



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

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Country Situation

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An estimated 5.7 million people living with HIV are in South Africa, approximately 3.2 million are women and 280,000 children (ages 0-14). HIV prevalence among women attending antenatal clinics was 29% in 2006, compared to 30.2% in 2005. Among adults (ages 15-49) HIV prevalence was 18.3% in 2006. Evidence points to a significant decline in HIV prevalence among young people (below age 20), where prevalence was 13.7% in 2006 compared to 15.9% in 2005. There is significant variation in HIV prevalence by province, ranging from 39.1% in KwaZulu-Natal to 15.1% in Western Cape. Inter-district HIV prevalence variation in the country is between 46% and 5.3%.

South Africa has comprehensive policies and programmes to address the epidemic, although some of these are yet to have a significant impact. Central to the prevention programmes are communications programmes, including Khomanani, Soul City, and loveLife. There is a large free condom distribution programme, providing approximately 400 million male condoms annually. Free female condom distribution, although expanding still lags behind. South Africa has a comprehensive plan for the management, treatment, care and support of AIDS. This programme had enrolled approximately 370,000 people by September 2007 with ARV treatment in the public sector and an estimated 120,000 people in the private sector. Although still significantly lower than the treatment need, it is currently the largest AIDS treatment programme in the world.

In 2007, South Africa bolstered its national response by revamping the national AIDS council into a multisectoral body providing high level leadership and coordination. The council is chaired by the Deputy President, with a Deputy Chairperson from civil society. The council consists of 8 government Ministries and 18 civil society and private sectors. Under the national AIDS council leadership, South Africa developed a National Strategic Plan 2007-2011. This sets out the Road Map for Universal Access to prevention, treatment, care and support. The plan was developed through a consultative and inclusive process, ensuring national consensus on priorities to address the epidemic. The plan has linkages with other national programmes addressing the drivers, manifestation and impact of the epidemic.

South Africa commits a significant level of domestic resources to the national AIDS response, this increased from US\$479 million in 2004/5 to US\$878 million in 2009/10 and is expected to reach approximately US\$1 billion in 2011/12. External partners also contribute significantly to compliment government efforts. The major contributors include PEPFAR, the Global Fund, DFID, and EU.

UNAIDS activities at country level during 2007

In 2007, the Joint UN Team on AIDS was consolidated as a common platform for coordinating and delivering technical assistance to the national response. Through the team, the UN collectively supported the development of the National Strategic Plan 2007-2011 (NSP), its costing and an M&E Framework. UNAIDS and UNICEF served in the national task teams for the development of the NSP and M&E Framework. UNAIDS was part of the writing team of the NSP. This was funded through PAF.

Technical assistance was provided to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) to develop the Global Fund Round 7 national proposal. Assistance included provision of consultancy time to: support provincial AIDS councils to prepare submissions for the national proposal; writing the proposal; and joint team participation in the national technical review panel. Additional support was provided to the CCM to respond to queries from the Round 6 US\$103 million Grant and preparation for signing.

UNAIDS, in collaboration with DFID, supported the national AIDS council to prepare the national report to UNGASS for 2008. This support included consultancy time to: (i) manage and oversee the preparation of the national report; (ii) collection and analysing data on the 19 core indicators and the National Composite Policy Index; (iii) report writing; and (iv) a national consultative meeting of SANAC sectors to validate the UNGASS report. The Joint Team participated in the national consultation to review the draft report.

UNAIDS supported the Department of Health in analysis of data for the 2006 ANC survey and preparation of the 2007 survey.

The UN was one of the major sponsors of the 3rd South African National AIDS Conference, where the UN collectively provided sponsorship to about 500 civil society and NGO participants. The UN sponsored and organized 4 symposiums on leadership, HIV prevention, HIV and children, and OVC.

UNAIDS achievements at country level during 2007

National strategic and operational planning

In 2007, UNAIDS supported the development of the National Strategic Plan 2007-2011 (NSP), its costing and an M&E Framework. In collaboration with the national AIDS council, UNAIDS facilitated logistical and technical support to assist several civil society sector consultations to participate and contribute to the development of the plan. This support included providing consultants to facilitate sector consultation workshops and prepare reports of proceedings. Logistical support was provided in the form of meeting facilities and services. UNAIDS was appointed to serve as a member of the Task Team that wrote the plan and the Task Team that developed the M&E Framework of the plan. UNAIDS provided logistical support to all meetings of the national Task Teams on the NSP and the M&E Framework, including the national consultation for endorsing of the NSP targets.

Additional support was provided to review the costing methodology and content of the NSP and make recommendations on measures to strengthen the costing of the plan. This support was provided by a team of costing experts from UNAIDS Geneva. The team provided a comprehensive analysis of the existing plan, identifying costing gaps and suggesting solutions. Overall, the team concluded that the technical merit of the NSP was of high quality. The costing considers a range of interventions, but does not explicitly consider cross-cutting activities, such as policy development, performance monitoring, advocacy and promotion of human rights.

High level political visit

The UNAIDS Executive Director undertook a successful high level political country visit to South Africa. The objective of the visit was to lend positive reinforcement to new developments in the national AIDS response: listen, learn and identify opportunities where UNAIDS and the UN system can adapt to the new realities and in particular how they can add value to the implementation of the new National Strategic Plan; and to explore the long term agenda for the national AIDS response.

During his visit, the Executive Director met with government, including the Deputy President; the ruling African National Congress; the business sector; civil society; AIDS scientists; and the UNCT. The Executive Director gave a key note address at the opening of the 3rd National AIDS Conference and participated in high level panel discussion on leadership and long term approach to the AIDS response.

The Executive Director's key message was for all partners to identify a few priorities in the National Strategic Plan, which will help advance the goals of the plan and stressed that: "failure of the plan will be a collective failure". He stressed the need to scale up efforts to address past HIV prevention failures."

During his visit, the Executive Director identified the importance of reinforcing the UNAIDS Country Office to build technical capacity to provide high level technical support to the national AIDS response. As a first step he requested that the Country Office conduct a programmatic review to reorientate its priorities and staff capacity to align with the new demands of technical support to the new National Strategic Plan. This has resulted in the upgrading of the Country Office capacity and establishment of new senior positions in the Country Office from 2008.

Main challenges / activities for 2008

There is a unified AIDS platform spearheaded by the national AIDS council, which sets out national priorities for scaling up treatment, prevention, care and support. This national framework sets out aspirational goals and targets, which need to be translated into operational plans at national, provincial and local level. Future challenges include:

- ▶ Development, implementation and monitoring of costed sector plans to operationalise the National Strategic Plan.
- ▶ Strengthen multisectoral efforts to scale up existing and new HIV prevention programmes to reduce further new HIV infections.
- ▶ Strengthening health and social service capacity across the three spheres of government, civil society and the private sector to prioritize and deliver on programmes

and interventions outlined in the national plan.

- ▶ Strengthening national coordinating authorities, including provincial and local AIDS councils, to discharge their functions.
- ▶ Support various sectors of SANAC to scale up programmes to reach communities with prevention, treatment and care services.
- ▶ Support monitoring of the implementation of the National Strategic Plan, including sector plans, in accordance with the national monitoring and evaluation framework.
- ▶ Streamlining external donor and development assistance in line with government priorities and monitor external resources supporting civil society programmes.