

Join the fight against AIDS in Brazil



MENU OF PARTNERSHIP OPTIONS

Illustrative menu of partnership options in Brazil

Young people

Mass media and HIV/AIDS

Care and support

Vulnerable populations

Condoms

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission

Join the fight against AIDS

Young and at risk...

There are more than 32 million Brazilians between the ages of 10 and 19. For many, the circumstances of their lives put them at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

About 26% of the pregnancies in the country were, in 1996, among girls aged 10–19, 54% of whom were illiterate and 49% of whose babies were not planned.

A third of the nation lives in poverty. Every four minutes, there is a sexual assault somewhere in Brazil, and more than half the victims are young girls.

AIDS has already affected more than 90 000 people aged 10–24. In addition to using alcohol and tobacco, 22% of young people have tried drugs.

Fix the problem...

Young people need more information on how they can improve their reproductive health. Young people talk openly to other young people, thus peer education works best.

Make it happen...

Peer education

A project to prepare boys and girls to be peer educators by developing their communication skills and knowledge of sexual health issues, including HIV/AIDS, is run by the Brazilian Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Movement across 15 states in the country.

Backed by more than 80 years of experience in working with youth, projects have been developed using various resources, including the Internet. The project works in collaboration with the Brazilian Government and other governments, such as Sao Tome and Principe.

- ▶ US\$80 000 over two years would expand activities, as follows: US\$45 000 would pay for training of 700 youth peer educators in 11 states; US\$5000 would fund the production of 5000 AIDS education kits; and US\$30 000 would cover the set-up cost of the Forum for the Future II and participation of 400 young people across the country.

In-kind contributions: Computers and printers would strengthen access to Internet resources.

For more information, contact the national coordinator, Maria Lucia Tavares Ramos, at fbb@bandeirantes.org.br

Young and vulnerable

The most vulnerable and socially excluded young people in Rio de Janeiro are offered counselling, vocational courses and anti-drugs programmes by the PIM project—Programa Integrado para Marginalidade Social. The project, which is supported by the Ministry of Health and the Canadian Government, also provides income-generating opportunities for young people through cooperatives. The aim is to lift these young people out of poverty and teach them the skills they need to avoid sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

- ▶ US\$100 000 a year would pay for the education of 200 girls, the build-up of a cooperative for income generation and also the production of educational materials.
- ▶ US\$7000 a year would fund the set-up and running of a website; US\$35 000 would pay for the production of an educational video and US\$10 000 a year would pay for educational materials, such as newsletters and manuals.

For more information, contact the coordinator, Célia Szterenfeld, at pim.trp@terra.com.br

Health maze for adolescents

The SOS Adolescents Project has worked with more than 17 000 adolescents since 1992, using innovative teaching methods. One of them is the interactive Health Maze wherein the adolescents can walk through a life-size maze and, with the help of STI/AIDS information, find their way out. Wrong answers take them the wrong way. The project has gained solid experience with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Health and USAID and is now ready to expand.

- ▶ US\$25 000 would provide training for 600 adolescents, including 20 peer educators to reach an extra 900 young people using the Health Maze tool.
- ▶ US\$30 000 would pay for the building of three more Health Mazes and the production of a training video on building and using the tool.

For more information, contact the coordinator, Rita de Cássia Batistella, at sosadol@yahoo.com.br

A wide reach...

Brazil is a huge country with a widely dispersed population. Radio and television are powerful instruments for informing and educating people about HIV/AIDS and helping them develop different attitudes and behavioural patterns.

But not yet wide enough...

The media with the largest penetration in the country is the radio. Ninety-two percent of the population has access to radio. In the north-east (the poorest region of Brazil), people listen to the radio, on average, for two hours every day.

Get the message out...

Broadcasting through radio

In the remote areas of the State of Ceará, a network of 50 radio-trained communicators broadcast information about sexually transmitted infections, AIDS prevention and reproductive health, and an itinerant theatre group presents plays. The 'Radioman against AIDS' and the 'Theatre against AIDS' were launched in 1998 by the Health Institute and Social Development (ISDS), with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Health, USAID and the MacArthur Foundation.

- ▶ US\$40 000 a year would expand the project to train another 50 radio communicators in different cities; US\$20 000 would cover the cost of organizing 5 workshops and US\$15 000 the production and distribution of new plays and a compact disc.

