



Issue Paper for the Session: Rights-based Approaches Tools and Indicators – Update on RBA brief guide and other products

Defining the Issue

1. Current realities have resulted in a pressing need to provide tools to ensure the effectiveness of approaches toward “human rights based” response to AIDS. To address this need, the Reference Group Terms of Reference for 2005 included the “development of human rights tools and methods to support countries” in their HIV and AIDS efforts. At the last meeting, the Reference Group reviewed draft products and provided guidance on how these products should be conceptualized going forward.

Background

2. Following the guidance provided at the last meeting, three potential products were identified by UNAIDS and the Reference Group Secretariat as feasible options:
 - a) A brief and punchy general guide to RBAs in the context of HIV based on the analysis of RBAs (desk top review) already begun;
 - b) Analysis of all existing UNAIDS guidance materials documents and production of a guide to integrate RBAs with respect to these guidance materials for use by UNAIDS staff members, the goal being to show them how to support RBAs at country level through existing mechanisms (UN Theme Groups, Three Ones, Partnership forums, technical support to National Plans, working through UN Country Teams and development instruments they use, Monitoring and Evaluation); and
 - c) Three brief policy papers on RBAs (5-10 pages each) in the context of prevention (operationalizing human rights as part of UNAIDS policy position paper on HIV prevention), treatment (3x5 endeavors) and impact mitigation (all topical in light of gearing up for universal access).
3. It was agreed that the Reference Group Secretariat would within this contractual period complete number 1) above - a brief and punchy guide on RBAs in the context of HIV. The target audience was determined to be UNAIDS staff at the country level.
4. In this period the draft was completed. On the part of the Reference Group Secretariat, this involved taking into consideration all the recommendations provided by the Reference Group members at the last meeting, putting together a revised draft, as well as extensively reviewing and revising additional drafts to make the content more succinct and clear. A draft was completed and shared with the sub-group of members that had volunteered for this task. The Guide was then revised a final time and examples compiled to illustrate key points.

Identifying Examples and Reviewing the Checklist for the Guide

5. The draft guide is now completed but at a stage requiring finalization of the examples for each section of the guide, and a review of the questions contained in the checklist. Input is needed from members on both these points.

Annotated Bibliography

6. This project also includes an annotated bibliography on rights-based approaches drawn from grey and peer-reviewed literature. It was used in preparation of the Guide but may also be a useful resource for UNAIDS staff and others with interest in rights-based approaches. The annotated

bibliography is organized into three distinct sections: UN agencies; international NGOs; and peer-reviewed literature.

Question for discussion:

- 1) On the examples needed for the RBA Guide:
 - a. Are there examples from your organizations or those that you work with or know that would be better suited for use in the Guide than those presented?

- 2) On the checklist contained in the RBA Guide:
 - a. Are there additional questions which should be added to make the checklist more complete?

- 3) On the annotated bibliography:
 - a. Should the structure and format of the annotated bibliography be adjusted to make it more useful to those not familiar with this information?
 - b. What additional information, if any, needs to be included for each organization?
 - c. Are there any other organizations or sources that should be included?

This issue paper was prepared by the Reference Group Secretariat to facilitate discussion at the Reference Group's April 2006 meeting.