



Royal Tropical Institute KIT Development Policy & Practice

Special programme on HIV and AIDS

Reaching the Millennium Development Goal on HIV/AIDS – to halt and reverse the spread of the epidemic by 2015 – requires far greater access to HIV prevention services and AIDS treatment, care and support than is currently available. The United Nations General Assembly resolution, adopted on 23 December 2005, requested UNAIDS and its co-sponsors to assist in facilitating:

“inclusive, country-driven processes, including consultations with relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental 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.”

Approach

KIT's Special Programme on HIV/AIDS aims to contribute to reaching the Millennium Development Goals. The programme is an integral part of the work of other KIT programme areas on health, education, social development & gender equity and sustainable economic development. The role of the programme is to generate knowledge and stimulate innovation and learning to ensure that international and national agendas are based on evidence, with particular attention to local level experiences, greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS, adherence to gender-based and rights-based principles, and demand-responsiveness.

The programme aims to investigate the drivers of HIV/AIDS epidemics - such as poverty, sexuality, gender, social marginalization, violence, stigma and substance abuse - and develop interventions to address these, as well as build capacity for systems development and the management of multisectoral responses to HIV/AIDS.

KIT carries out analysis, documentation and applied research aimed at generating knowledge and evidence of effective HIV/AIDS responses and interventions. We work together with partners to develop instruments and approaches to move HIV response development to a higher level of organizational effectiveness and efficiency. In addition, we develop and implement demand-driven capacity building and training programmes and provide advisory services.

Focus points

Learning and innovation for HIV/AIDS interventions

As HIV/AIDS epidemics continue to change, new strategies and policies must be developed through joint action research. We research, analyse and document concrete experiences with, and tacit knowledge of, innovative HIV/AIDS interventions from the perspective of various sectors. The aim is to acquire stronger evidence to influence policies and strategies at different levels.

Governance and management of multisectoral responses to HIV/AIDS

We provide technical support and capacity building and stimulate horizontal learning to increase the effectiveness of national multisectoral coordination mechanisms and of policies and strategies for universal access for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. We also provide technical support to development sectors other than health in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into their organizations and programmes.

Health sector responses to HIV/AIDS

We provide assistance to the health sector to redefine and reorient its role and mandate in scaling up programmes for universal access within the current context of multisectoral HIV/AIDS coordination mechanisms. The role that civil society and public-private partnerships can play in scaling-up quality sector programmes is a key focus.

Local responses to HIV/AIDS

We support local governments and NGOs to build their capacity to provide an enabling environment where communities assess their own situation and develop responses, based on their right to universal access. We also help communities to translate national strategies into action, harmonizing them with local realities and priorities and ensuring coherence with development goals. KIT has extensive experience with local response development, rights-based and gender-based approaches, poverty alleviation and knowledge sharing methodologies.

Selected key projects

Multi-country support programme on social science research in the field of HIV/AIDS 2004-2007

Support to the social science research systems of five countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the search for more operational and client-oriented research approaches.

Research on the determinants of adherence to and compliance with HAART 2004-2007

Operational research in partnership with Universities in Amsterdam, Mali and Burkina Faso. Based on the research, approaches will be developed to positively influence adherence to, and compliance with, highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART).

Technical assistance to the Namibia HIV/AIDS Response Capacity Development Programme, 2004-2007

Support for policy formulation, strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation and for the development of relevant, effective and responsive institutional structures. Capacity building at regional level to identify priority needs, and develop, implement and monitor programmes.

Strategies for human resource development in the context of HIV/AIDS, 2004-2005

Research on coping mechanisms with respect to the impact of HIV/AIDS on health workers in Zambia and Uganda.

Strengthening the capacity of NGOs in Pakistan to respond to HIV/AIDS, 2004-2006

Capacity building of NGOs to develop and implement rights-based interventions for HIV/AIDS.

Development of a Master's in HIV/AIDS from a multisectoral perspective, 2007

Specific HIV/AIDS modules in the Master's programme focus on planning and management of multisectoral responses, mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in development sectors and organizations and planning and implementation of local responses to HIV/AIDS from a rights perspective.

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