UNAIDS action plan on intensifying HIV prevention

2006–2007

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Purpose of the document

In June 2005, the UNAIDS1 Programme Coordinating Board endorsed the “UNAIDS policy position paper on Intensifying HIV prevention.” The primary goal of the policy position paper was to energize and mobilize an intensification of HIV prevention with the ultimate aim of universal access to HIV prevention and treatment.2 While endorsing the paper, they recommended that UNAIDS take the lead in intensifying HIV prevention, through expediting the development of an action plan based on the policy position paper and on the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination Among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors.3

This document outlines the UNAIDS action plan for intensifying HIV prevention in 2006 and 2007. The plan is consistent with the recommendations made by the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination Among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors and the UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan for 2006–2007. It brings together the collective approach of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat in supporting intensification of HIV prevention with a focus at country level. It spells out the UNAIDS operational strategy to be undertaken in the next two years (2006 and 2007) by the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS and the global and regional teams or offices of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat. The key outcomes described in the action plan are deliverables to be achieved by the end of this period.

This document is primarily meant to be used by the UN system to support intensifying national HIV prevention efforts. It can also be used by countries and civil society organizations for accessing UNAIDS support for scaling up HIV prevention. This document could also contribute to harmonization and coordination efforts on HIV prevention programmes of international nongovernmental organizations and multilateral or bilateral partners.

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1 UNAIDS refers to the ten Cosponsors and Secretariat of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. The ten Cosponsors are: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Bank.


Key principles for UNAIDS actions on intensifying HIV prevention

Country level focus

The primary focus of this action plan is on UNAIDS support to achieve outcomes in intensifying HIV prevention at country level in line with the programmatic and policy actions endorsed in the UNAIDS policy position paper. This support will be provided to country level action, led and driven by governments and the civil society and will be in line with the “Three Ones” principles to ensure a truly multisectoral response. The action plan also outlines UNAIDS support to regional and global level actions necessary to scale up HIV prevention programmes.

Intensifying HIV prevention through advocacy and constituency building

A key priority of the UNAIDS action plan will be advocacy to generate more wide-ranging support, commitment and effective use of resources at country, regional and global levels to promote scaling up and intensifying HIV prevention in countries. The action plan will also contribute to the development of strong HIV prevention constituencies in countries through the promotion and strengthening of partnerships among civil society members, including people living with HIV, and the government to ensure that intensifying HIV prevention is country led and country owned through the participation of all the relevant stakeholders.

Promoting HIV prevention within existing National AIDS strategies and as an integral part of scaling up towards universal access

The UNAIDS action plan to support scaling up of HIV prevention at country level will be integrated into the process of scaling up towards universal access currently being undertaken by countries. Scaling up HIV prevention programmes will contribute to the goal set by the UN General Assembly in 2005 “for scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it.” Success in achieving universal access will contribute to reducing the burden of AIDS and will help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, those related to Goal 6.

4 The “Three Ones” principles are guiding principles for national authorities and their partners for coordination of national responses to HIV/AIDS. They are 1) One agreed HIV/AIDS Action Framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners; 2) One National AIDS Coordinating Authority, with a broad based multisectoral mandate and 3) One agreed country level monitoring and evaluation system.

5 The process of scaling up towards universal access is a country-driven process, including consultations with relevant stakeholders, nongovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, within existing national AIDS strategies, for scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it.

6 UN General Assembly resolutions 60/224, December 2005.

7 Millennium Development Goal 6: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
This action plan will help countries to develop nationally agreed, targeted plans or ‘roadmaps’ for building significantly greater access to HIV prevention services by 2010. The key outcomes described in this action plan focus on promoting the intensification and scaling up of HIV prevention.

**Strengthening and harmonizing UN capacity for HIV prevention**

This action plan describes how UNAIDS will coordinate its own collective efforts on scaling up HIV prevention through building on the comparative advantages of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and the Secretariat and through harmonization of Cosponsor support at country level. The document clarifies the process for allocation of responsibility based on the UNAIDS Technical Support Division of Labour\(^8\) while at the same time allows some flexibility based on Cosponsor presence and capacity at country level. UNAIDS support to scaling up HIV prevention programmes at country level requires that it strengthen its own capacity to provide the support and to harmonize efforts.

**Clear accountability and deliverables**

The UNAIDS deliverables for intensifying HIV prevention in 2006–2007 are presented as key outcomes across the action areas—evidence; advocacy; policy development; normative guidance and technical support; coordination and harmonization; and monitoring and evaluation—in line with its core functions.\(^9\)

Progress made in achieving each of these outcomes will be measured through a set of indicators described in the accountability framework. These indicators have been harmonized with those agreed upon in the UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan for 2006–2007.

