



Newsletter

HIV/AIDS Regional Program for Latin America and the Caribbean Knowledge Management for Response Integration

Editorial Note

UNDP Regional Program on HIV/AIDS for Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of its Knowledge Management strategy, is presenting the first Edition of this Newsletter, as an initiative to maintain updated country offices, regional centres, other programs and the public in general, on the work undertaken by the program in charge of reverting the advance of the epidemic in the region. It also attempts at urging all interested parties to start a public awareness process and a mutual exchange of experiences and good practices. It shall also serve as a reference point for new initiatives and criticism. The Newsletter will appear on a quarterly basis via e-mail and each published Edition will be included in our virtual periodical and newspaper library. By hitting the section devoted to HIV Regional Program at the working site of the Regional Centre you will be able to find this Newsletter.



Barbados: Governance and HIV/AIDS Response.

With funds from the Bureau for Development Policies (BDP), on March 2008 an initiative was finalized for the strengthening of Management mechanisms and approaches to HIV/AIDS response, of the members countries in the Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS). The general aim of the assessment was that of providing technical assistance to OECS member countries, to provide an initial evaluation on national dynamics in practices related to governance and HIV/AIDS response and to identify key factors required to improve them. Said initiative also attempted to developed the initial stage of the adoption process of diagnosis tools and to identify main actors to foster the building of alliances, specially among non-traditional sectors in most of the countries engaged in the process.

For more information on this project, please, contact leisa.perch@undp.org

Bolivia: UNDP develops ONAEM capacity.



UNDP Bolivia, in coordination with ONAEM (Organización Nacional de Activistas para la Emancipación de la Mujer), the Working Table of Key Populations (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Transsexual), and UNIMBOL (Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS), held June 2 – 6 a

Workshop on emotional intelligence, transformational leadership and HIV/AIDS in Cochabamba, aiming at increasing emotional intelligence and Leadership based on results, so as to contribute to the improvement in emotional life quality, to prevent new HIV infections and to provide care for reducing vulnerability conditions.

Facilitators of the workshop were Lidya Lemus from UNFPA El Salvador, and Wilfredo Roca, member of the National Network of People Living with HIV (UNIMBOL), both trained by UNDP in Emotional and Transformational Leadership.

The initiative forms part of a Project entitled "Institutional Strengthening of ONAEM with a Human Rights approach on Mobile and Vulnerable Populations", trying with this Workshops to appeal to civil society and

government to reduce stigma and discrimination toward women, people living with HIV/AIDS and sexual minorities..

Also a multidisciplinary team was hired to determine a strategy that would change behavioral patterns of the society regarding stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers and sexual minorities at working places, by the family and health and educational services. For more information on this Project please refer to tatiana.jordan@undp.org

Honduras: Working toward equality and a strengthen AIDS response based on a new manliness.

UNDP started last May a public awareness process aimed at higher level military institutions, school directors and ministers



areas:

- To create training, education, exchange of information and experiences centers on manliness and gender and its implication in HIV/AIDS.
- To implement a public awareness campaign on manliness and gender, aimed at key actors within the population to implement gender equity policies and programs
- To develop materials and spreading activities to promote the vision of a new manliness.
- To strengthen work done with men engaged in prevention and attention provided to gender violence.

For more information on this Project, please, refer to gisella.camoriano@undp.org



Nicaragua: Strengthening a Gender Approach in the HIV/AIDS response at a municipal level

In recent years there has been an accelerated trend towards feminization of the epidemics. According to PAHO, women, given their uneven social condition, catch HIV faster than men in Latin America and the Caribbean and young women are the most affected. UNDP and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS began last June a study on the institutional response to HIV/AIDS and gender inequalities and its relation with the increase in the vulnerability at a municipal level in Nicaragua. It is also creating a promoter network and UNV to strengthen the comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS from a gender equity approach in the municipalities.

The Project, additionally, will help, as a strategic result, other UNDP processes related to HIV/AIDS such as

- Training on HIV/AIDS to state officials
- Stand taken by UNDP regarding CONCASIDA
- Replication of the methodology and good use of acquired experiences in municipalities selected to be included in the study.

This study shall be ready by the end of 2008.

For more information regarding this Project, please, refer to maribel.gutierrez@undp.org



Dominican Republic: Socioeconomic vulnerability of women living with HIV in the

Dominican Republic: Strategies for Action

This study intend to improve living conditions of women living with HIV by knowledge increasing so as to design strategies and plans promoting gender equity and human rights in the Dominican Republic, coordinating different activities integrating its development. . Read more



Panamá: HIV/AIDS prevention and violence against indigenous women and adolescents.

HIV/AIDS Regional Program together with CONAMUIP (Coordinating Body of Indigenous Women in Panama) signed on April 2008 a Memorandum of Understanding for a period of 6 months, which enables the use of a fund in the amount of USD 30,000 to draw an analysis on HIV situation, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual and domestic violence among indigenous women and adolescents and to initiate a capacity development process for the training of community leaders in the Ngöbe-Buglé, Emberá-Wounaan, Kuna Yala, and other ethnics. Facilitators are being recruited to direct a public awareness campaign and the creation of Workshops for community promoters as well as for the printing of posters on HIV issues, gender and domestic violence for its distribution in the communities.

For more information on this Project, please, contact sandra.lombardo@undp.org.pa



Trinidad and Tobago: Advisory and HIV voluntary test centre devoted to specific care for young women.

