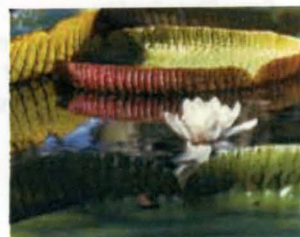
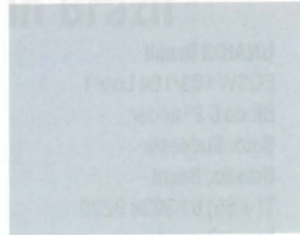




UNITED NATIONS
BRAZIL

The United Nations and the response to **AIDS** in Brazil



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The United Nations and the response to **AIDS in Brazil**

Foreword

The United Nations and Brazil share a long history of cooperation in a wide variety of areas and support Brazilian response to the AIDS epidemic, which have been responsible, for almost two decades, for the mobilization of a large number of UN Agencies represented in the country.

The aim of this publication is to provide a summary of the principal strategies and activities implemented by the UN in support of the national response to the AIDS epidemic in Brazil. This second edition provides an update with more details on information included in the first version launched in 2008, highlighting in particular themes and actions that were implemented jointly.

The examples presented demonstrated how an intersectoral approach and the mobilization of different stakeholders is essential to addressing an issue as complex as HIV. These actions also underscore the experience of the Brazilian response to the epidemic, which has gained recognition throughout the world for being based on human rights, the commitment of governmental authorities and the involvement of the most varied range of social stakeholders, such as the private sector, NGOs and groups of people living with HIV.

This publication highlights the progress made towards universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support that the response to the epidemic in Brazil has been achieving and to which the UN has been contributing. Cooperating to strengthen the national response and to facilitate the sharing of successful experiences with other developing countries are two of the UN's principal working areas in its support to the national response to AIDS in Brazil.

HIV is a complex and dynamic issue, requiring a considerable capacity of adaptation and flexibility to address the new challenges and trends that continually redefine it. For this reason, it is essential that we address the questions which directly imply in the vulnerability of individuals and societies to infection or which hamper access to care and treatment. Standing up to gender inequalities and violence against women, combating stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV, fighting homo/lesbo/transphobia and racism, as well as, addressing regional inequities are priority issues on the UN cooperation agenda with Brazil in response to HIV.

The renewal of the global commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) made in September 2010 at the UN Headquarters in New York is, for the United Nations, is an opportunity to reinvigorate coordination efforts, optimize the use of resources, strengthen support for the development of local capacities and reaffirm our commitment to the human right of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support ■



Jorge Chediek
UN Resident Coordinator in Brazil



Pedro Chequer
UNAIDS Country Coordinator in Brazil

Introduction

The response to AIDS in Brazil has gained an outstanding position on the international scenario and the UN in Brazil is committed to supporting the Brazilian government and society in the many areas of response to the epidemic. Defending the respect for life, people's dignity and fostering improved living conditions for the population are values promoted by the UN Agencies. These Agencies direct their efforts to defending the Human Rights of people living with HIV and ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

The second edition of this booklet aims to offer information on the activities undertaken by the UN Agencies in support of the response to the AIDS epidemic in Brazil. The text provides a panorama of the UN's role in the response to the epidemic in the country and offers an integrated view of the inter-Agency actions implemented, always with the aim of achieving the sixth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) while, at the same time, also contributing to the other MDGs ■

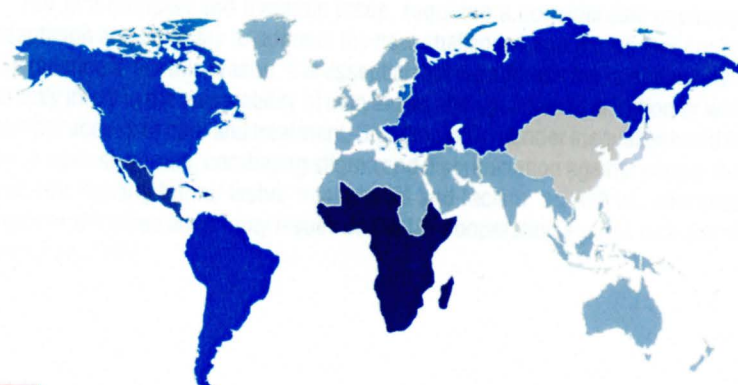
The global AIDS epidemic

The AIDS epidemic continues to be one of the major challenges facing global health. Some 33 million people are living with HIV worldwide. Globally, in 2008 alone, 2.7 million people became infected with HIV and 2 million died of AIDS-related causes, mostly due to inadequate access to treatment and care services.

HIV prevalence in Adults (ages 15-49), 2008 (%)

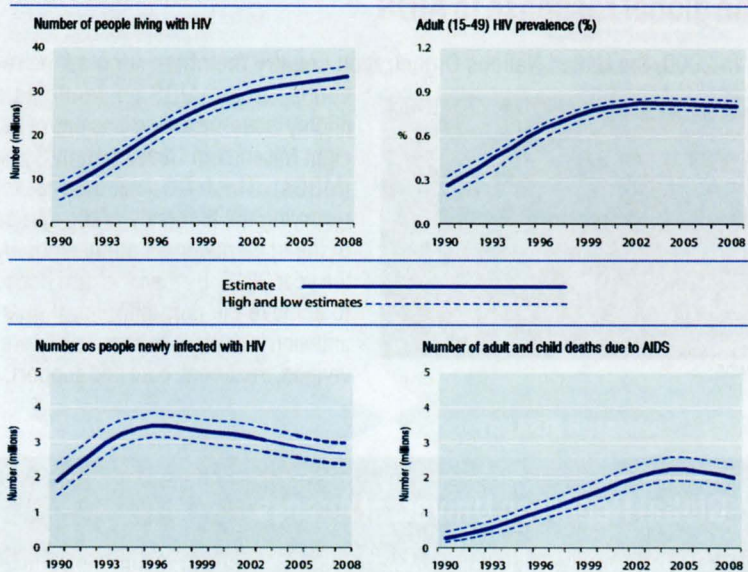
0.1% 0.3% 0.5% 0.7% 1% 6% GLOBAL: 0.8

Percentage



The annual number of new HIV infections decreased from 3 million [2.6 million – 3.5 million] in 2001 to 2.7 million [2.4 million - 3 million] in 2008. In global terms, 2 million [1.7 million - 2.4 million] people died from AIDS-related causes in 2008, compared with an estimate of 1.7 million [1.5 million – 2.3 million] in 2001.

Global estimates 1990-2008



Source UNAIDS/WHO, 2009.

There is evidence of success in the response to AIDS in a variety of contexts. In some countries, such as the Dominican Republic and Tanzania, HIV incidence has fallen significantly. Unfortunately, these favourable trends have not been reported in the same way in other countries or regions.

Sub-Saharan Africa is still the world's most affected region: some 67% of HIV infections and 72% of AIDS-related deaths occurred in this region in 2008.

Women still account for half the people living with HIV worldwide, and these numbers are growing in many countries. An estimated 430 000 [240 000 – 610 000] children aged under fifteen became infected with HIV in 2008.