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\(^9\) The five core functions of UNAIDS as endorsed by the Programme Coordinating Board in 2002 in Lisbon are (i) leadership and advocacy for effective action on the epidemic; (ii) strategic information to guide efforts against AIDS worldwide; (iii) tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the epidemic and of responses to it; (iv) civil society engagement and partnership development; and (v) mobilization of resources to support an effective response.
UNAIDS action plan on intensifying HIV prevention 2006-2007

All HIV prevention efforts/programmes must have as their fundamental basis the promotion, protection and respect of human rights including gender equality.

HIV prevention programmes must be differentiated and locally-adapted to the relevant epidemiological, economic, social and cultural contexts in which they are implemented.

HIV prevention actions must be evidence-informed, based on what is known and proven to be effective and investment to expand the evidence base should be strengthened.

HIV prevention programmes must be comprehensive in scope, using the full range of policy and programmatic interventions known to be effective.

HIV prevention is for life; therefore, both delivery of existing interventions as well as research and development of new technologies require a long-term and sustained effort, recognizing that results will only be seen over the longer-term and need to be maintained.

HIV prevention programming must be at a coverage, scale and intensity that is enough to make a critical difference.

Community participation of those for whom HIV prevention programmes are planned is critical for their impact.

Essential Programmatic Actions for HIV Prevention

1. Prevent the sexual transmission of HIV.
2. Prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.
3. Prevent the transmission of HIV through injecting drug use, including harm reduction measures.
4. Ensure the safety of the blood supply.
5. Prevent HIV transmission in healthcare settings.
6. Promote greater access to voluntary HIV counseling and testing while promoting principles of confidentiality and consent.
7. Integrate HIV prevention into AIDS treatment services.
8. Focus on HIV prevention among young people.
9. Provide HIV-related information and education to enable individuals to protect themselves from infection.
10. Confront and mitigate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
11. Ensure that human rights are promoted, protected and respected and that measures are taken to eliminate discrimination and combat stigma.
12. Build and maintain leadership from all sections of society, including governments, affected communities, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, the education sector, media, the private sector and trade unions.
13. Involve people living with HIV, in the design, implementation and evaluation of prevention strategies, addressing the distinct prevention needs.
14. Address cultural norms and beliefs, recognizing both the key role they may play in supporting prevention efforts and the potential they have to fuel HIV transmission.
15. Promote gender equality and address gender norms and relations to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls, involving men and boys in this effort.
16. Promote widespread knowledge and awareness of how HIV is transmitted and how infection can be avoided.
17. Promote the links between HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health.
19. Promote programmes targeted at HIV prevention needs of key affected groups and populations.
20. Mobilize and strengthening financial, and human and institutional capacity across all sectors, particularly in health and education.
21. Review and reform legal frameworks to remove barriers to effective, evidence-based HIV prevention, combat stigma and discrimination and protect the rights of people living with HIV or vulnerable or at risk to HIV.
22. Ensure that sufficient investments are made in the research and development of and advocacy for new prevention technologies.
Key UNAIDS deliverables to intensify HIV prevention

The UNAIDS policy position paper on intensifying HIV prevention defines seven principles, twelve policy actions and eleven programmatic actions essential to scaling up HIV prevention programmes at country level (Figure 1).

To support countries in implementing these actions, UNAIDS will undertake a series of actions aimed at achieving the following outcomes.

**Evidence**
1. Regularly updated, disaggregated data on coverage of HIV prevention services available to key populations at country level.
2. Lessons learnt/best practices in scaling up HIV prevention shared among in-country partners.
3. Consolidated evidence on policy and programmatic actions to scale up HIV prevention available in all countries.

**Advocacy**
4. Advocacy initiatives for intensifying HIV prevention implemented by UNAIDS Cosponsors and the Secretariat.
5. HIV prevention programmes for key populations implemented as part of one national HIV and AIDS action framework.
6. Enhanced capacity of civil society, including people living with HIV, to implement HIV programmes at country level.

**Policy development**
8. National policies related to HIV prevention analysed and recommendations proposed for policy development.

**Normative guidance and technical support**
9. Increased access to coordinated UN technical assistance and capacity development for multisectoral partners (both government and nongovernmental) to undertake scaled-up HIV prevention programmes.

**Coordination and Harmonization**
10. HIV prevention task force established under the national AIDS authority.
11. Costed, comprehensive HIV prevention component to address scaling up included as part of the national strategic plan.
12. Country level HIV prevention component integrated within UN joint programme of support and implemented by UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and supported by joint UN teams on AIDS.
13. Costed, regional UN technical assistance plan to support HIV prevention at the country level implemented.

