

Kazakhstan: Assistance to the government and NGOs in strategic planning of the national HIV response

Objective

Following up on a governmental request in 2004, the joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Kazakhstan is working on the development of the new strategic national HIV programme. The objective is to help the government and NGOs to analyse the situation, to evaluate implementation of the current strategic programme and to develop the new strategic plan with all stakeholders.



Planning meeting with local officials

Partners involved

According to the division of labour, the UN Theme Group on HIV and AIDS agreed with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) proposal to assist the government in developing the national strategic plan. Other UNAIDS Co-sponsors contributed to the strategic planning of the national response to HIV in accordance within their areas of competencies. The UNAIDS country office provided leadership, co-ordination, technical assistance and consultations at all steps of the strategic planning process.

The initiative involved other major international and bilateral stakeholders

Overview of the situation

Kazakhstan has an experience of strategic programming which was initiated by UNAIDS. The country approach to HIV is based on six key strategic areas of interventions:

- Mainstreaming of human rights and social support for people living with HIV and vulnerable population groups.
- Increasing access to prevention, treatment and care especially among vulnerable groups including young people.
- Improving governance, multi-sectoral co-ordination, partnerships with NGOs, monitoring and evaluation.

The three goals of the expiring country strategic plan for the period of 2001-2005 included:

- Maintaining HIV prevalence among injecting drug users below 5 percent, and maintaining the proportion of HIV sexual transmission in the overall structure of HIV cases below 20 percent.
- Decreasing the numbers of young injecting drug users and promote safe sexual behaviour among young people.
- Providing health and social programmes to at least 80 percent of people living with HIV.

During the programme implementation major situational changes occurred in the country. Due to substantial decrease of antiretroviral treatment prices, hundreds of people living with HIV got access to treatment. Prevention of mother to child transmission programmes were developed due to increased HIV+ pregnant women. Gradual shifting of HIV transmission from injecting drug use to sexual transmission has become clear.

Description

The roadmap of the programme activities includes:

- Establishing the governmental led working group supported by UNAIDS to guide the overall process.
- Conducting situation and response analysis by service providers and by beneficiaries.
- Disseminating the reports among key stakeholders and developing the integrated working document.
- Holding a three-day participatory governmental-led national conference aimed to consider and approve the integrated report and to agree on the main strategies of the new national plan.
- Finalization and drafting of the preliminary national strategic plan by the governmental-led working group and passing it to the top governmental level for approval.

Deliverables

The programmes outputs included:

- Evaluation reports on HIV prevention among (1) injecting drug users, (2) sex workers, (3) men having sex with men (4) young people and (5) providing treatment, care and support to people living with HIV.

- Fully budgeted final draft of the national strategic programme for 2006-2010 agreed by all parties and passed to the top governmental level for adoption by the resolution of the Cabinet.
- Co-ordination capacities and partnership among governmental sectors, NGOs and international partners strengthened.
- Global HIV initiatives applied on the country level.

The draft programme has two major measurable goals fully corresponding to the Universal Access initiative:

- Slowing down the spread of HIV in Kazakhstan and maintaining the epidemic in concentrated state.
- Improving quality of life and decrease mortality of people living with HIV.

Next steps

After adoption of the national programme by the Cabinet UNAIDS will develop the Implementation Support Plan and provide technical assistance to the development of sectoral and regional level HIV programmes to support the national programme.

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