For more information, contact Regina Alice at isds@secrel.com.br

From young people to young people

A young editorial council chooses the issues covered by the *Jornal Radcal*, a monthly paper produced by the Athos Bulcão Foundation, in Brasília, the capital of Brazil. Its focus is on human rights, reproductive health, including sexually transmitted infections and AIDS, discouraging drug use and promoting environmental issues, in a youth-friendly language and with innovative design. It has been given two awards in the two years it has been running. The newspaper receives support from UNICEF.

- ▶ US\$160 000 a year would fund 12 issues, reaching 100 000 adolescents. Large-scale production of the newspaper would reduce its costs.

For more information, contact Gabriela Goulart at: fundathos@fundathos.org.br

Communication in schools

The 'Culture and Communication Project' has been a success story since it began in 1987. Working in 400 schools in 97 cities, it has published and distributed more than 900 000 newsletters and newspapers written by and for the students and their teachers. The publications talk about issues such as reproductive health, STI/AIDS, human rights and advocacy. The project has also been working in 400 schools in 97 cities and, since 1987, has run training courses for almost 2000 students. With the support of UNICEF and the MacArthur Foundation, the project aims to reach 1000 schools by 2005.

With a budget of about US\$250 000 a year, the expansion of the project could cover all 618 public schools in the state of Ceará; US\$144 000 would cover salaries, US\$36 000 would pay for new equipment and maintenance, US\$30 000 would pay for office and teaching supplies, and US\$40 000 would cover necessary travel expenses.

For more information, contact Daniel Raviolo at comcultura@comcultura.org.br

Caring for people with AIDS...

Care for people living with HIV and AIDS is a cornerstone of the Brazilian strategy against the epidemic. The policy aims to go beyond stemming the death rate and encompasses reducing prejudice, reinforcing human rights and promoting HIV testing.

There is a special need to make life as easy as possible for people living with HIV/AIDS so they can maintain their treatment and gain the maximum benefit from it. With expert help, people living with the virus can significantly improve the quality of their lives, return to work and ensure their financial stability.

Make it happen...

Home-based care

The Viva Cazuza Society has been helping people with HIV/AIDS since 1990. It runs three main projects: a home-based care programme that uses counselling, social workers and food aid to help 55 poor families follow their HIV/AIDS treatment; a home for 30 homeless HIV-positive children; and an Internet forum that gives interactive information for doctors and patients in partnership with the AIDS service of the Johns Hopkins University, UNAIDS, and the Brazilian Ministry of Health.

- ▶ US\$95 000 would pay for the educational website for two years and fund its expansion; US\$50 000 would allow the home-care project to provide counselling, social workers and food aid for another 200 families for two years.

In-kind contributions: Web design expertise and training would be appreciated.

For more information, contact manager Christina Moreira at vivacazuza@alternex.com.br

People with AIDS need more than drugs

The Brazilian Ministry of Health and UNESCO support a project called, 'We don't want only drugs', run by people living with AIDS. It uses trained HIV-positive workers to help people follow their treatment regimes. The project offers counselling and condoms, and works to promote the civil rights of people living with AIDS.

- ▶ US\$80 000 would finance 30 new health units, as follows: US\$65 000 would train and mobilize 40 health workers to assist 6000 patients a year; US\$15 000 would cover the costs of producing 60 000 manuals, posters, folders and other materials.

In-kind contributions: Production of educational and promotional material would help.

For more information, contact technical manager Ohan Kienen at agnqsr@ig.com.br

Populations at risk...

AIDS is not uniformly spread among the Brazilian population. Particular groups are especially affected because of their social, cultural and behavioural patterns. Prisoners, mobile populations, sex workers (both male and female), men who have sex with men, the indigenous populations, drug users (particularly injecting drug users) and people living with HIV/AIDS are among those who need special attention. Individual programmes, designed for each of these groups, are a priority not only to control the epidemic in Brazil, but also to protect the rights of the most vulnerable.

Indigenous people

Indigenous people have been trained as educators to take the HIV/AIDS prevention message to their communities.

The project, Assuming the Differences—Preventing STD/AIDS among the Indigenous Terena Population in Mato Grosso do Sul, provides counselling, condoms, social support, skill-training courses and other educational tools, such as theatre. The training of peer educators among the indigenous agents has been a growing and successful strategy. In collaboration with the Brazilian Ministry of Health, the project reached about 20 000 indigenous people—mainly girls, 8000 of whom are domestic workers living in towns.

- US\$50 000 would expand the project to other settlements, covering all of the above-mentioned activities for two years.