**Monitoring and evaluation**
14. Every UN agency using the same database and indicators on HIV and AIDS at country level.
15. Country level monitoring and evaluation plans have at least five well-defined indicators to report implementation progress of HIV prevention programmes and measure their impact.
17. HIV prevention programmes jointly evaluated with national partners and donors and recommendations made to improve their quality.
18. Periodic self-assessment of quality of UN technical support provision on HIV prevention scale-up undertaken.
In the UNAIDS policy position paper on intensifying HIV prevention, a number of national-level actions to develop and implement an intensified HIV prevention response were outlined and the need for multisectoral response emphasized. Figure 2 describes the linkages between the outcomes listed above and the national HIV prevention planning cycle.

Figure 2: Linkages between the outcomes and the national HIV prevention planning cycle.

1. Establish dedicated HIV prevention task force within National AIDS programme
2. Understand your AIDS epidemic
3. Analyse current response
4. Agree goals, objectives and targets
5. Develop and adapt HIV prevention plan
6. Coordinate implementation
7. Monitor and evaluate
8. Share results

Legend
- Direct link
- Contributes to

- Periodic self-assessment of quality of United Nations' technical support provision on HIV prevention scale-up undertaken.
- Country-level monitoring and evaluation plans have at least five well-defined indicators to report progress of implementation of HIV prevention programmes and measure its impact.
- Every UN agency using the same database and indicators on HIV and AIDS at country level.
- Resource allocation to HIV prevention programmes tracked.
- HIV prevention programmes jointly evaluated with national partners and donors and recommendations made to improve their quality.
- Lessons learned best practices in scaling up HIV prevention shared among in-country partners.
- Enhanced capacity of civil society, including people living with HIV, to implement HIV programmes at country level.
- Increased access to coordinated United Nations technical assistance and capacity development for multi-sectoral partners (both government and non-government) to undertake scaled up HIV prevention programmes.
- HIV prevention programmes for key populations implemented as part of one national HIV and AIDS action framework.
- Lessons learned practices in scaling up HIV prevention shared among in-country partners.
- Regularly updated, disaggregated data on coverage of HIV prevention services available for key populations at country level.
- Consolidated evidence on policy and programmatic actions to scale up HIV prevention available in all countries.
- Regularly updated, disaggregated data on coverage of HIV prevention services available for key populations at country level.
- Country level HIV prevention component integrated within UN joint programme of support and implemented by UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and supported by joint United Nations Team on AIDS.
- Costed, comprehensive HIV prevention component to address scaling up included as part of the national strategic plan.
- National legal framework related to HIV prevention analyzed and recommendations proposed and implemented.
- Advocacy initiatives for intensifying HIV prevention implemented by UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat.
- National policies related to HIV prevention analyzed and recommendations proposed for policy development.
- Costed, regional UN technical assistance plan to support HIV prevention at the country level implemented.
Operational Strategy

UNAIDS actions on scaling up HIV prevention will be a key part of joint programmes led by the UN Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS supported by the joint UN Teams on AIDS that are being established following a directive from the UN Secretary General on 12 December 2005. This directive is in response to calls from Heads of State and Governments for greater cohesion and effectiveness of the United Nations response at country level. Each joint UN Team on AIDS,10 consisting of the operational level staff working on AIDS, will work under the authority of the UN Resident Coordinator System and the overall guidance of the UN Country Team and be facilitated by the UNAIDS Country Coordinator. Based on this directive, each UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS should continue to function, focusing on ensuring policy coherence and strengthened advocacy for national efforts.

These joint UN Teams on AIDS, once established, would be further supported by the regional offices of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Regional Support Teams. At the global level, the Cosponsors and the Secretariat will play a supportive role in setting global standards and systems to facilitate action at country level as well in mobilizing the international community for building a global constituency to support scaling up of HIV prevention programmes.

Planning for HIV prevention intensification efforts

With nearly five million new HIV infections occurring worldwide each year, intensifying HIV prevention will be a priority for all countries affected by the epidemic. Each joint UN Team on AIDS, once established in the country, will on a priority basis, as part of the joint programme of support, develop its own plan of action to support national efforts to scale up HIV prevention. Evidence suggests that a significant number of countries face difficulties in scaling up HIV prevention efforts even when resources to do so are available. Countries which have benefited from UN system support have been able to better use the increased resources now available to scale up HIV prevention efforts.