The most prevalent HIV transmission modes can only be described as a mosaic: heterosexual transmission predominates in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean; East Europe is going through a transition, whereby the former most prevalent transmission mode of injecting drug use has given way to sexual

transmission; in Asia transmission through injecting drug use and unprotected commercial sex predominates, whilst in Latin America transmission between men who have sex with men is predominant, although an increase in heterosexual transmission has been observed in some countries ■

The global response to AIDS

In 2000, the United Nations Organization country members adopted the re-



UNAIDS

sponse to the AIDS epidemic as a priority issue, including it as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs set a target for reversing the tendency of the spread of the epidemic in all populations by the year 2015. By then it is also hoped to achieve the commitment of guaranteeing Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Global Report on Universal Access

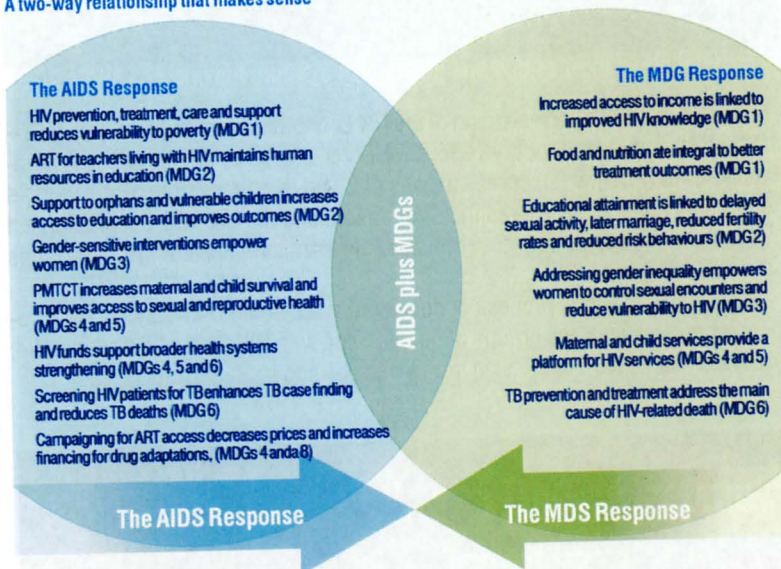
WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS have launched their joint Global Report on Universal Access 2010, being the fourth report in the series in 2006 on progress made towards meeting the target for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

In Brazil the report was prepared by the Ministry of Health's STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS, which mobilized efforts to ensure the updating of Brazil's statistics on progress made with the national response to the AIDS epidemic. Apart from systematizing the data for the report, the process enabled access to new Technologies for analysing available epidemiological information.

Overcoming the obstacles to achieving Universal Access also contribute to fulfilling the other MDGs in a broader manner. Scaling up the response to AIDS is key to improving mother and child health and to fighting related diseases such as Tubercu-

losis (TB). In addition to improving the health of individuals and families in general, the response to AIDS can also help fight poverty, prevent the destruction of human capital, contribute towards gender equality and promote the human right of health.

A two-way relationship that makes sense



Source: "AIDS plus MDGs: synergies that serve people", UNAIDS, 2010.

Two thirds of the way towards 2015, the progress made towards achieving the sixth MDG can be felt: the number of people living with HIV who have access to treatment has increased twelve-fold since 2006; new HIV infections have fallen 17% since 2001. There is however still much to be done. The epidemic continues to grow in East Europe and Central Asia, and ten million people are still without treatment worldwide. ■

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) – Vision, Mission and Priority Areas

UNAIDS is an innovative United Nations partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. It brings together the resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN System Organizations (the Cosponsors) to achieve coordinated and specialized efforts to unite the world against AIDS.

The UNAIDS Cosponsors

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, PAHO/WHO and The World Bank

Created in 1994 by a resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and launched in January 1996, UNAIDS is steered by a Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), with representatives of 22 governments from all the world's geographic regions, as well as the Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat and five representatives of non-governmental organizations, including associations of people living with HIV.

In 2010, after a long process of consultation including UN Agencies, civil society representatives and groups of people living with HIV from all over the world, UNAIDS established a new vision, a new mission and strategic priorities ■

UNAIDS: New Vision

- Zero new HIV infections.
- Zero discrimination.
- Zero AIDS-related deaths.

UNAIDS: New Mission 2010

UNAIDS is an innovative United Nations partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

UNAIDS Priority Areas

UNAIDS' work is based on 10 priority areas (2009-2010):

1. We can reduce sexual transmission of HIV.
2. We can prevent mothers from dying and babies from being infected with HIV.
3. We can ensure that people living with HIV receive treatment.
4. We can protect drug users from becoming infected with HIV.
5. We can empower men who have sex with men, commercial sex workers and trans persons to protect themselves against HIV infection and to have full access to ARVs.
6. We can remove punitive laws, policies, practices, stigma and discrimination that block effective responses to AIDS.
7. We can stop violence against women and girls.
8. We can empower young people to protect themselves from HIV.
9. We can enhance social protection for people affected by HIV.

In order to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, each and every one of these priority areas must be fully addressed, through the mobilization of partnerships and based on the principles of human rights.

The AIDS epidemic in Brazil

It is estimated that some 630 000 individuals from ages 15 to 49 are living with HIV in Brazil. According to established parameters, the AIDS epidemic is a concentrated one or, in other words, the HIV infection prevalence rate is less



Department of STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis - Health Ministry of Brazil.

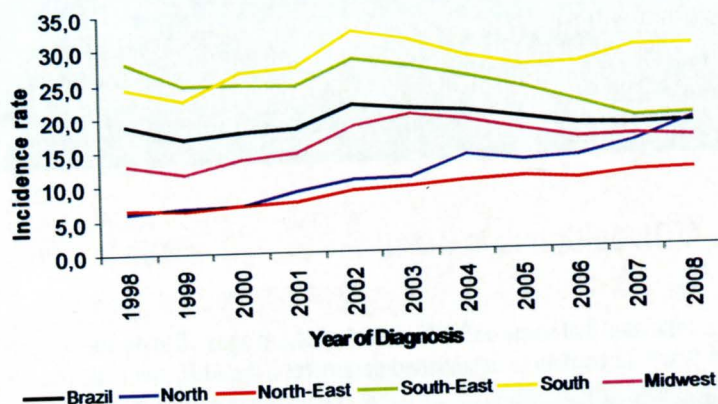
than 1% in the general population and more than 5% in population sub-groups at greater risk of HIV infection (men who have sex with men, drug users and female sex workers).

544,846 AIDS cases were reported between 1980 and June 2009.

Nationally the HIV infection prevalence rate in the population aged 15 to 49 has been stable at around 0.61% since 2004, being 0.41% in women and 0.82% in men.

The AIDS incidence rate has been showing a tendency towards stabilization, albeit at high levels, and in 2008 reached 18.2 per 100,000 inhabitants. Nevertheless, the epidemic in Brazil needs to be analysed at the sub-national level, since the country's regions have different dynamics, with the AIDS incidence rate falling in the South-East and Midwest regions, and increasing in the North, North-East and Southern regions. The South-East region continues to concentrate the highest percentage of the country's reported cases (59.3%), followed by the Southern region (19.2%); the North-Eastern region (11.9%); the Midwest region (5.7%); and the Northern

AIDS incidence rate⁽¹⁾ (per 100,000 inhabitants) by region of residence and year of diagnosis. Brazil, 1998 to 2008



Source: UNGASS 2010

region (3.9%).

On average some 35,000 new AIDS cases are identified annually. A noticeable reduction of more than 60% can be seen in new AIDS cases in children resulting from mother-to-child transmission in recent years: from 572 cases in 2005 to 361 in 2008. This falling tendency has been observed since the introduction of antiretroviral therapy.

The incidence rate is falling in the male population but increasing in the female population, resulting in the phenomenon of the “feminization” of the epidemic. The proportion of the sex ratio (M:F) in Brazil has reduced considerably in Brazil between the beginning of the epidemic and the present day: in 1986, the ratio was 15.1:1 (M:F), but with effect from 2002 it has become relatively stable at 1.5:1. On the other hand, in the 13 to 19 age group, the number of AIDS cases has been higher among girls since 1998, the ratio being 0.8:1 (M:F).

Despite the significant increase of cases seen among women, in recent years a new study has shown that men who have sex with men (MSM) and injecting drug users (IDU) continue to demonstrate greater risk than the general population, with incidence rates around 15 times higher than those found in cases of heterosexual transmission. Other groups more vulnerable to infection are transvestites, transsexuals and transgendered persons, sex workers and prison populations. This data highlights the importance of directing responses and actions towards addressing regional inequities and vulnerabilities ■

Further information: www.aids.com

UNGASS

In Brazil the Federal Government leads the process of monitoring the goals established by the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS/AIDS). One of the main challenges identified by the UNGASS Progress Report for the period 2008-2009 is the need to strengthen the country's National Health System (Sistema Único de Saúde - SUS) based on its underlying principles, such as: the universal right of all people to health; integral healthcare including individual and collective health prevention and care; equal opportunities in access to the health system; society's participation in health issues through service-user watchdog mechanisms such as local, state and national health conferences and councils; political and administrative decentralization, involving the national, state and municipal levels; hierarchical structures and regionalization, in relation to the organization of health services and their different levels of complexity.