UNDP in cooperation with The Family Planning Association of Trinidad and

Tobago created last June an advisory and voluntary HIV test program for adolescent women. The program provide care to 342 adolescent per month out of which 95% are women. The clinic intends to provide advisory services and education to youngsters on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. They are also instructed on the fact of the proper use of condoms and they are thought how to use both the male and female condom. The initiative also attempts at identifying risky sexual conducts and to encourage women to undertake the test in utmost confidentiality and also to discuss with their partners the use of condoms. For more information on this Project, please, contact marissa.archibald@undp.org.tt

Other news, articles and activities:

UNDP opens spaces so that representatives of the sexual minorities in Panama could meet.

On September 10, last past, in the city of Saber, for the first time a meeting was held to discuss the issue of sexual minorities in Panama. During the meeting it was also discussed the issue of the needs and priorities of gay, lesbian and transgender populations and persons under a prostitution condition. Attending the meeting were Alex Alvenda – Chairman of Asociación Viviendo Positivamente, Miguel Angel Sánchez - Director of Génesis Panamá Positivo, Venus Tejada – National

Coordinator of RED LAC TRANS Panamá, Jose Castillero - Coordinator of the Education Unit in the Asociación Hombre y Mujeres Nuevo de Panamá, Fernando Solís García - Coordinator of the work with indigenous population and transgender population at the Asociación Hombre y Mujeres Nuevo de Panamá, Jorge Luis Rodríguez - Coordinator of Human Rights in the Fundación PROBIDSIDA, Daniel Varela, a representing member of the Centro Istmeño de Estudio en Salud (CIES), Zumaykira Perez – Representative of a multidisciplinary team on sexual and reproductive health. Participants through a brainstorming session were able to identify hurdles preventing a bettering in the situation of sexual minorities in Panama and agreed on the need to provide technical assistance to face HIV/AIDS based on an approach of governance and human rights aimed at sexual minorities. For more information, please, contact temistocles.batista@undp.org.pa



Brazil on the eve of producing generics for AIDS.

Brazil started registry paper work to produce a generic of Efavirenz drug used in AIDS treatment, according to the statement of the Health Minister, José Gomes Temporao. He expressed

that the Ministry began all registry paper work of the retroviral at the Agencia Nacional de Vigilancia Sanitaria (Anvisa) to begin production during the first semester of 2009. According to Temporao, decision [Read more](#)

Both the government and the civil society in Nicaragua get training on Transformational Leadership.

Last October a Workshop entitled “Introduction to Transformational Leadership” was held at the Hotel Montelimar, in Nicaragua, with the cooperation of the national government of Nicaragua, the UNPD office in Nicaragua, aiming at training leaders in the development of a strategy for a response to HIV/AIDS based on a vision uniting all key actors from the Government and Civil Society in order to work together in favor of the most important interest: to revert the epidemics. The workshop was also geared to leaders and members of the civil society organizations. Both parties were also invited to join to UNDP strategy on Knowledge Management, documenting their experiences and good practices, to share them with the Practice Community that he Regional Program has created for that end in



the Workspace of the Regional Center. For more information, please, contact maribel.gutierrez@undp.org

Strategic Alliance CVC UNAIDS and UNDP

October 25 to 27 in Kingston, Jamaica took place the first technical meeting between the civil society, UNAIDS and UNDP to draft a proposal for the Global Fund. The meeting took place at the Courtleigh Hotel & Suites in New Kingston and was attended by leaders forming part of the Caribbean Vulnerable Population Coalition (CVC), UNAIDS Regional, Represented by Dr. Michel de Groulard, Director of UNDP Global Program on HIV, Jeffrey O' Malley, and Néstor Arias, leaders of the HIV/AIDS Regional Program on HIV/AIDS for Latin America and the Caribbean. The facilitator of the technical consultation was Robert Carr chair person of CVC. The main result of this consultation was the drafting of strategic elements of the regional proposal for the Global Fund on vulnerable populations. This proposal is being finalized by two international consultants financed by UNDP and UNAIDS. The first draft of the proposal shall be ready by the end of October.

For more information, please, contact ernesto.kraus@undp.org.pa

Jeffrey O' Malley, Director of the UNDP HIV/AIDS Global Program visits Panama.

Jeffrey O' Malley visited Panama City during September 29-30, in particular the venue of the HIV/AIDS Regional Program for Latin America and the Caribbean, located in the UNDP Service Regional Centre. While in the country fulfilling its mission, Jeffrey, met with officials of the civil society, the government and the UN. He met with sexual minorities in Panama, and also took part in a meeting with local UNAIDS where he presented political and program lines implemented by UNDP in the area of sexual minorities, gender and human rights. Also during this visit he met with an UNDP regional group on HIV/AIDS, to assess achievement attained in 2008 and to prepare a draft for a regional proposal for 2009. For more information please contact graciela.castillero@undp.org.pa

Local Office in Panama takes a role on HIV/AIDS.

UNDP Regional Program on HIV/AIDS drafted a strategic plan for the response UNDP will provide for HIV in Panama. The strategic plan aims at preparing socio economic Studies in the Zone Canal, to strengthen institutional capacity of the AIDS National Committee (CONAVIH) and to work with vulnerable populations in the implementation of a human rights and HIV framework in the country. The Program shall start on 2009 and is under full debate for the granting of resources both global and national.

For more information, please, contact nestor.arias@undp.org.pa

If you do not want to continue receiving this Newsletter, receive or send additional information or for any suggestion, please, get in touch with Ernesto Kraus, Focal Point on Knowledge Management of the Regional Programme on HIV-AIDS for LAC
Tel: (507) 302-4716
E mail: ernesto.kraus@undp.org.pa