UNAIDS will provide support to intensify HIV prevention in all countries. However, based on the Global Task Team recommendations and the consolidated UN technical support plan for AIDS developed by UNAIDS in August 2005,11 45 countries where the need for support would be greatest were identified. In 2006, UNAIDS will give special attention to at least 12 of these countries, focusing on the rest in 2007.

Mainstreaming HIV prevention in the UN system Workplan

HIV prevention activities of the UN system at country level will be reviewed by the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and the joint UN Team on AIDS, to ensure that they contribute to the HIV prevention outcomes listed earlier in this document. The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and the joint UN Team on AIDS, through joint planning with national stakeholders, will agree to

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10 The joint UN Teams on AIDS are now being established in countries; as soon as they are functional, they will provide the support necessary for action plan implementation.

specific areas of support and integrate them in the UN joint programme of support on AIDS. The HIV prevention outcomes will also be reflected in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework where applicable.

Under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator System, the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS, will be responsible to ensure the delivery of the agreed HIV prevention outcomes.

**Division of labour for HIV prevention**

The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in each country supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS, where established, will agree on a division of labour in line with the recommendations made by the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination Among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors. This division of labour for HIV prevention has been harmonized with the UN technical support plan as shown in Table 1. The national AIDS authority and other country level stakeholders will be kept abreast of the division of labour among the members of the joint UN Team on AIDS to facilitate coordination.

As outlined in the document, UNAIDS Technical Support Division of Labour, a lead organization for each technical area will be identified in the country. The lead organization in the country—either a Cosponsor or the Secretariat—will serve as a single entry point for the government and other relevant country-level stakeholders requiring support within a specific UNAIDS technical support area. The main partners shown in Table 1 are the other members of the UNAIDS family having an interest and capacity in providing technical support within the area. The relationship between the lead agency and the main partners is illustrated in Figure 3. In countries where a lead organization does not have an in-country presence, or if a lead organization fails to adequately play its role, the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS will select an alternate lead organization from among the main partners in the technical support area. This decision will be formally reported to the national AIDS coordinating authority and major country-level stakeholders.

The relationship between the lead organization and its main partners does not represent an additional layer of bureaucracy. The comparative strengths and expertise of the agencies actually working in the countries will be used to the best advantage of the national programme. This will contribute to more effective UN joint programming and to coordination of efforts of UN agencies through the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS. The overarching goal is to improve the quality of UN support and reduce transaction costs, requiring both the lead organization and its main partners to focus on rapidly providing services and achieving results, as opposed to focusing on the process as a vehicle to increase an individual agency’s ability to leverage resources.

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Table 1: Division of labour on HIV prevention among UNAIDS cosponsors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical Area</th>
<th>UN technical support plan</th>
<th>HIV prevention action plan</th>
<th>Main Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall policy and coordination</td>
<td>UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
<td>UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
<td>All cosponsors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health sector including voluntary counselling and testing, blood safety, (integration with treatment)</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, UNODC, UNDP, World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV</td>
<td>UNICEF/WHO</td>
<td>UNICEF/WHO</td>
<td>UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people out of school</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, WFP, UNODC, WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people in educational institutions</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNODC, ILO, WFP, UNHCR, World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injecting drug use/prisons</td>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>WHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technical Area | UN technical support plan | HIV prevention action plan | Main Partners
--- | --- | --- | ---
Vulnerable groups (except injecting drug use, prisons, workplace) | UNFPA | Sex work-UNFPA Men who have sex with Men- UNAIDS Secretariat | ILO, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF
Displaced populations (Refugees and internally displaced populations) | UNHCR | UNHCR | WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA
Security/uniformed services | UNAIDS Secretariat | UNAIDS Secretariat | UNHCR, WFP, UNFPA
Workplace | ILO | ILO | WHO, UNESCO
Condom programming | UNFPA | UNFPA | WHO, World Bank, UNHCR
Stigma and Discrimination | UNDP | UNDP | UNAIDS Secretariat, ILO, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNODC, World Bank

**Review of HIV prevention component in national strategic plans including costing, operational plans and budgetary support**

As a first step, a review of national HIV prevention response will need to be undertaken by countries. The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS could play a proactive role in this review. A number of national programme review tools have already been developed. For example the draft AIDS Strategy and Action Plan prepared by UNAIDS under the leadership of the World Bank, presents a variety of options for providing support on strategic and action planning through a country driven process. This, together with other existing tools such as the guide to indicators for monitoring and evaluating HIV and AIDS programmes for young people\(^\text{14}\) could be important sources of assistance to countries as they revisit their national strategies, implementation plans and targets for scaling up HIV prevention towards universal access.