UN partnership in the national response to the AIDS epidemic in Brazil

Actions to control the HIV epidemic are one of the most important items on the agenda of the UN System agencies. Given that HIV/AIDS is a cross-cutting issue both in terms of knowledge and activities (e.g. health, education and governance), managing strategies and interventions to control the epidemic has also given rise to inter-institutional and intersectoral mechanisms that promote the reduction of new infections and produce beneficial effects on the quality of life of people living with HIV.

The **United Nations Expanded Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS/TG)** was set up in Brazil in 1997. Since then it has undertaken actions aimed at supporting and strengthening a multisectoral response to the epidemic so as to achieve the goals of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support. The UNAIDS/TG is today, in Brazil, the largest and the oldest inter-agency cooperation group. Differently to what happens in other countries, the UNAIDS/TG in Brazil also incorporates bilateral agencies and members of civil society, as well as a diverse set of federal government stakeholders.

UNAIDS/TG Members

1. Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
2. World Bank
3. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
4. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
5. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
6. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, part of UN Women)
7. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
8. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
9. International Labour Organization (ILO)
10. Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
11. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
12. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
13. Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Brazil
14. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
15. Ministry of Health – STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department

16. Ministry of Education
17. Brazilian Cooperation Agency
18. Special Department of Human Rights
19. National Department on Drugs Policies
20. National Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (RNP +)
21. Civil Society
22. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
23. National Network of Adolescents and Young Adults Living with HIV
24. National Movement of Positive Women Citizens
25. Spanish International Cooperation Agency
26. Japan International Cooperation Agency
27. German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ)
28. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
29. Department for International Development (DFID)
30. French Embassy
31. Royal Netherlands Embassy
32. Canadian Embassy
33. European Commission Delegation in Brazil
34. National Business Council on HIV/AIDS Prevention
35. Ibero-American Social Security Organization



GT / UNAIDS Meeting - UNAIDS Photo / Brazil

The main aim of the UNAIDS/TG is to ensure the strengthening and the coordination of United Nations cooperation towards the national response to HIV and AIDS. During this period in which the UNAIDS/TG has been active in Brazil, it has had a variety of formats and has broadened its functions and synergies. Each of the UN agencies takes it in turn to coordinate the group on a two-year

rotational basis.

Based on national priorities, the UNAIDS/TG has agreed on promoting an innovative working proposal, by means of an Integrated Plan aimed at strengthening local responses to the epidemic and addressing regional inequalities (see page 17). ■

Delivering as One

The UNAIDS/TG is aligned with the "Delivering as One" initiative, bringing together in its Integrated Plan the different capacities of the agencies involved, the joint quest for funding sources, the preparation of a single budget and a joint process of monitoring and evaluating the various strategies that make up the Plan.

Delivering as One means making the most of the human resources and the intellectual, technical and managerial capital of the UN Agencies. In addition, efforts are made to achieve greater effectiveness in the use of financial resources by designing common budgets funded by various sources. It also means the increased presence and the strengthening of the System's strategic leadership in the countries, involving coordinated interlocution with national authorities. In the long term, the expectation is that the effects of this reduce the overlapping of the Agencies' efforts and that this experience is extended to the rest of the country.



Joint UN Team Meeting on HIV/AIDS -
Photo: UNAIDS / Brazil

Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS

The Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS is comprised of the UN technical body working on HIV/AIDS in Brazil. Its purpose is to ensure the cohesion and the effectiveness of the United Nations contribution to the national response to HIV, in particular through the implementation of the Integrated Plan.

The team promotes joint actions, shares information, discusses action proposals and seeks to maximize the UN System's efforts and support towards the response to AIDS in Brazil ■

Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS in Brazil

UNAIDS (Coordination), UNHCR, World Bank, ECLAC, UNODC, UNICEF, UNIFEM/ UN Women, UNFPA, UNESCO, ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

The Integrated Plan

The **Integrated UN Plan in support of the Response to AIDS** in the states of Amazonas – **AMAZONAIDS** – and Bahia – **LAÇOS SOCI AIDS** – is an initiative lead by UNAIDS which has been being implemented since 2008, by means of a partnership between UN Agencies, federal, state and municipal governments, civil society and other strategic partners. The Integrated Plan aims to strengthen local capacities so as to achieve an improved response to AIDS, as well as to harmonize the actions of the UN agencies and other partners, optimizing the use of technical and financial resources and supporting the priorities of local governments. The Integrated Plan is also an instrument for strengthening intersectoral actions and for mobilizing new resources and partnerships in support of the local responses to AIDS in these two states.

Based on the national priority regarding the need to respond to regional inequalities, the “Amazonaids” and “Laços SociAids” initiatives seek to strengthen local synergies through the coordinated support of the UN System Agencies, via the United Nations Expanded Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS/TG) and the Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS).

Amazonaids and Laços SociAids are multisectoral initiatives, designed and implemented in partnership with the federal, state, and municipal governments in the areas they cover, in addition to other local partnerships in the two states, which, through management groups, define the action themes, geographic areas and priorities for the work plans. The work plans are monitored by the management groups and accompanied directly by the Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS.

The UN System Agencies mobilize and coordinate themselves in order to support the actions proposed by the local management group, and also optimize and scale up activities in support of the response to the epidemic in the states of Amazonas and Bahia. It is an opportunity to harmonize and coordinate initiatives, optimize the application of resources and promote greater effectiveness, in addition to mobilizing new resources.

Their implementation is a direct contribution to the goals of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as to the fulfilment of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This approach also represents a new United Nations modus operandi, as part of the UN reform to act in a synergetic manner: "Delivering as One" (see page 11) ■

Access the online publication:

<http://www.onu-brasil.org.br/agencias/unaid>s

Further information:



Laços SociAids

Iniciativa

Laços SociAids 

The state of Bahia has a long tradition of partnership with United Nations Agencies, which is becoming further consolidated with the perspective of setting up a single office in Salvador for

all the UN Agencies operating in the state of Bahia.

In May 2008 the UNAIDS/TG made its first official joint mission to the state of Bahia, with the aim of presenting the proposed Integrated Plan to the local authorities and building consensus as to the priorities of this partnership. Jointly with the office of the State Governor and representatives of the Education, Health, Public Security, Justice, Labour, Development and Promotion of Equality Departments, among others, the working areas were defined for the plan in the State of Bahia.

Based on epidemiological and socio-economic data and programmatic needs, it was decided that the geographic coverage of the plan in the State of Bahia, known as the "Laços SociAids" plan, would cover the **Juazeiro** and **Vitória da Conquista** micro-regions.

Both territories comprise 28 municipalities that are home to approximately one million inhabitants. The priority issues for the actions throughout the State of Bahia are: a) the prevention of mother-to-child HIV and syphilis transmission; b) the promotion of the health and prevention in schools project; and, c) addressing the feminization of the epidemic.

VITÓRIA DA CONQUISTA



19 Municipalities: Vitória da Conquista, Anagé, Barra do Choça, Belo Campo, Bom Jesus da Serra, Caetanópolis, Cândido Sales, Caraíbas, Condeúba, Cordeiros, Encruzilhada, Maetinga, Mirante, Piripá, Pres. Jânio Quadros, Ribeirão do Largo, Planalto, Poções e Tremedal.

Estimated Population: **571.118**

JUAZEIRO



9 Municipalities: Juazeiro, Casa Nova, Pião Arcado, Campo Alegre de Lourdes, Remanso, Sento-Sê, Sobradinho, Curaçá e Uauá.