For more information, contact Nazira Scaffi at nscaffi@uol.com.br

Injecting drug users

A harm-reduction project for intravenous drug users in Rio de Janeiro has reached more than 1500 people since 1996. More than 300 injecting drug users have been referred for substance abuse treatment and more than 650 have been tested for HIV and hepatitis. The Study and Research Institute for Drug Use (NEPAD) provides counselling, condoms, needle exchange and vaccination for hepatitis B, as well as AIDS treatment. The project operates both in clinics and in the community.

NEPAD has the support of UNDCP, the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the State of Rio de Janeiro University, but has still only managed to reach 10% of the injecting drug users. New investment would make it possible to expand its work further into poor communities.

- US\$80 000 would make it possible to double activities in one year, with more agents to work in poor communities, providing counselling, condoms, needle exchange, vaccination for hepatitis B and AIDS treatment.
- US\$180 000 would pay for replication of the project in another three cities.

For more information, contact Paulo Telles at: prtelles@hotmail.com

Men and women in prisons

Brazilian-Prison is a partnership between the University and the Health Department of Itajaí, a Southern town with the highest AIDS incidence in the country. Prisoners are treated for sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis and AIDS. They are also offered counselling, condoms and information on drug abuse. Workers train prisoners to act as educators among other prisoners, and promote prisoners' social and human rights. Partnerships would make the scaling-up of the project possible.

- US\$55 000 would pay for an additional 150 agents to work throughout the penal system of the whole state of Santa Catarina; US\$15 000 would cover the production of educational material.

In-kind contributions: Male and female condoms, computers and printers are welcome.

For more information, contact Valquíria John at cetrhus@ccs.univali.br

Homeless boys and girls

The National Organization of Homeless Girls and Boys has worked since 1985 with street children in 25 of the 27 Brazilian states. With the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Health and international institutions, this award-winning programme works with youth in very difficult contexts and social circumstances. It addresses human rights, drug prevention, peer education and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, by distributing condoms.

- With about US\$100 000 a year, 810 peer educators can be trained, reaching more than 6500 vulnerable children in 27 states.

For more information, contact the coordinator, Jussara de Goiás at [mnmmr@mnmmr.org.br](mailto:mnmr@mnmmr.org.br)

Many more Brazilians must use condoms...

Male and female condoms are the only effective barrier methods for HIV prevention for sexually active people. Although condom use has increased greatly in Brazil over the past decade (in the year 2000, the Brazilian Ministry of Health distributed 200 million condoms), there is an urgent need for even wider use. Many more condoms, both male and female, must be made more easily available to many more people across the country.

Make it happen...

Condom social marketing

A condom social marketing project promotes the distribution and sale of condoms at affordable but subsidized prices in Ceará, one of the poorest states of the country. The experimental *Aliança e Luz* project has more than 250 sales points in 18 urban areas and is currently partially funded by the Japanese Government.

- US\$80 000 a year would enable this successful project to expand to 8 more towns and set up 70 new distribution points.

For more information, contact manager Márcia Araújo at webmaster@aliancaluz.com.br

Condom education and distribution point

The Community Association of São João do Jardim América, a poor neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro, has developed three projects in partnership with Doctors Without Borders: 'A Dike against STD/AIDS', 'A Goal against STD/AIDS' and 'We can protect ourselves'. The projects target specific groups with supplies and education about condoms. The target groups include women, young men, truck drivers and transvestites.

- US\$35 000 would allow the Association to expand and provide condoms to an additional 4000 people in these target groups.

For more information, contact technical coordinator Ângelo Márcio da Silva at ongciads@bol.com.br

Men who have sex with men

The Arco-Iris Group, a very active gay-led NGO, developed the South-Zone Project. Young men who have sex with men (MSM) act as peer educators providing counselling, educational material and condoms reaching more than 10 000 gay young men in bars, saunas, nightclubs and on the streets of Rio de Janeiro.

The Group maintains a project site with advocacy, human rights and sexuality workshops and a telephone service receiving claims concerning violence and other discrimination against MSM. There is a need to expand the activities to reach at least 10 000 more young MSM in other areas of the city.

- US\$5000 would train 300 new peer educators, US\$25 000 would pay for maintenance of the project site and the weekly workshops for 2 years; US\$10 000 would pay for production of a video, US\$50 000 for printed educational material and US\$8000 for the distribution of 200 000 condoms.

In-kind contributions: Computers, printers and software would help with the administration of the project. Condoms would also be welcome.

For more information, contact technical coordinator Cláudio Nascimento, at arco-iris@arco-iris.org.br, www.arco.iris.org.br

Young lives on the line...

