

REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS FOR LAC

NEWSLETTER

4, September 2009

Regional Programme strengthens HIV Focal Points knowledge on Human Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity in the Southern Cone and the Andean region.



From August 19 - 21, and 25 - 27, the Regional Programme on HIV for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in Chile and Quito, Ecuador respectively, the "Workshop on Human Rights and Sub-Regional Consultation for the Strategy of MSM and Trans populations in Latin America and the Caribbean ", with the intention to contribute and strengthen the multisectoral response to HIV epidemic in the Southern Cone and Andean Region for the subsequent preparation of a Regional Strategy for MSM and Trans populations. Other aims were to exchange knowledge and tools in Human Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity and share progress and challenges of both, country and regional level. Similarly, the workshop sought to identify areas of joint work between Country Offices, the Regional Centre, UNAIDS Offices and other agencies that have the response to the HIV epidemic in its mandate. The workshop allowed to gather input and feedback from civil society and the United Nations system, which will serve to develop the Strategy in MSM and Trans. As a result from this training, an increase in the level of knowledge of issues related to Human Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity by Focal Points, and to position UNDP as a major role player in the response to HIV. It is also expected that Country Offices and Civil Society are aware of the support areas provided by the Regional Centre and the compilation of inputs for inductive tools development for UN staff in these areas. The next step in this strategy will be the closure workshop in Trinidad and Tobago from September 9 to 11 , with the support from the Regional Centre Office of the in Port of Spain.



BDP, Regional Centre and the UNDP Country Office support Mainstreaming HIV into Poverty Reduction Strategies in Grenada.



During July 13 to 16, a joint mission was held in between BDP, the UNDP CO for Barbados and OECS Country Office and, The Regional Programme on HIV AIDS for LAC, to follow up the process of mainstreaming HIV into poverty reduction strategies. The mission's main objectives was to review the progress of the last PRSP (poverty reduction strategy paper), and also inform and sensitize the country team (formed up mostly by Grenadian Government and Civil Society representatives) on the importance of mainstream HIV in all sectors and programs carried out or that are in development in Grenada. During this mission, the team made recommendations for the review of proposals submitted by candidates to coordinate the strategy. Also, was present at the discussions on the work plan and budgeting through December 2009 and suggested the inclusion of Civil Society (PVV) in this initiative. For the socio-economic impact study of HIV, two consultants will be hired. The product will be ready in late September. The results of this study will be used to raise awareness among decision makers, develop promotional documents on the impact of HIV in the tourism, agriculture and education sectors and also, to provide valuable data for the 2009's PRSP. Also, a review of the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP) and the Country Poverty Assessment, will be made to identify gender and HIV gaps to be addressed on the development of the new PRSP, to take a multisectoral approach. In parallel, practical guidelines to follow and monitor the addressing process of Gender and HIV on the Poverty Reduction Strategy at the sectoral level will be produced, with the aim of eventually train and sensitize decision makers in the government sector (health, social development education, tourism, finance). A similar mission will be conducted in Haiti on September.

Integrating a Gender Perspective into the AIDS Strategy and Action Plans

The Regional Programme on HIV for Latin America and the Caribbean, is developing an initiative that seeks to include a gender approach to the Strategies and Action Plans on AIDS (ASAP). The aim of the initiative is to promote increased and improved action on HIV, Gender (including sexual and gender diversity) and Human Rights at the country level, with emphasis on the following specific objectives:) Document the arrangements made for Gender Mainstreaming approach of the Strategic Plans of Action; ii) Ensuring that strategies and plans based on evidence; iii) that legal frameworks are consistent with strategies and plans and, iv) Include a review of policies, regulations, guidelines and programs on Human Rights.

Also, the initiative will supplement the existing gender guidelines and tools in the country and will highlight the process of capacity building to integrate gender equality, in a differentiated way in the National Multisectoral Strategic Plan of Action on HIV. Also it will seek to encourage countries to better understand the entry points for discussion on Human Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity, and the activities necessary to enumerate the shortcomings in the implementation by governments. It is under negotiation with the offices of countries implementing the initial integration, namely, Panama and Argentina.

Recent Publications



[Reduce Stigma and Discrimination: A fundamental part of the National AIDS Programmes](#)

This document presents strategies, examples of programs and research findings concerning how governments, the United Nations System, donors and civil society can contribute to reduce stigma and discrimination regarding HIV is a central theme in the national AIDS response.



[National AIDS Spending Assessment: Classification and Definitions](#)

This document presents the classification to produce National AIDS Spending Assessments (NASA), which was designed for tracking resources of the national responses to the HIV epidemic.



[Guidelines on Construction of Core Indicators](#)

The primary purpose of this document is to provide key constituents who are actively involved in a country's response to AIDS with essential information on core indicators that measure the effectiveness of the national response.

To remove your name from our list [click here](#)
¿Questions or comments? E-mail us at ernesto.kraus@undp.org.pa