Estimated Population: **492.990**

A local Management Group was set up in February 2009, headed by the State Health Department, having multisectoral representation of local government, UN agencies, civil society and the academic world. The Management Group is responsible for planning and accompanying the actions. Pathfinder do Brasil is the Laços Sociais Initiative's partner organization, contributing with its long-standing technical and operational experience to support the implementation and monitoring of the work plan. Pathfinder do Brasil is also the institution responsible for managing the financial resources allocated by United Nations partners to the Laços Sociais initiative.

A situation analysis exercise, covering the three priority areas of the Laços Sociais initiative was undertaken in partnership with the local governments of the Juazeiro and Vitória da Conquista micro-regions and the data gathered was used to inform the development of the local Work Plans. Training courses on a variety of subjects have been given and the actions are monitored by two consultants who support the work of the municipalities.

The SociAids initiative, is also supporting a study aimed at investigating factors associated with late access to health services by individuals infected with HIV, and its impact on AIDS morbidity and mortality in Salvador (Bahia). It is expected that this study will also specifically identify the main determinants of late access to HIV/AIDS healthcare services by pregnant women. Data collection is currently being finalized and the results of the study will be publicized shortly ■



Amazonaids

A joint UNAIDS/TG mission was undertaken in the State of Amazonas in October 2008, with the aim of presenting the proposal to the local authorities

and reaching agreement on the partnership's priorities. The meeting was held in the Governor's Office and presided by the State Planning and Development Secretary, with representatives of several state departments, such as: Health, Education, Public Security, Justice, Labour, Development, Social Services, Culture, Promotion of Equality and the National Health Foundation, as well as civil society representatives, including the movement of people living with HIV. During the mission a Management Group was set up for the initiative – now called "Amazonaids", headed by the State Planning and Development Secretary, to manage and implement the Integrated Plan in the state of Amazonas.

The Management Group includes representatives of the federal, state and municipal governments, civil society – represented by the AIDS Service NGOs Forum of the state of Amazonas – and other strategic partners. The Group's political coordination is the responsibility of the Amazonas State Planning Department, while its technical coordination is undertaken by the regional branch of the Brazilian Society of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and the Alfredo da Mata Foundation. This Society is also responsible providing operational support to the initiative and for executing the resources allocated to the Amazonaids initiative by UNAIDS and other partners.

The Amazonaids initiative has four thematic areas which were defined by the local Management Group following situation analysis missions. Given the inequalities found in the state of Amazonas, especially in the Amazon frontier regions, the actions of the Amazonaids initiative are focused on three municipalities: **Atalaia do Norte, Benjamin Constant and Tabatinga** in the Upper Solimões region on the Brazilian frontier with Colombia and Peru.

The Amazonaids initiative has already undertaken a series of activities in the region, ranging from making Syphilis and HIV rapid testing available in Primary Healthcare Units in the Upper Solimões (9,000 test units); holding a training course

Thematic Areas of the Amazonaids initiative

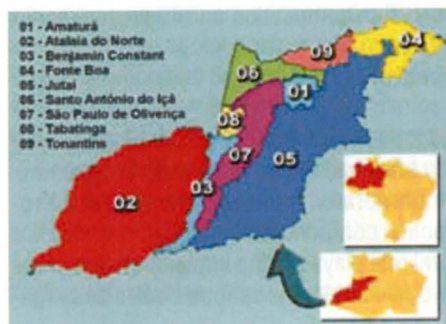
1. Universal Access to Diagnosis and Treatment;
2. Health Promotion and STD, HIV and AIDS Prevention;
3. Social Movement Governance and Strengthening, including Groups of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA);
4. STD, HIV and Viral Hepatitis prevention, diagnosis and treatment actions with indigenous populations in the Javari Valley and Upper Solimões region.

for professionals who work in the Prison System for an adequate approach to STDs, HIV and AIDS; a planning workshop for the Health and Prevention in Schools project in the Upper Solimões region and its revitalization through the re-establishment of its municipal management groups, as well as the holding of a Governance Course for local government service managers in the three municipalities.

Other actions include the elaboration, reproduction and distribution of an STD picture album with text in the Tikuna indigenous language; the holding of a course on project monitoring and evaluation for state health service managers, technical staff and civil society representatives; the holding of a course on Social Watch, the History of AIDS, DSTs, Positive Prevention and Treatment Adherence for community leaders from the three municipalities covered by the Amazonaids initiative, as well as situation analysis and participatory



Campaign for rapid diagnostic tests for syphilis and HIV - Alto Solimões. Photo: Brazilian Society for STD Regional Amazon



planning of activities aimed to empower women, including indigenous women, to assist them in exercising their citizenship, bringing them closer to public services, monitoring local public policies and promoting human rights with the aim of reducing violence against women in the region, as well as promoting health and social participation. ■



Health and Prevention in Schools

The Health and Prevention in Schools (HPS) project is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, through its STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department, in partnership with UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

Created in 2003, the project aims to achieve integration between health and education services in order to promote preven-

tive health education actions that are incorporated into the plans of municipal and state level education departments, as well being incorporated into the educational activities of public middle and high schools. To achieve this, the project mobilizes the education sector throughout Brazil, encouraging actions on themes such as sexual and reproductive rights, STD/AIDS prevention, drug use and teenage pregnancy.

Another aim of the project is to involve as many stakeholders as possible to contribute towards this process, such as young people themselves, the school community, universities, NGOs and networks of young people living with HIV.

The main activities of the Health and Prevention in Schools project are:

- Creation of working groups involving health and education services at state and municipal level;
- Training for teachers and health professionals;
- Making condoms available in schools;
- Production and reproduction of informative materials on prevention with regard to the themes dealt with;
- Organization of National and State level Exhibitions to promote the sharing of experiences;
- Holding of an annual poster and design competition on HIV prevention for public middle and high school students;
- Encouragement of youth protagonism.

With effect from 2008 the project became institutionalized at the federal level, when the two Ministries jointly launched the School Health Programme. The HPS project has thus been incorporated into the School Health Programme, as part of the Health Promotion component.

Worthy of note is the intersectoral role played in the implementation of the HPS project. In this process, the two Ministries, the various bodies and orga-

nizations at state and municipal level and the UN partners have joined efforts to scale up the national response and, as a consequence, promote universal access to AIDS prevention, care and treatment. Today the project's main aim is to scale up its actions to include all the country's municipalities ■

Further information: http://portal.mec.gov.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12370&Itemid=578 and <http://www.aids.gov.br/pagina/jovem>



School Award

The School Award is an annual competition relating to HIV/AIDS prevention, teenage pregnancy and drug use among students attending public and private primary, middle and high schools, as well as adult education

facilities. In 2010, prizes were awarded for cartoon stories that encourage reflection on realities arising from epidemic, reducing the risk of infection and improving quality of life.

The School Award is a joint initiative of the United Nations agencies – UNESCO, UNODC, UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNFPA, lead by UNESCO in partnership with the Ministry of Health's STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department and the Ministry of Education. It serves both as an incentive and as a reinforcement to the national policy consolidated by the Health and Prevention in Schools project, one of the priority guidelines of which is the participation of young people.

This activity does not have its own budget and every year the initiative is joined by new partners concerned with promoting preventive education, especially private sector partners. In recent years, CAIXA SEGUROS, TV Globo, Digital Solution and Semina Educativa have sponsored the prizes given to the winners. This year, Editora Melhoramentos also joined the initiative. In 2010, the School Award completed ten years of encouraging the school community to discuss these specific issues through a national cartoon contest.

The prize-giving ceremony takes place as part of the week of mobilization activities surrounding World AIDS Day ■

Further information: <http://eventos.unesco.org.br/premioescola/>



Prevention Points

The fight against STDs, HIV and AIDS has reached a level today that requires the development of new prevention strategies and the involve-

ment of all organized social movements, in addition to those already specially dedicated to this issue.

With the aim of increasing the network of social movements involved in the fight against AIDS and encouraging safer sex attitudes in the population, UNESCO is in the process of implementing the Prevention Points Project, in partnership with the Ministry of Health's DST, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department and the Ministry of Culture's "Live Culture" Programme.

