

Progress towards Universal Access Argentina

Universal access implies that all people should be able to have access to information and services that are:

Equitable – accessible – affordable – comprehensive – sustainable

In 2006, countries worldwide committed to setting ambitious national targets for scaling up towards Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The targets focus on what could be achieved if the following obstacles can be addressed:

- **Predictable and sustainable financing**
- **Strengthening human resources and health systems**
- **Access to affordable commodities**
- **Stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights**

Review of National reports in 2008 demonstrated that Universal Access has catalyzed an accelerated and strengthened national HIV response with more results-based planning and a general overall increase in access to services. National political leadership and coordination were found to be critical to scale up. However more emphasis was needed on addressing the obstacles to scale up which would not support reaching universal access but also the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, there is a need to accelerate progress on HIV-prevention efforts, and to better utilise the resources available within civil society and people living with HIV.

Universal access has generated a continuing engagement with national partners to monitor and review progress towards universal access. This has resulted in a number of countries revising their national targets to ensure a sharper focus on areas in need of additional support.

Progress in Argentina

The response in Argentina is mainly focused on the provision of antiretroviral treatment while prevention efforts are largely funded by the Global Fund. In 2007 there was a review of the National Strategic Plan and a national consultation on universal access which included much more broad-based participation of civil society and other governmental representatives and led to the development of strategic lines of action that would form the basis of the 2008-11 National Strategic Plan.

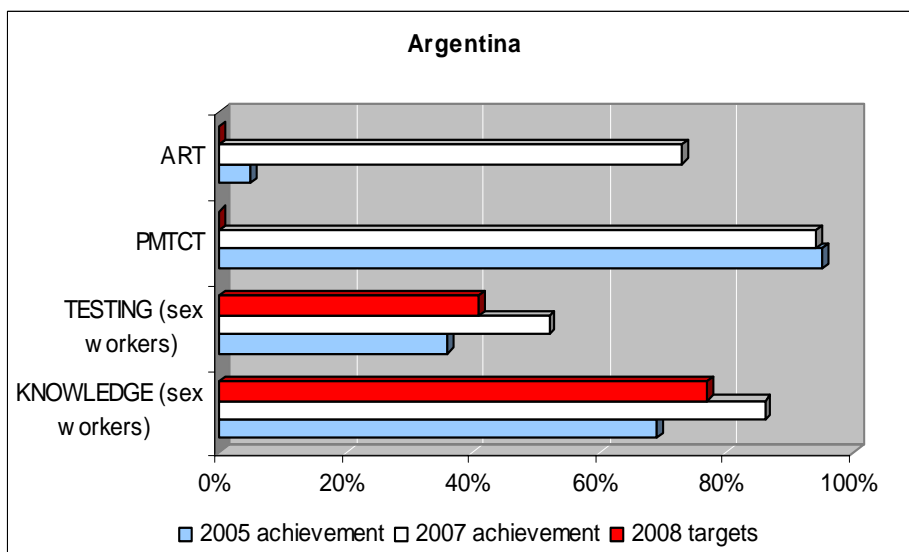
Targets have been partially set, but one of the main challenges at national level is create a clear linkage among the goals of the National Strategic Plan, UNGASS indicators and the agreed Universal Access targets.

The Universal Access process has contributed to the identification of national priorities through a mechanism

of consensus building. It also has contributed substantially to harmonize the national response to AIDS; so, the process was considered a tool of harmonization.

Figure 1. The graph presents a snapshot of progress towards universal access based on 2005 and 2007 reported UNGASS achievements and 2010 reported targets, as per data available.

Please note that ARV and PMTCT targets may be subject to change based on revised numbers in need of ART.



"(We) commit ourselves to pursuing all necessary efforts to scale up nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive responses... towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010."

2006 Political Declaration, (UN General Assembly, 15 June 2006)