The key actions of this national programme review will be to ensure that:

- the country-level AIDS Action Framework has clear objectives related to prevention;
- the single agreed monitoring and evaluation system includes appropriate indicators to track the impact of HIV prevention efforts; and
- the “Three Ones” principles are embedded in the national HIV prevention strategy.

Based on the findings of this review of the HIV prevention component, the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS, could develop a UN technical assistance plan to provide support to strategic planning and the implementation of a coordinated, evidence-informed HIV prevention component within the national AIDS response. They could also advocate with partners to leverage additional resources and harmonize their efforts in line with the principles of the “Three Ones” to support the country’s efforts at intensifying HIV prevention.

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\(^{13}\) UNAIDS (2005). Making the money work through greater UN support for AIDS responses. Geneva, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Strengthening UN capacity to support HIV prevention scale-up including monitoring and evaluation at country level

The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS, will undertake a review of its existing capacity to provide evidence-informed programming support on intensifying HIV prevention. This review will be in relation to the HIV prevention technical assistance needs of the country. Based on the results, they will implement a capacity-building strategy to strengthen the skills of its existing staff in delivering quality and relevant technical assistance. Particular emphasis will be on enhancing the skills of senior staff at country level to undertake advocacy to promote intensifying HIV prevention, grounded in the principles of effective HIV Prevention.

Coordinating provision of technical support for HIV prevention

UNAIDS will facilitate in-country partners’ access to timely and quality assured technical assistance for HIV prevention activities. The focus of the technical support will be on the implementation of scaled up HIV prevention plans.

The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS, will facilitate the identification of gaps and specific technical assistance needs in HIV prevention as part of the joint programme of support. This exercise will involve all stakeholders including national governments,

Figure 4: Illustration of the technical assistance process at country level

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bilateral donors and the civil society. The technical assistance plans being developed will be adapted as needed at country level based on the assessment. The Cosponsors (based on the division of labour agreed upon globally and adapted if needed at country level and based on the availability of technical expertise in country), will scale up support to country partners in their lead areas in a coordinated way to avoid duplication of efforts. Lead agencies will be responsible to set up task forces or working groups, as necessary, to coordinate technical assistance for specific thematic areas. Figure 4 describes the process by which technical assistance will be provided at the country level.

In addition, technical assistance to country partners will be facilitated through a number of regional mechanisms such as the UNAIDS Technical Support Facilities which are functional in four regions—West and Central Africa, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa and South-East Asia and the Pacific. Over the next two years, these facilities will increase their capacity to respond to country partner needs for technical assistance in scaling up HIV prevention. Other regional mechanisms include, among others, the World Health Organization’s Knowledge Hubs, United Nations Population Fund’s Country Support Teams and United Nations Development Programmes’ Regional Service Centres etc. These regional entities, working in close collaboration with each other through a joint strategy, will facilitate the provision of technical assistance available from all entities, UN and others, within the countries and regions to support country needs. Technical assistance will only be provided globally if it cannot be brokered by the regional entities from within the region.

UNAIDS is also establishing a technical support assistance fund which will provide catalytic funding for the provision of technical assistance to country partners. This fund can be accessed through the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and the joint UN Teams on AIDS where they exist, by national AIDS authorities and civil society partners. In addition, the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund can be used for providing catalytic support to country partners to strengthen their technical capacity in implementing and scaling up prevention activities. Countries can draw on UNAIDS support at global level for normative guidance, best practices and minimum standards for HIV prevention.
Regional-level actions

In some regions, the regional offices of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and the Secretariat’s Regional Support Teams have formed a Regional Directors’ Forum on AIDS to mobilize increased support and commitment from the Cosponsors and partners. The Regional Directors’ Forum will work through the lead agencies, who will assume their lead role, in line with the agreed division of labour and will facilitate technical assistance to countries (see Figure 4). They will work closely with the UNAIDS Technical Support Facilities and other regional entities to broker technical assistance and to harmonize technical support to countries.

The regional offices of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and the Secretariat’s Regional Support Teams will bring together partners and relevant stakeholders to:

- identify, in consultation with the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and UNAIDS Country Coordinators, priority countries based on available epidemiological and behavioural data;
- set targets and timelines for focused support to these priority countries and to the thematic areas relevant for these countries;
- facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned from the countries in the region to provide countries with a sound technical basis for refining current strategies, strengthening existing structures and capacity for scaling up interventions known to work; and
- mobilize increased support and commitment for HIV prevention and harmonize regional efforts.

The Regional Directors’ Forum on AIDS will advocate for scaling up of HIV prevention within their regions including increased commitment from political leaders. Regional entities are best placed to analyse sensitive issues and cross-border barriers impeding scaling up of HIV prevention and to propose recommendations on the way forward for regional action and for support to countries. These efforts will also strengthen advocacy efforts addressing sensitive issues at country level.