The "Live Culture" Programme incorporates culture, education and citizenship, as an initiative, and preserves and promotes Brazilian cultural diversity. In order to promote this action, Culture Points have been implemented throughout the country with the objective of promoting, recognizing and revering popular culture.

Given that the Culture Points form a network currently involving more than ten thousand young people throughout the country capable of acting to disseminate information, the idea arose to add STD, HIV and AIDS prevention to the actions undertaken by these Points, from a perspective of peer education and facilitated access to prevention commodities.

The Prevention Points Project therefore aims to enable the Culture Points to undertake prevention activities. The Prevention Points are prepared to disseminate information on STD, HIV and AIDS prevention, using the cultural tools already in place at each Point. In order for the work to be done effectively, articulation exists with state and municipal governments so that prevention commodities are made available to the Culture Points to enable prevention activities to be undertaken with the public benefitted by the cultural activities, thus promoting positive changes in sexual risk behaviours.

The first training course was held in June 2009 in the state of Bahia, as an action integrated with the Laços SociAids project. 18 Culture Points were trained and have been working ever since as Prevention Points. A second training course has been held in the Vitória da Conquista micro-region. ■

Teenagers and Young Adults Living with HIV/AIDS

Every year in Brazil some 3,500 new AIDS cases are reported in adolescents and young adults aged 12 to 24 (DATASUS/MS). These young men and women face various challenges, such as prejudice and discrimination, in addition to having needs that are specific to their age group with regard to their sexual and reproductive rights, access to health services and so forth.

Since 2003, UNICEF, alongside the Brazilian government and civil society organizations, have been fostering opportunities for these young people to fight for their own rights and take part in decision making processes that directly affect their lives. The overriding result of the various actions aimed at this audience was the creation in May 2008 of the National Network of Teenagers and Young Adults Living with HIV/AIDS, an initiative of the teenagers and young adults themselves.

In these first years of its existence, the Network's principal achievement so far has been the recognition of young people's participation in important political spaces such as the Health and Prevention in Schools project, the National Commission for Articulation with Social Movements, which aims to contribute towards and articulate participation in the building of public health policies together with the Ministry of Health's National AIDS Commission, as well as the UNAIDS/TG. Its participants are also invited to take part in forums, seminars and talks with a wide variety of audiences on the issue of HIV/AIDS, both nationally and internationally.

Until 2009 the focus was on strengthening the Network's national structure, by holding national annual meetings. In 2010, however, the main objective has been strengthening the Network regionally, through meetings in Brazil's five regions. These meetings have discussed local needs and proposed practical actions for prevention and treatment, as well as strategies to ensure the Network's members gain more political recognition and have their demands included as part of policies on AIDS and youth ■



Jackeline Nigri / Arquivo UNICEF

Putting an end to Homo-Lesbo-Transphobia

Throughout the world the AIDS epidemic has affected people and groups whose sexual practices and identities have historically been discriminated against and even persecuted. Such is the case of gay men and other men who have sex with men, bisexual and trans persons (transvestites, transgender, inter-sex) and lesbians. Experiences show that responses to HIV will only be effective when the dignity and diversity of all people are recognized, since discrimination makes people avoid using health services and discourages the adoption of individual behaviours and care, as well as care in relation to other people. As such, fighting homo-lesbo-transphobia is an integral part of the response to AIDS in Brazil and the UN supports several different initiatives in this area.

UNAIDS Brazil also offers political, technical and financial support to the LGBT (Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals and Trans Persons) agenda in Brazil. In 2009, in partnership with the Brazilian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association, an LGBT Communication Manual was launched, directed towards communication professionals, students and teachers with the aim of offering practical guidelines for a less discriminatory communication process, reducing the prejudiced use of several terms that negatively affect the conditions of dignity and citizenship of Brazil's more than 20 million LGBT people, thereby encouraging professional responsibility within the media with regard to this issue and respect for human diversity in communication. The manual covers themes such as sexuality, gender identity, social attitudes, homophobia, among others. ■



Manual available at: http://www.onu-brasil.org.br/doc/Manual_de-ComunicacaoLGBT.pdf

Fighting Homo-Lesbo-Transphobia in the Latin American Region

In 2006, in partnership with the HTCG (Horizontal Technical Cooperation Group), UNAIDS began a jointly constructed working process involving the participation of professionals engaged in human rights from a variety of Latin American countries, resulting in the publication of the "Strategic guide to prevent and combat sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination". The main aim of the Guide, which has been published in Portuguese, Spanish and English, is to establish clear criteria and concrete proposals for addressing homo-lesbo-trans-phobia in the regions. In 2008, in Brasília, as a follow up to the initiative, a technical meeting was held to evaluate progress made with these actions in the region and, as an outcome of this meeting, a technical group was set up to design the Strategic Plan to prevent and combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Within MERCOSUL, UNAIDS/Brazil is a member of a working sub-group on sexual diversity and gender identity which is part of the Meeting of High-Level Authorities and Officials on Human Rights of the MERCOSUL and Associated States. As a contribution, UNAIDS is sponsoring the publication of a bilingual publication dealing with the review of prevailing legislation and policies on this issue in the MERCOSUL countries, as well as a campaign against homo-lesbo-transphobia ■

Further information: www.onusida-latina.org



Integrated Plan to Combat the Feminization of the AIDS Epidemic and other STDs

This is an interministerial initiative, involving the Special Department for Women's Policies and the Ministry of Health, with support from UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNICEF. The Plan was launched in March 2007 by Presi-

dent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, during a ceremony commemorating International Women's Day (March 8th). Its aim is to combat the feminization of the AIDS epi-

demic and other STDs by reducing the vulnerabilities that affect women, through integrated and intersectoral actions at federal, state and municipal level, involving governmental and non-governmental institutions and social movements.

The Plan has as its mainstays: i) the recognition that gender inequalities, interacting with poverty, racism, stigma and discrimination relating to sexual orientation and gender identity, living with HIV and people with disabilities, lifestyles, prostitution and all forms of violence against women, increase the vulnerabilities of teenage girls, young, adult and elderly women to STDs and to HIV; ii) the recognition that addressing the feminization of the AIDS epidemic and other STDs requires the development of integrated and intersectoral actions, involving all three levels of government, non-governmental organizations and social movements.

The process of decentralizing the Plan's actions involved the holding of six macro-regional workshops with active participation of several government sectors, in particular women's policy and health departments, as well as civil society organizations and women's movements, so as to contemplate specificities and diversities. During the workshops Plans were drawn up for each State and the Plans will be put into operation, monitored continually and evaluated ■

Further information: www.aids.gov.br/feminizacao

Just Like You: a Campaign against Stigma and Discrimination



Just Like You is a campaign against human rights violations and inequalities, especially in the areas of health, education, employment, public security and everyday life. It is an opportunity to raise the awareness of Brazilian society with regard to respecting the differences that characterize each of the social

groups represented in the campaign, reaffirming equal rights.

Lead by UNAIDS and other UN Agencies (UNESCO, UNODC, UNIFEM (part of UN Women) and UNHCR), the campaign counts on a partnership with civil society networks engaged in the fight for equal rights: ABGLT (Brazilian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association), AMNB (Brazilian Association of Black Women), ANTRA (National Articulation of Trans Persons), the Brazilian Movement of Peo-

ple Living with HIV/AIDS and the Brazilian Prostitutes' Network. The campaign pieces were produced by the [X]Brasil – Comunicação em Causas Públicas agency and studio recorded with an original soundtrack by Felipe Radicetti.

The campaign draws attention to the prejudice faced every day in Brazil by students, gay men, lesbians, people living with HIV, the Black population, sex workers, refugees, transsexuals and transvestites and drug users. Prejudice manifests itself through discriminatory attitudes and practices, such as humiliation, aggression and unfair accusations merely because people belong to a specific social group.

