

Progress towards Universal Access Madagascar

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 Madagascar

The development of the roadmap and targets towards universal access has contributed positively to the national response. A sharpened focus on most at risk groups within the national operational plan and the launch of the national network on people living with HIV has led to an acceleration of prevention interventions towards populations at higher risk (sex workers, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users), particularly in the 119 most at risk communes. The target setting process within the national planning framework has drawn partners to invest their resources in the operational plan of the National Strategic Framework and prompted a further decentralization of services to facilitate scale up.

In terms of programmatic progress, the number of young people and sex workers tested has significantly increased, as well as the use of condoms among sex workers at last sex with a client. Treatment is also being increased, although is still far from reaching all those estimated in need.

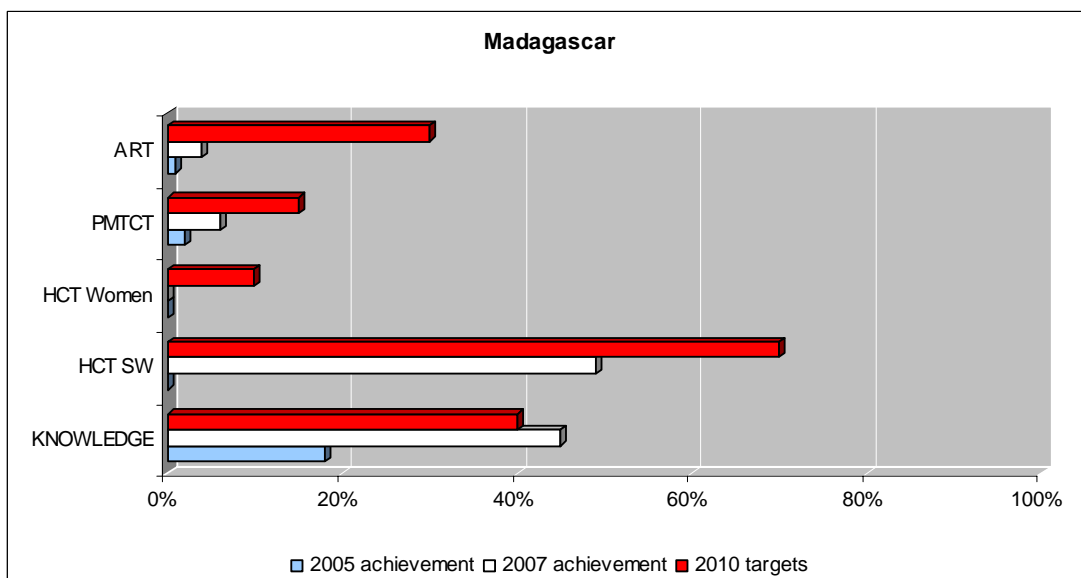


Figure 1. The graph presents a snapshot of progress towards universal access based on 2005 and 2007 reported UNGASS achievements and 2010 reported targets, as per data available.

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)