More than 7000 children in Brazil have become infected with HIV as a result of mother-to-child transmission. This form of HIV transmission is preventable at reasonable cost.

A national priority...

Despite the availability of HIV tests and the effective antiretroviral drug AZT, which are offered by the Ministry of Health at no cost for AIDS patients in Brazil, many HIV-positive pregnant women are not receiving advice and treatment to prevent transmission of the virus to their babies.

The most difficult women to reach are also the most vulnerable—the poorest girls without access to health services.

An affordable response...

Medical and social support

The 'Love Comes from Prevention' project helps poor HIV-infected women find medical services and provides them with the support they need to follow the treatment plan, which provides day nurseries, transport, vocational courses, counselling, food and basic health information. The project is run by The Children of Bethlehem Association in Sorocaba, São Paulo, one of the most affected regions of the country.

- ▶ US\$25 000 a year would allow the project to expand its activities to provide home care, day clinics and training programmes to reach more than 100 HIV-positive women and their families.

In-kind contributions: A vehicle, medicine, rubber gloves and sterilization equipment would help greatly. Office and teaching materials would also be welcome.

For more information, contact Regiane Ortolan at cribelem@splicenet.com.br

Peer counselling protecting babies

The 'Living Positively' project, developed by the Pela Vidda in the state of Goiás (central Brazil) helps HIV-infected women avoid transmission to their babies. The project also trains them to be peer educators and to teach other women to avoid passing on HIV to their children.

- ▶ US\$70 000 would guarantee the continuation of the project, reaching 450 more HIV-positive women 300 adolescents, and training 80 peer educators.

In-kind contributions: Condoms, vehicles and audio-visual equipment would help the project develop its activities.

For more information, contact Têlcia Eva dos Santos at aidsorg.pelavida@uol.com.br

No time for complacency...

By June 2001, over 215 815 AIDS cases had been reported in Brazil, but estimates indicate that 597 000 Brazilians are living with HIV.

Sixty percent of all the cities across Brazil have to deal with AIDS cases.

Every year, 15 000 people are newly diagnosed as having AIDS.

AIDS is a major cause of death among young women in urban areas. In 1985, there were 25 times more AIDS cases among men than among women. Today, the ratio is 2 male AIDS cases to 1 female case.

The Brazilian response is making a difference. But the challenges are challenging and demanding. Prevention and control are targeted at those most directly affected—poor people.

An extra burden ...

In a country already affected by many endemic diseases and poverty, AIDS has been an extra burden for individuals and the public health system.

Even with the strong commitment of the Brazilian Government, AIDS is an enormous challenge. It has spread to the interior of this enormous country, and is also affecting the indigenous population and other remote populations, in addition to urban dwellers.

Doing the numbers ...

There is a huge gap between rich and poor in Brazil. On average, someone in the richest 10% of the population earns 30 times more than the average wage of the poorest 40% of the population.

Almost 30% of Brazil's population lives in absolute poverty.

There are at least 3 million children working across the country. About 20% of the Brazilian population is illiterate.

On the other hand, Brazilian Government investments in STI/AIDS have grown from US\$295 million in 1997 to US\$543.3 million in 2001.

600 000 lives saved...

Brazil's experience in the struggle against sexually transmitted infections, including AIDS, is acknowledged as a success story.

The United Nations predicted that Brazil would have 1.2 million people infected with HIV by the year 2000. The reality was that 597 000 people were HIV-infected by the turn of the millennium. This means that about 600 000 HIV infections have been avoided with effective campaigns and lower levels of mother-to-child transmission.

The Brazilian Government strategy has been to work in partnership with a vast range of organizations. This national response has been effective, but so much more needs to be done.

Basic country statistics:

- ▶ Population (2000): 169.5 million
- ▶ Cumulative AIDS cases (June 2001): 215 810 cases
- ▶ Estimated number of HIV-positive individuals (2000): 597 000
- ▶ AIDS incidence rate (1999): 11/100 000 inhabitants
- ▶ GNP per capita (1999): US\$4.630
- ▶ Life expectancy (1999): 67 years

*At the new trends of the epidemic in the country
the programmes must be strengthened
for women and disadvantaged young people.*

Taking heart....

The struggle against AIDS in Brazil is tough, but there have been marked successes. Transmission of the virus through blood transfusion has been brought under control, the use of condoms has increased and mortality rates among AIDS patients are coming down (40-70%, depending on the region).

Where are the gaps? ...

Voluntary counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS must be made available for many people, especially pregnant women and tuberculosis patients.