The campaign is comprised of ten 30 second films and radio spots, available free of charge and for unrestricted reproduction, with subtitles in English and Spanish ■

The campaign pieces are available at:

http://www.onu-brasil.org.br/agencias_unaids_videos.php

<http://www.youtube.com/user/UNAIDSBr>

FRAGMENTS – Human rights on the agenda

The video “Fragments” is a compilation of testimonies gathered during the production of the Just Like You campaign. They highlight the specific situations of discrimination and prejudice experienced by members of the populations portrayed in the Just Like You campaign (students, gay men, lesbians, people living with HIV, the Black population, sex workers, refugees, transsexuals and transvestites and drug users).



UNAIDS – Brasil

More than merely portraying these challenges, the video Fragments brings messages of hope and commitment to the human rights expressed through the voices of those who are featured in the Just Like You campaign.



Actions in the Brazilian Prison System

UNODC supports the Brazilian Federal Government in its HIV and AIDS prevention, diagnosis and care actions in the Brazilian Prison System. UNODC seeks to identify, through projects that provide support to the implementation of the National Prison System Health Plan, the situations of vulnerability to HIV and AIDS faced by people deprived of their liberty, so as to be able to propose strategies to meet the needs found.

UNODC is currently supporting a national survey, in partnership with the Health and Justice Ministries, of the principal requirements for the interaction of security, administration and health professionals working in prison environments. The overriding objective is to identify ways of enabling these professionals to effectively deal with issues regarding HIV and AIDS prevention, diagnosis and care.

UNODC periodically organizes comprehensive workshops, debates and round table discussions, in partnership with civil society, the Federal Government, universities, embassies and other United Nations System agencies, to discuss the issue of HIV and AIDS in prison environments. Such events provide an opportunity to hear, to reflect on and to analyse different perceptions of vulnerabilities to HIV and AIDS in the context of deprivation of liberty, as well as contributing to producing recommendations and consolidating government guidelines.

In 2010 the Workshop on Gender and HIV in the Prison System contributed to the preparation of guidelines on this issue capable of steering the production of educational material for professionals working in the prison system. ■



Treatnet

Treatnet is a joint project between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and involves the participation of twenty-seven countries in all five regions of the world. Working based on regional plans, the aim of the project is to encourage a variety of stakeholders to work together to ensure universal access to the treatment of drug dependency, in an integral and ethical manner based on scientific evidence.

Treatnet's three main strategies are: (a) advocacy, in the sense of promoting the recognition of drug dependency as a health issue requiring a multidisciplinary and integral approach; (b) the strengthening of national capacities, by replicating the project's training package at regional, national and local level; and (c) improving the drug care and treatment services in the countries.

Having the replication of training courses as one of its principal components – based on scientifically proven and internationally validated technologies –, Treatnet already has professionals in Brazil qualified to reproduce the methodology. As part of the UNAIDS/TG Integrated Plan two training courses are to be held in 2010, in the states of Amazonas and Bahia. These activities are justified by the interfaces between the treatment of drug dependency and interventions relating to HIV and AIDS. ■



Post Office in the Fight Against AIDS

For the first time in Brazil the Post Office has placed its branches at the disposal of society to disseminate information on the prevention of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. The campaign is called "Post Office in the Fight Against AIDS" and is an unprecedented partnership between the Ministry of Communications, the Post Office, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids

(UNAIDS), the Ministry of Health, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the UNI Global Union and the National Federation of Post Office and Telegraph Workers (Federação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Empresas de Correios e Telégrafos e Similares - FENTECT). Brazil is one of seven countries in which the campaign is being piloted.

During the first phase the campaign materials were distributed in the country's Federal District and in priority regions in the states of Amazonas and Bahia, where the United Nations Agencies act jointly in a partnership in support of the response to AIDS.

The folders, posters, postcards with prevention messages and the mobilization strategies were adapted to our country's needs and specificities. The international slogan "Your post office cares" was altered to "The Post Office is in the Fight Against AIDS. And you? Protect yourself: use condoms". The Brazilian proposal broadens the international initiative and has the following pieces: posters, postcards and a letter posted by the Post Office containing information for the population. In addition a specific site has been developed with information about the Campaign and about AIDS and STDs, as well as having information available for downloading and sending ■

The Post Office in the Fight Against AIDS – some statistics:

- 120 post offices located in the areas included in the United Nations integrated plan to fight HIV/AIDS in Brazil
- Brasilia and the Federal District: 90 post offices
- State of Bahia: 27 post offices
- State of Amazonas: 03 post offices
- Posters: 1000 (Post Office).
- Displays: 500 (UNAIDS).
- Postcards (6 kinds): 240,000 (UNAIDS)
- Letters for households: 784,000 (UNAIDS)
- Consultants (site): 2 (UNAIDS)
- Pins: 3,900 (UNAIDS).
- Dominium (site): UNAIDS
- Informative leaflet: 15,000 (Post Office)
- Investment – UNAIDS: USD 100,000



CEN AIDS

Business People United for Negative Results

HIV and AIDS shave a serious impact on society and economies, the world of work, both formal and informal, workers, their families and dependents, employer and employee organizations and public and private companies. This process hampers the achievement of decent work for everyone and sustainable development. For this reason, business world has been showing both interest and the ability to act, to fight the epidemic all over the world.

Set up in 1998, the Brazilian National Business Council for HIV/AIDS Preven-

tion (NBC AIDS) is a solid body representative of the business sector with regard to the formulation and maintenance of HIV prevention and care policies, programmes and projects in the workplace. According to the Global Report on Business Councils in Response to AIDS, published in 2008, of the 47 National Business Councils and 4 Regional Business Councils on HIV/AIDS worldwide, Brazil's NBC AIDS is the oldest Council still in activity.

Its actions are aimed not only at company employees, but also stand out in terms of national mobilization campaigns, such as those that use the "Cricket" as their main character. UNAIDS and ILO have taken part in and supported NBC AIDS' actions since its creation.

For the period 2011/2012, NBC AIDS aims to gain greater knowledge of the reality of HIV/AIDS initiatives in companies with the purpose of providing guidance and strengthening prevention actions in the workplace, principally in small and medium-sized companies ■

Further information:

www.cenaids.com.br

http://www.oitbrasil.org.br/info/download/hiv_aids_pt.pdf



Portuguese-Speaking Countries united towards Universal Access

In March 2010, UNAIDS and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPSC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing their cooperation in response to AIDS in those countries where Portuguese is the official language: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé and Príncipe.

The main commitment is to promote the human rights of people living with HIV and preventing infection in the CPSC countries. In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding will seek to mobilize technical, political and financial support for civil society networks and organizations, including people living with HIV in the Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as to develop channels for these countries to share experiences, by means of horizontal technical cooperation (South-South).

Through this agreement, UNAIDS reinforces its role of promoting the exchange of experiences between the Portuguese-speaking countries. These countries share a series of social and cultural characteristics that make horizontal cooperation a strategic instrument in the response to the AIDS epidemic. The Memorandum of Understanding also established the UNAIDS Office in Brazil as the focal point for UNAIDS-CPSC cooperation.

Creating capacities to manage the response to AIDS

Created by the Global UNAIDS Resource Tracking Consortium in 2005, National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA), or Medição de Gastos em Aids (MEGAS) in Portuguese, is a methodology used to measure HIV and AIDS financing flows and expenditures at country level. It is not limited to monitoring health expenditures, but also accompanies expenditures in areas directly related to health, such as the alleviation of social problems, education, labour, justice and other sectors related to the multisectoral response to HIV.

Making the most of the Brazilian experience in implementing this methodology, a MEGAS training course was held in Guinea Bissau in November 2009, including participants from Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. The course was organized in cooperation between the Guinea Bissau National Secretariat to Fight AIDS, the Brazilian Ministry of Health and UNAIDS.

Another action is a course focused on project monitoring and evaluation for representatives of all the CPSC countries. The course, which is organized in



cooperation between the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Ministry of Health's International Health Matters Advisory Department (AISA), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), UNAIDS and the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), aims to enhance national capacities in implementing joint Community projects as agreed in the CPSC Strategic Plan for Health Cooperation for the period 2009-2012.

