



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

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Peru
July, 2008

Country Situation

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In Peru, the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) works, for now, as a national coordinating authority. Its presidency lies in the Minister of Health and, apart from its oversight of the projects financed by the Global Fund, it oversees the implementation of the National Multisectoral Strategic Plan (MSP). Participants of this CCM include 7 government ministries, 3 health programs (TB, HIV and malaria) and the Minister of Health, plus 10 institutions from non-governmental, religious, academic and international cooperation sectors. In the last year, the national strategic plan was officially approved by a presidential decree. This provided the Ministry of Health and other government ministries with the necessary tools to start implementing and making the plan operational in the 24 regions of the country. Financial support to HIV programs come mainly from the Global Fund, through three different grants, the last one based on the MSP described above. Technical assistance comes through bilateral agencies, through joint UN programming or mainly from individual UN agencies. In the past year, these joint efforts have increased access to antiretroviral therapy (to around 80%), and to PMTCT (over 30%) even further. Prevention among most-exposed populations will receive a boost from the last grant from the Global Fund. Furthermore, a special program for the region affected by last year's earthquake has increased prevention awareness and condom supply. Linkages have been created between TB and HIV programs and efforts to provide prevention services to PLHIV have increased. A project to introduce into school programmes on sexual education is being promoted between different sectors and the Ministry of Education.

UNAIDS Support to the National Response

UNAIDS activities at country level during 2007

UNAIDS last year mainly provided support for a project with the Ombudsperson's office, regarding stigma and discrimination directed towards PLHIV, MSM, SW and young people who belong to these latter two groups. It also provided support for the assessment of technical assistance needed to implement the MSP. UNAIDS supported the elaboration of the UNGASS report and the National AIDS Spending Assessment. UNICEF provided intensive TA regarding PMTCT. UNFPA is providing assistance regarding DHS and inclusion of questions for men. UNDP and UNAIDS collaborated in producing a mass media campaign against stigma and discrimination directed towards PLHIV. UNESCO and UNAIDS coordinated support for the elaboration of sexual education plans and programmes for the educational sector. PAHO and UNAIDS work closely providing TA for epidemiological monitoring and estimations and

projections of the epidemic, used for programming (MSP) and universal access estimates. A diagnosis of TA needs and the possibility of providing TA through a joint program, prioritizing the national needs, have provided inputs for the elaboration of a joint program proposal, still to be approved by the UN Theme Group on HIV.

UNAIDS achievements at country level during 2007

Technical assistance and capacity building

Production of strategic information: UNAIDS has arrived at a technical assistance plan, prioritized by the country's stakeholders, in a national workshop, based on technical needs for the implementation of the MSP. This plan still needs to be approved, but is the result of joint assessment of needs and joint programming, not adding up of individual agencies' projects and programmes. The need assessment has been carried out in 12 of the country's 24 regions. The UNGASS reports and NASA were of very good quality and will provide important information for the periodic review of the MSP's implementation and for programming based on evidence. A review of the estimates and projections is underway, and will probably reduce the spread between the lower and upper limits of estimated numbers of people living with HIV.

Human rights, law and gender

On stigma and discrimination: the project with the Ombudsperson's office will provide working guidelines to work against them and improve the context for the HIV response. Furthermore, the mass media campaign, consisting of 23 pictures taken of famous Peruvian men and women, with Peruvian men, women and young people living with HIV was very well received and will be published in all major newspapers and magazines in the country from December 2007 until February 2008.

Main challenges / activities for 2008

In 2008, the country will receive a considerable amount of funding from the Global Fund. This funding will provide a boost to prevention efforts among most-affected groups, increase coverage of STI prevention among the general population and prevention services for vulnerable children and young people, especially young MSM, increase coverage of PMTCT, and foster better multisectoral coordination, democratic governance at the subnational level and create a foundation for the M&E Plan for the MSP. The UN system will hopefully approve its technical support plan to the national HIV response, to be complemented by a wider, more ambitious technical support plan, which was informally approved last year by the CCM and other stakeholders. The country is considering applying to the 8th round of proposals of the Global Fund. Epidemiological monitoring processes and the resulting estimations and projections are being evaluated in order to have better estimates and reviewed epidemiological monitoring systems.