In addition, the Forum will assist regional entities (such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Pan Caribbean Partnership against AIDS, Economic Community of West African States, Economic Commission for Africa and Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS, Pacific Islands Forum) in mobilizing and strengthening their own efforts and commitment to intensify HIV prevention.
Global-level actions

Globally, UNAIDS will advocate for and seek commitments for scaling up of HIV prevention programmes among key donors and international nongovernmental organizations. UNAIDS will promote and support the development of strong HIV prevention constituencies among civil society including community groups, policy makers, opinion leaders, religious leaders, women’s groups, youth leaders, people living with HIV, employers and trade unions. Likewise the support of members of the media, the performing arts and business will be mobilized towards scaling up of HIV prevention through more collaborative platforms for social dialogue on HIV and AIDS. The UNAIDS Secretariat will support the UNAIDS family by engaging in specific initiatives to raise the profile of HIV prevention.

The UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat will also play a lead role in setting standards for HIV prevention. Cosponsor organizations will take the lead in developing normative and operational guidance for implementing the essential HIV prevention actions. The lead organization at global level will play a proactive leadership role by:

- taking a lead in global policy discussions regarding the technical area and in identifying global level actions;
- establishing global and regional support mechanisms for the delivery of country-level support;
- identifying gaps in the provision of support at country level; and
- stimulating demand.

Globally, the lead organization acts as a liaison between UNAIDS and other providers of technical support in its area, as well as between the UNAIDS Country Coordinators and global support mechanisms, such as the Global Joint Problem-Solving and Implementation Team. The lead agency at the global level will also have the responsibility to support the identified lead agency at country level and be responsible for oversight of the technical area at the regional and country levels.

UNAIDS will:

- develop a compendium of evidence for HIV prevention actions as defined in the UNAIDS policy position paper;
- articulate an agenda for research needed to strengthen the evidence base for HIV prevention;
- document and disseminate best practices, particularly those related to vulnerable populations, which can be used in scaling up HIV prevention programmes at the country level;
- conduct reviews to identify global policy gaps in HIV prevention with the involvement of key global, regional and national partners. The Secretariat will take the lead in providing overall policy guidance for HIV prevention to ensure a coherent and unified UN position on key HIV prevention areas;
- monitor emerging trends of HIV transmission and changes in patterns of risk and vulnerability and provide countries with tools and options to adjust their HIV prevention programmes; a rapid response system will also be established to help dynamic assessments of the epidemic;
- develop (with a broad group of stakeholders) specific indicators for measuring success around HIV prevention to which all those engaged in intensifying HIV prevention can be held jointly accountable to ensure greater commitment, more resources, and clearer divisions of labour.
Accountability and reporting progress

The UNAIDS action plan on intensifying HIV prevention will be implemented within the framework of the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006–2007 approved by the Programme Coordinating Board in June 2005. Monitoring and evaluation of the deliverables will be based on the established principal results and indicators of the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006–2007. The linkages of the HIV prevention outcomes to the principal results are shown in Table 2. Monitoring of the implementation progress at the country level will be done through the UNAIDS country reports.