Dissemination of strategic information

In 2008 the first edition of the publication entitled "The HIV epidemic in Portuguese-speaking countries" was launched, in cooperation between the CPSC and UNAIDS. The document aimed to offer facts on the situation of the epidemic in those countries. The publication was comprehensively based on reports provided by the countries in order to reach a wider audience. A second edition was published in 2010 ■

Further information: <http://www.cplp.org>



Ministry of Health - Uruguay

Strengthening Sexual in MERCOSUL Countries through South-South Cooperation

Sex education is a strategic action in the response to pregnancy and HIV infection in the adolescent and young adult population (aged 15-24). For this reason, in 2007 Argentina, Brazil,

Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay began the South-South cooperation project called "Harmonization of Public Policies on Sex Education and HIV/AIDS Prevention in School Environments". The purpose of the project was to strengthen public policies in order to ensure integral sex education and HIV prevention in schools, with emphasis on the development of the competencies of children, adolescents and young adults in addressing the discrimination, stigma and social exclusion that increase vulnerability to HIV. The initiative was supported by GTZ, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA and the Brazilian Ministry of Health.

Each of the participating countries developed a specific work plan in order to achieve the common objectives and also set up a management committee involving the participation of the Ministries of Education and Health and sectors of civil society so as to implement the project nationally. The countries regularly

exchanged knowledge and experiences and this proved to be an important tool in strengthening public policies.

Through the project, national sex education policies were developed or strengthened in the partner countries, favouring the inclusion of the subject on the school curriculum. Other important effects were the strengthening of multi-sectoral cooperation and the creation of structures to manage the sex education programs in the Education Ministries, as well as the increased participation of the education sector in the response to AIDS and the increased leadership of the Education Ministries in the area of HIV prevention in schools.

The following table shows the estimated number of project beneficiaries (2007-2009):

No. of beneficiaries of the “Harmonization of Public Policies on Sex Education and HIV/AIDS Prevention in School Environments” Project (2007-2009)

Group Benefitted	Argentina	Chile	Peru	Paraguay	Uruguay	Total
Teachers trained	10.000	10.000	900	1.500	1.600	24.000
Students	120.000	60.000	31.000	20.000	395.700	625.700

Children in Situations of Vulnerability

Children and adolescents living on the streets comprise a special group which accumulates a variety of factors that makes them especially vulnerable to HIV, since they are among the most neglected and invisible populations. Without the protection and care of their homes and communities, these children and adolescents are exposed to the worst forms of violence and abuse, and this puts them at great risk of becoming infected with HIV.

Furthermore, these boys and girls suffer strong social stigma and, as a gen-



Planning Meeting, Lima 2008. Photo: UNICEF



ONG Foot on the Ground

eral rule, are seen as perpetrators of violence, drug users, people who disturb public order or who are criminals, and this results in them not having access to health services and schools.

UNICEF is involved in HIV care and prevention projects aimed at street children both nationally and as part of South-South Cooperation initiatives. This cooperation, supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Brazil, is undertaken through a partnership

between the Ministry of Health's STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department and UNAIDS. Apart from Brazil, it also involves Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. Its principal objective is to promote the exchange of experiences in order to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic among children and adolescents in street situations, through cooperation between these countries, with the aim of promoting and strengthening local actions in this area.

The principal activities undertaken include meetings in the countries, involving local governments and civil society; exchange visits between the countries; and knowledge building and experience sharing meetings. In Brazil, the project has supported the strengthening of the national network comprised of thematic working groups in several states; in Peru the issue has been included on the country's political agenda ■



South-South Ties Youth

The South-South Ties (Laços Sul-Sul) initiative was launched by the Brazilian Government in 2004, and includes Bolivia, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea Bissau, Nicaragua, Paraguay and São Tomé and Príncipe. It is a common commitment to ensuring universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care through the horizontal sharing of information and the joint elaboration of strategies

and work plans – all within a context of solidarity between developing nations within a horizontal model of cooperation.



Rafael Sternberg/UNICEF

UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNESCO have joined this partnership, adding technical and financial support. UNICEF Brazil has included special focus on pregnant women, children and adolescents.

In particular, UNICEF has been actively working to promote the direct participation of adolescents and

young adults in the initiative. In July 2010 the first South-South Ties Youth meeting was held in Brasília, bringing together teenage and young adult representatives from all the cooperating countries, except Nicaragua, with the aim of discussing the importance of their participation in STD and AIDS prevention actions with their peers, especially in schools.

The Brazilian experience of the Health and Prevention in Schools project was used as a reference in the meeting, and the young people from all the countries wrote prevention projects for schools to be implemented in their countries, based on the discussions and experiences they shared during the meeting. The adolescents and young adults remain responsible for leading projects in their countries and will receive technical and financial support from UNICEF.

The proposal is that this network be the first step in enabling these adolescents and young adults to share experiences, difficulties and successes so as to put their actions into practice and achieve concrete results in their countries. ■

VIII Brazilian Congress on STD and AIDS Prevention and I Brazilian Congress on Viral Hepatitis

With the participation of five thousand people including health service managers, leaders, members of social movements, educators, students, health professionals and artists, the VIII Brazilian Congress on STD and AIDS Prevention was one of the outstanding actions in response to the epidemic in 2010. The UN Agencies supported and took part in the event which, in addition to conferences, round tables, discussion groups, courses, poster sessions, cinema, theatre and other cultural activities, also had stands for exhibiting materials and initiatives. A special edition of the "Tempus – Atas de Saúde Coletiva" journal was launched through a partnership between the UN System, the Department of STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis and the University of Brasília, and was dedicated to the issue of

public policies on HIV/AIDS. Researchers, service managers, civil society members and personnel of international bodies contributed with articles, presenting experiences and new possibilities for interpreting the response to AIDS in Brazil ■

The complete contents of the journal are available at:

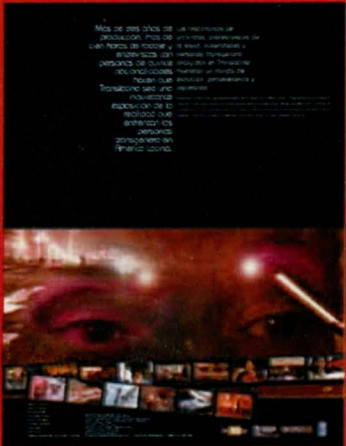
<http://www.tempusactas.unb.br>

http://www.onu-brasil.org.br/doc/Revista_Tempus_Actas_Aids.pdf

Translatina

Translatina is an independent documentary produced and filmed in Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico and Italy. It was cosponsored by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the aim of offering the perspective of civil society organizations and other stakeholders regarding violence and other barriers to access to health services experienced by trans persons.

The documentary “Translatina”, which took more than three years to produce, with more than a hundred hours of recording and interviews with people of fifteen nationalities, is a disturbing portrait of the reality faced by trans persons in Latin America. Through testimonies given by civil society representatives, the film shows in a very realistic way the challenges faced by trans persons in accessing education, employment, justice, health and other public services. It also reveals how non-governmental organizations are beginning to dialogue with governments to demand opportunities for the inclusion of trans persons and how such initiatives can result in important changes to ensure the rights of this population.



UN Brazil HIV/AIDS Learning Strategies Group

The **UN HIV/AIDS Learning Strategies Group** was set up in Brazil in 2005. The group includes representatives from: ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM (Part of UN Women), UNODC and the Office of the Resident Coordinator.

The purpose of the Group is to design and organize activities that offer UN personnel and their families correct information about HIV and AIDS, prevention, forms of treatment, stigma and discrimination and other related themes.

To this end, the Group holds activities, such as Learning Days, condom distribution in the UN System with guidance on correct use, lectures and talks on HIV-related issues.

The majority of the United Nations Learning Group activities in Brazil in 2009 was related to organizing the distribution and provision of 30 Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Kits sent to Brazil by UN Cares. The entire strategy was built around the identification and training of PEP Kit guardians and their substitutes.

