

Progress towards Universal Access

Haiti

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 Haiti

The universal access process in Haiti has helped to define the basic principles for the national vision. The impact of the universal access process is measured by the success in treatment scale up, prevention scale up and scale up of care and support. Specifically the number of sites offering ART services increased from 33 in 2006 to 46 in 2007 and the number of PMTCT services increased from 88 in 2006 to 92 in 2007. Both services continue to increase in 2008.

The universal access process has had an overall positive impact on the response by improving the harmonization, coordination and alignment of partners behind the national response. The process has contributed to an increase support to health systems, the involvement of civil society in planning and implementation of the national response and the improved equality of access to service, especially for most at risk groups.

The support for human resources is still not evident although it has been costed in the national strategic framework. It remains a high concern for national development.

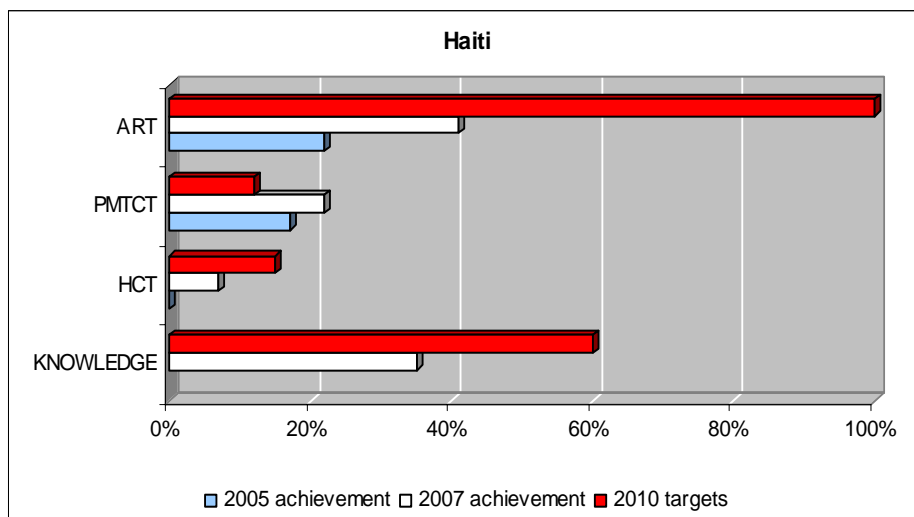


Figure 1. The graph presents a snapshot of progress towards universal access based on 2005 and 2007 reported UNGASS achievements and 2010 reported targets, as per data available.

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

...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)