



Further Refinement of the Financial Framework for AIDS Funding for 2005-2007

Proposed Action Plan

❖ Communiqué from the 9 March High-Level Meeting

*“We agreed to the formation of a **Working Group**, to be facilitated by UNAIDS, and representing donors, national governments, civil society, the private sector, and technical partners, which will continue preliminary work and provide technical justification of financial resources needed within 60 days, taking into account appropriate assumptions and methodologies and considering resources required for the development of adequate health sector and related human and institutional resources.”*

❖ Objectives

In the previous exercise, there were a number of perceived problems. The most noteworthy are a lack of clarity and understanding about the assumptions behind the estimations, especially as they relate to coverage targets, assessment of unit costs for services, and the methods for determining rates of scale up and programmatic capacity. In addition, there was a need to improve the solicitation of input and the review by interested partners. This proposal for the next 60 days attempts to address these issues.

❖ Principles

1. Build on existing work, but also utilize alternate, complementary approaches.
2. Proactively keep all key stakeholders and partners informed of the process.
3. Be inclusive of key stakeholders and rely on the expertise of these individual and groups in the development of scenarios and options.
4. Develop diverse scenarios and options. These scenarios would include an ideal, comprehensive, expanded response where targets were maximized and there would be full use of AIDS resources to address the delivery of services and the investments needed to expand program capacity. Other scenarios would focus on making tough decisions about coverage targets in the context of more limited resources and acknowledging existing programmatic capacity constraints.
5. Ensure close collaboration between the Financial Framework working groups and the Global Task Team that is focusing on harmonization and coordination.

❖ What products are we aiming for at the end of the 60 days?

Estimating resources needed for AIDS both now and in the future is a complex and resource intensive task. Multiple partners and technical experts should be involved and there should be adequate time for appropriate vetting of the calculations and to allow use of different methodologies and approaches to the estimations. There also needs to be consideration for the political and strategic implications that come from the estimations, so that the messages resulting are clear and useful to donors, national governments, program managers and civil society. It is important not to be unrealistic about what can and should be accomplished within the next two months.

- a review and revision of the current resource needs document with improved understanding of the overall assumptions that were used, the technical aspects of the

methodology, a sensitivity analysis, and the actual calculations. This document would also include the most up-to-date forecasts of available resources for comparison with the estimated needs.

- establish and announce an ongoing process for a systematic analysis of resource needs for the next 12 months. The current resource needs document described above would be considered a starting point that utilizes one possible methodology and set of assumptions. Alternate analyses of resource constraints would occur and there would be a routine updating of the outcomes of the work for review and comment by interested partners. The structure of this ongoing exercise could build on the working groups described below.

❖ Working groups

The proposal is to establish three levels of working groups:

1. A **Resource Needs Steering Committee** acting as a supervisory panel, which would provide overall guidance to the process and build the political consensus on the financial estimates. We would expect this Committee to meet twice. There would be an initial “kick-off” meeting to set parameters and ground rules. These would include the assumptions about coverage targets and the possible approaches to absorptive capacity constraints. There would then be a consultative meeting with this Committee approximately two weeks before the final end date.

The Steering Committee would include senior officials from donors, developing countries, multilateral agencies (including a representative group of UNAIDS’ Cosponsors and the Global Fund), civil society and the private sector. The Committee would be supported by the Technical Working Group and the UNAIDS’ Secretariat.

2. A **Resource Needs Technical Working Group** which would be comprised of a small group of technical experts that would be reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee. This Group would focus on providing guidance on the more technical suppositions and would perform an ongoing review of the outputs of the estimations for accuracy and relevance. Examples of technical assumptions would include decisions about the assumed survival on ART and comparisons of various estimation methodologies. The Technical Working Group could, as the need arises, create sub-working groups to focus on specific issues, such as the specific costs of prevention, the costs of treatment/care, and the approaches to determining programmatic capacity. These sub-working groups would be convened as appropriate and develop their own *modus operandi* including use of e-workspaces or other virtual communication means. Each of these sub-working groups would provide data and information for use in the overall modelling exercise.
3. A **Core Secretariat Group based at UNAIDS** which would deal with the day-to-day needs of the exercise, address technical problems and assure optimum information exchange. The Core Secretariat would be responsible for ongoing updates on the status of the work to all members of the Steering Committee and any other appropriate partner. A communications strategy would be developed, particularly focusing on ensuring that civil society would be involved throughout the whole process. Advocacy, Communication and Leadership (ACL) will take the lead to develop this strategy and there would be individual approaches for US, European, and developing country NGOs. It is planned that supplementary expertise in economics modelling would be included within the Secretariat, as well as a possible additional contractual agreement with an institution to be determined (in addition to the work being currently done by the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico and the Futures Group International).

Organizational structure for a 60-Day Action Plan for Estimating Resource Needs