An annual progress report on implementation of this action plan will be made to the Programme Coordinating Board as part of UNAIDS’ reporting on implementation towards the universal access process. The UNAIDS country report format will be reviewed and revised to include key indicators to measure progress of the implementation of the action plan. In addition UNAIDS will undertake, where necessary, exploratory studies in selected countries for a more in-depth picture of the progress made.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant HIV prevention outcome</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>UBW principal result</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
<th>Division of labour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country level HIV prevention component within joint programme of support implemented by the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS supported by joint UN Teams on AIDS, once established</td>
<td>Number of UN Country Teams reporting on joint support programme on AIDS under development; in implementation; with reports on implementation</td>
<td><strong>Principal result 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;UN system coordination: A coordinated, coherent UN action with stronger strategic positioning, capacity and increased accountability to support the HIV response at all levels</td>
<td>UNAIDS country reports</td>
<td>UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costed, regional UN technical assistance plan to support HIV prevention at the country level implemented</td>
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<tr>
<td>National legal frameworks related to HIV prevention analysed and recommendations proposed for legal reform</td>
<td>Number of countries having laws and regulations that protect people living with HIV against discrimination</td>
<td><strong>Principal result 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Human Rights: Countries adopt and implement legislation, regulations and policies to address stigma and discrimination and to provide human rights and fundamental freedoms among people living with HIV and members of vulnerable groups</td>
<td>UNGASS country reports on number of countries that have laws and regulations that protect people living with HIV against discrimination&lt;br&gt;UNAIDS country reports&lt;br&gt;ILO reports on violations of human rights&lt;br&gt;UNHCR will be approached for possible supplemental data</td>
<td>UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, UNHCR, UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>National policies related to HIV prevention analysed and recommendations proposed for policy development</td>
<td>Number of countries that have a mechanism that monitors and reports on violations of human rights and discrimination in relation to HIV and AIDS for using it in policy reform and promotion of Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy initiatives for intensifying HIV prevention implemented by UNAIDS Cosponsors and UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
<td>Number of countries with targets established for universal access in the three programmatic areas: prevention, treatment, care and support&lt;br&gt;Number of countries with national multisectoral monitoring and evaluation plans&lt;br&gt;Number of subregional and regional intergovernmental multi-partner bodies, forums, partnerships and economic entities that address AIDS or mainstreamed AIDS issues into their action plans</td>
<td><strong>Principal result 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Leadership and Advocacy: Increased awareness on the HIV epidemic, its trends and impact, as well as on effective approaches to curb the epidemic and alleviate its impact, and leadership among government authorities, decision makers and key opinion leaders to take action and enable an expanded response</td>
<td>Universal access reports&lt;br&gt;Cosponsor HIV and AIDS progress reports&lt;br&gt;UNAIDS Regional Support Team surveys&lt;br&gt;Regional and subregional Economic Commissions</td>
<td>UNAIDS Secretariat, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA</td>
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| Enhanced capacity of civil society, including people living with HIV, to implement HIV programmes at country level | Number of countries where a National Periodic review of the national strategic plan was conducted in partnership with civil society                                                                                                                                                                                                 | **Principal result 4**  
Partnerships: Broad-based partnerships that include government, empowered civil society and nongovernmental organizations, women, young people, and people living with HIV, faith-based organizations, the private sector, philanthropic entities, intergovernmental organizations for action on HIV and AIDS at global, regional and country levels | UNAIDS annual country reports  
UNGASS reports on number of countries where a national periodic review of the national strategic plan was conducted with civil society participation | UNDP, WFP, UNESCO, ILO, WHO, UNAIDS Secretariat                                                                                       |
| HIV prevention task force established under the national AIDS authority  
Country level monitoring and evaluation plans have at least five well-defined indicators to report implementation progress of HIV prevention programmes and measure its impact | Number of countries that report that National strategies on HIV and AIDS have clear strategic priorities with action plans costed and budgeted (data disaggregated for HIV prevention)  
Number of countries that include relevant essential programmatic actions for HIV prevention in their national plans | **Principal result 5**  
Country capacity for “Three Ones” implementation: Countries able to establish or strengthen a single national HIV and AIDS authority with a broad-based multisectoral mandate, a single agreed national multisectoral HIV and AIDS action framework which drives alignment of all partners, including those at the decentralized level, and one agreed national HIV and AIDS monitoring and evaluation system capable of producing high quality estimates on the epidemic’s status and trends, its impact and response to it | UNAIDS annual country reports                                                                                                           | UNDP, World Bank, UNAIDS Secretariat                                                                                                               |
| Costed, comprehensive HIV-prevention component, to address scaling up included as part of the national strategic plan | Number of countries with AIDS strategies and action frameworks that address the needs of women and girls  
Number of countries that monitor and report on relevant ¹⁶ UNGASS core indicators with gender and age data disaggregation | **Principal result 6**  
Prevention programmes: Countries able to establish and scale up HIV and AIDS prevention responses, addressing, in particular, the needs of children and young people | UNAIDS annual country reports  
UNAIDS Cosponsors and UNAIDS Secretariat                                                                                              | UNAIDS Cosponsors and UNAIDS Secretariat                                                                                                          |
| Regularly updated, disaggregated data on coverage of HIV prevention services available for key populations at country level | UNGASS core indicator: number of countries with national strategies or action frameworks addressing women and girls  
UNAIDS country annual reports | **Principal result 7**  
Women and girls: Policies and programmes implemented to empower women and adolescent girls to reduce their vulnerability and to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection | Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UNESCO, UNAIDS Secretariat                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                           |

