 2007, HCT sites increased from 525 to 1005; PMTCT sites from 72 to 428; and ART sites from 32 to 272.
- 2) The number of people tested annually for HIV has increased three fold, from 564 000 in 2004/05 to 1.92 million in 2006/07; which amounts to 60.6% of the annual national target
- 3) The number of PLHIV started on antiretroviral treatment has increased sharply from 8276 in June 2005 to 24 236 in June 2006 to 97 299 in June 2007 and to 117 970 at the end of December 2007.
- 4) Behavioral surveys suggest that Ethiopians’ awareness about HIV and AIDS is high and that behavioral change is increasing. According to the 2005 DHS, 90% of women and 97% of men aged 15-49 have heard of AIDS. Condom use has increased from 30.3% to 51.9% among males and from 13.4% to 23.6% among females.
- 5) About 160 000 OVCs and 35 000 PLHIVs are accessing psychosocial, educational, and nutritional services, as well as training and funding for income generation activities.

UNAIDS activities at country level during 2007

The Joint UN Team assisted Ethiopia to set universal access targets; develop a national plan of action for the multisectoral response; access Global Fund and World Bank grants; build the capacity of national and sub-national AIDS coordinating authorities and strengthening partnership forums; develop technical guidance and protocols; update the national AIDS policy; develop and implement HIV/AIDS workplace policies and programmes; build institutional and technical capacity to provide prevention, treatment, care and support services; the provision of food and nutrition support; and generate income for PLHIV, OVCs and affected families in 105 districts.

Another main achievement was UNAIDS contribution to strengthening coordination and cooperation of the UN support to the African Union Commission through improved cluster programme management and coordination. One major action was the exemplary collaboration between UNICEF, WHO and UNAIDS in providing support to the African Union for preparations and carrying out of the Mid-Term Review – Africa Fit For Children and Africa Common Position (Cairo 29 Oct-2 Nov 2007). UNAIDS contributed significantly in the review of the progress report of the 2001 Plan of Action on Children and participated at the highest level in the meeting.

In addition, the UNAIDS office has collaborated with the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the National AIDS Coordinating Authority, the National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS and the Christian Relief Development Agency on small-scale projects on BCC/IEC and advocacy, care and support, gender, income-generating activities (IGA) for PLHIV and their families, and documentation/research. Out of 82 small-scale projects, 34 support PLHIV and another four support PLHIV networks.

UNAIDS achievements at country level during 2007

National strategic and operational planning

The UNAIDS office and cosponsors supported development of key national documents & plans, such as (1) the four year, budgeted National Multisectoral Plan of Action, which includes universal access targets, (2) the Health Sector Road Map to scale-up to universal access, (3) Comprehensive condom programming strategic plan, (4) National Social Mobilization strategy and implementation plan, (5) HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming guideline, (6) Volunteers Guideline for Social Mobilization (VICAP), and (6) Community Conversation Training Manual and Operational Implementation Guideline.

Joint UN planning and programming

- ▶ Assisted Regions in reviewing and reprogramming their 18-month work plan and in preparing cash requests
- ▶ Helped to build a common UN position prior to engaging in dialogue with national partners and speaking with one voice

- ▶ Strengthen inter-agency collaboration and increase efficiency.
- ▶ Avoid duplication in providing support to federal and regional partners.
- ▶ Enable providing enhanced support to government.
- ▶ Enable jointly supporting activities that would be difficult for the technical capacity of one agency. e.g. preparation of a national plan of action, Global Fund proposal.
- ▶ Financial support to federal and regional governments for implementation of activities from the first two quarters.
- ▶ Reviewed and re-submitted proposal to the Gates Foundation, and Spanish governments and currently under implementation.
- ▶ 13 of 21 proposals submitted to PAF and UBW were approved for an amount of US\$1 142 801.
- ▶ Mapping of Woredas currently supported by different UN agencies conducted.
- ▶ Supported HAPCO to draft key components of package of interventions at Woreda level.
- ▶ Task force formed and fund mobilized to develop package of Interventions for HIV/AIDS response in humanitarian emergencies.

Enabled UN to participate almost in all forums, TWGs and provide better technical support.

Main challenges / activities for 2008

Despite the above achievements, coverage of essential prevention, treatment and care services remains limited. Only 37.7% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in need of treatment are receiving ARVs and only 7% of HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral drugs to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission.

Only 15.8% of women and 28.7% of men aged 15-49 years have comprehensive knowledge of HIV and AIDS. Among young people aged 15–24 years, only one out of three (33.3%) young males and one out of five (20.5%) young females have comprehensive knowledge. Additionally, despite an increase in condom use, high rates of unprotected sex persist.

According to the 2005 DHS, 6% of young women and 37% of young men (age 15-24) engaged in higher-risk sexual activity in the past 12 months; and one-quarter of these women and just under half of these men reported condom use in their last higher-risk encounter.

Many programmes are lagging behind their targets despite extremely quick scale-up. This situation emphasizes the challenge of attaining universal access. As the numbers receiving services increase, the gaps in the system are more pronounced: insufficient human resources, weak health infrastructure, transportation and general systems; weak harmonization and alignment; low levels of mainstreaming; and issues of ownership and empowerment.