¹⁶ The relevant UNGASS indicators are those for which the UNGASS guidelines explicitly request data disaggregation by gender and sex.
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<tr>
<td>HIV prevention programmes for key populations implemented as part of one national HIV and AIDS action framework</td>
<td>Number of countries that have a policy or strategy to promote information, education, and communication and other preventive health interventions: among injecting drug users (different components of harm reduction), men who have sex with men, sex workers, prison inmates</td>
<td><strong>Principal Result 9</strong>&lt;br&gt;Programmes addressing vulnerability: Countries able to develop, implement and scale up at national and decentralized levels strategies, policies and programmes that identify and address factors that make individuals and communities vulnerable to, and at greater risk of, HIV infection</td>
<td>UNGASS core indicator of number of countries that have a policy or strategy to promote information, education and communication and other preventive health interventions: among injecting drug users (different components of harm reduction), men who have sex with men, sex workers, prison inmates</td>
<td>UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regularly updated, disaggregated data on coverage of HIV prevention services available for key populations at country level</td>
<td>Percentage of most-at-risk populations reached by HIV and AIDS programmes</td>
<td>Number of countries that have policies or strategies to promote information, education, communication, and other prevention health interventions for cross-border migrants, mobile populations, refugees and/or displaced populations</td>
<td>UNAIDS country reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consolidated evidence on policy and programmatic actions to scale up HIV prevention available in all countries</td>
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<td><strong>Principal Result 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Health-care systems: national, regional and international strategies adopted and under implementation to strengthen health-care systems to reinforce prevention and equitably deliver services for the diagnosis, treatment and care of HIV, including expanded capacity to procure and deliver an uninterrupted supply of HIV medicines and diagnostics</td>
<td>UNAIDS Country report</td>
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<td>Core UNGASS indicator of generalized epidemics: percentage of HIV-infected pregnant women receiving a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis to reduce mother-to-child transmission</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV prevention programmes for key populations implemented as part of one national HIV and AIDS action framework</td>
<td>Number of countries with a functional nationally coordinated procurement and supply management system for HIV-related commodities</td>
<td>Percentage of HIV-infected pregnant women receiving a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lessons learnt/best practices in scaling up HIV prevention shared among in-country partners</td>
<td>Number of countries that produce accurate and reliable:</td>
<td>Principal Result 14 Strategic information, research and reporting: Up-to-date data, information and knowledge on the status, trends and impact of the HIV epidemic and the response; operational research on effective responses; promotion of research on HIV vaccines and microbicides and other female controlled methods and therapeutics</td>
<td>UNGASS reports</td>
<td>UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country level monitoring and evaluation plans have at least five well-defined indicators to report implementation progress of HIV prevention programmes and measure its impact.</td>
<td>1. surveillance reports 2. responses to Epi factsheets questionnaire 3. country estimates 4. UNGASS reports</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNAIDS country reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource allocation to HIV prevention programmes tracked</td>
<td>Amount of global financial support towards research and development of the preventive HIV vaccine and microbicides</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV prevention programmes jointly evaluated with national partners and donors and recommendations made to improve their quality</td>
<td>Number of operational research projects undertaken to strengthen the evidence base for development of effective AIDS responses</td>
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<td>Periodic self assessment of quality of UN technical support provision on HIV prevention scale-up undertaken</td>
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<td>Every UN agency using the same database and indicators on HIV and AIDS at country level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country level HIV prevention component integrated within UN joint programme of support on AIDS and implemented by UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS supported by the joint UN Teams on AIDS</td>
<td>Number of countries that conducted a technical support needs assessments</td>
<td>Principal Result 16 Human and technical resources: All countries in need, regardless of prevalence, able to identify, access and utilize human and technical resources for priority HIV and AIDS activities</td>
<td>UNAIDS country reports</td>
<td>WFP, UNDP, ILO, UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costed, regional UN technical assistance plan to support HIV prevention at the country level implemented</td>
<td>Number of countries supported through the consolidated technical support plan, through such mechanisms as established UNAIDS Technical Support Facilities and others</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monitoring data from the implementation of the UNAIDS Technical Support Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased access to coordinated UN technical assistance and capacity development for multisectoral partners (both government and nongovernmental) to undertake scaled up HIV prevention programmes</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>WFP, UNDP, ILO, UNAIDS Secretariat</td>
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</table>

UNAIDS, as a cosponsored programme, unites the responses to the epidemic of its ten cosponsoring organizations and supplements these efforts with special initiatives. Its purpose is to lead and assist an expansion of the international response to HIV/AIDS on all fronts. UNAIDS works with a broad range of partners – governmental and nongovernmental, business, scientific and lay – to share knowledge, skills and best practices across boundaries.
This document outlines the UNAIDS action plan for intensifying HIV prevention in 2006 and 2007. It brings together the collective approach of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat in supporting intensification of HIV prevention with a focus at country level. It spells out the UNAIDS operational strategy to be undertaken in the next two years (2006 and 2007) by the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS supported by the joint UN Team on AIDS and the global and regional teams or offices of the UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat. The key outcomes described in the action plan are deliverables to be achieved by the end of this period.