Other actions undertaken by the Group included: the publication of the booklet "Living in a world with HIV and AIDS" in Portuguese, the distribution of a folder about sexual violence, family and domestic violence and the ILO booklet on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work ■

United Nations HIV and AIDS Learning Days

The 2008 Learning Day involved activities for all UN personnel and their families, in three different venues: at the UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO offices. The actions focused on awareness-raising, information about AIDS including a safe sex workshop facilitated by a public health professional and psychologist. Kits were handed out containing an informative leaflet on prevention, forms of transmission, guidance on the correct use of female and male condoms, and wrist ribbons bearing the message: "Learn to Prevent".

The 2009 Learning Day activities included a talk on violence against women given by the Federal District's police officer in charge of the specialized women's police station, information about the PEP-Kit and distribution of folders, as well as a discussion with people living with HIV belonging to the National Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS and to the National Movement of Positive Women Citizens.



UNAIDS – Brasil



UN Agencies supporting the response to AIDS in Brazil



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Alto Comissariado das Nações Unidas para Refugiados

UNHCR

The mandate of the Office of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** is to guarantee international protection and to seek long-lasting solutions for refugees and other displaced populations around the world. Unrestricted access to the procedures of recognition of refugee status and to long-lasting solutions is linked to the issue of HIV/AIDS and, consequently, has a great impact in terms of the effective international protection of refugees.

UNHCR's aim is to ensure that refugees living with HIV/AIDS are not stigmatized, expelled to other countries, detained or subject to any discriminatory measures that are harmful to their condition or to the possibility of long-lasting solutions. Moreover, it is a UNHCR priority to ensure that the population covered by its mandate has access to adequate treatment, confidentiality, counseling and guidance. UNHCR became UNAIDS' tenth member agency in June 2004 and is the leading agency of the programme regarding forced displacement, emergencies and humanitarian crises.

With regard to HIV/AIDS, UNHCR's principal areas of action in Brazil are the frontier regions and urban centres. Various elements exist on the frontiers that contribute towards increased risk of HIV transmission, such as the high rate of human mobility and difficult access to health professionals, adequate information and prevention commodities. Although the risk of HIV transmission is considerably less owing in the large urban centres, the greater the possibility of access to information and medical and counselling services, the vulnerability of refugee men, women and children is a cause for concern.

UNHCR has addressed these two challenges by including refugees in public STD/AIDS programmes and through mechanisms that permit the full integration of refugees living with HIV/AIDS. In addition to these two responses, UNHCR offers capacity-building in STD/AIDS to the institutions that implement its programmes in Brazil and provides information on prevention to the population under its care ■

Further information: www.unhcr.org.br



⇒ ECLAC

The **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC**, is one of five regional UN commissions which, since the beginning, has sought to promote economic and social development and cooperation between the Region's countries, both between each other and with the other nations of the world, by means of a variety of activities, taking into consideration their individual characteristics and their specific problems.

ECLAC also contributes towards the debate regarding the Latin American and Caribbean economy and society, alerting and providing ideas and proposals for public policies. In addition to identifying structural characteristics that differentiate us from other regions or from different courses of development, ECLAC has always highlighted the challenges to combating inequality, to fighting poverty, to promoting democracy, justice and peace, and to the options of insertion in the global economy.

Brazil, owing to the size of its territory, population and participation in the Latin American economy, has always been and continues to be one of the principal sources of analysis of ECLAC's reports and studies, in addition to receiving its contributions on the debate about the Brazilian economy. ECLAC's Office in Brazil accompanies and analyses the transformations in the Brazilian economy together with partners in the government, academia and society ■

Further information: www.cepal.org and www.cepal.org/brasil



UNAIDS

Set up in 1996, the **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** arose from the need to promote a coordinated international response to HIV/AIDS. The Programme is cosponsored by 10 UN System Agencies, namely: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, PAHO/WHO and the World Bank. Its mission is to lead and coordinate actions to combat HIV and support national responses. UNAIDS also seeks to strengthen the participation of civil society, the private sector and people living with HIV in fighting the epidemic and to advocate with international partners for the mobilization of financial resources applied in actions to reverse the spread of AIDS in the world. UNAIDS supports national governments in the formulation and implementation of strategic plans. In addition, it unifies and publicizes strategic information relating to AIDS throughout the world by means of reports such as the AIDS Epidemic Update, providing annual data on the pandemic. It also serves as a reference for international media efforts on this issue ■

Further information: www.unaids.org



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

➔ UNODC

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** promotes HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment actions in contexts of vulnerability associated with drug use, deprivation of liberty and human trafficking.

UNODC has supported the Brazilian Government in building an increased response to HIV among people who use drugs. The partnership between UNODC and the Ministry of Health's STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department began in 1994, when AIDS cases associated with injecting drug use had reached 25% in Brazil. Since then, Ministry of Health statistics have shown a constant fall in this percentage. Between 1996 and 2006 a fall of 72% in injecting drug user (IDU) AIDS cases were recorded. From the very beginning this partnership prioritized the harm reduction strategy and the ample participation of civil society. A current challenge is that of developing working methodologies aimed at new patterns of drug use in Brazil, in particular noninjecting drug use, especially crack and stimulants. Drug use must also be considered as a cross-cutting theme, since it is behaviour present in different population groups.

UNODC also implements HIV and AIDS prevention and care actions among the Brazilian prison population. These actions are performed through the National Plan on Health in the Prison System, in partnership with the Ministry of Health's Technical Department for the Prison System, Department of STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis and National Tuberculosis Control Programme, as well as the Ministry of Justice's National Penitentiary Department. ■

Further information: www.unodc.org.br



➔ UNICEF

For more than 60 years, the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has worked with partners throughout the world to promote the recognition of and respect for the human rights of children. This mandate was established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is made effective by means of partnerships with governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals in 162 countries, areas and territories.

UNICEF provides UNAIDS with its large network and its capacity for effective communication and awareness-raising. UNICEF has as its goal, participation in articulations that help to build government programmes that consider children, young people and pregnant women as being central to the efforts towards universal access to prevention, treatment and healthcare, especially in those less favoured areas where the epidemic is growing.

UNICEF seeks to have a positive impact on the lives of children affected by HIV/AIDS in four priority areas, known as the four "Ps": 1) Preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission; 2) Providing paediatric treatment; 3) Preventing HIV infection in adolescents and young people; and 4) Protecting and supporting children affected by AIDS.

To this end, it prioritizes investment in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, supporting the implementation of rapid testing in hard-to-reach locations and the holding of capacity-building seminars for health professionals in such regions (the Amazon and Semi-Arid regions), as well as prevention with young people through its participation in the Health and Prevention in Schools project, which is an initiative of the Ministries of Health and Education, also in partnership with UNESCO and UNFPA. It also collaborates to promote the protection and the protagonism of young people living with HIV/AIDS, supporting their participation in national events and the creation of networks, among other prevention initiatives. In addition, UNICEF takes part in South-South cooperation projects, in partnership with UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNESCO, involving horizontal cooperation, prioritizing children and young people, within a context of solidarity between developing nations.

Through an important partnership with the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for producing and purchasing medication for AIDS treatment, UNICEF has imported the antiretroviral drug Efavirenz into Brazil. This drug is used to treat HIV/AIDS in adults and children. To date UNICEF has imported more than 30 million tablets and 450 thousand capsules of the drug, which are distributed free of charge to around 100,000 people living with HIV/AIDS.■

Further information: www.unicef.org.br



⇒ UN Women

UN Women is the global champion for women and girls. Its 2010 establishment, applauded around the globe, offers a historic opportunity to jump-start progress for women and for societies. UN Women acts on the fundamental premise that women and girls worldwide have the right to live a life free of discrimination, violence and poverty, and that gender equality is central to achieving development. In Brazil, UN Women has a sub-regional office responsible for the five Southern Cone countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The reduction of the spread of HIV/AIDS in women and girls is fundamental to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Young women are especially vulnerable to the epidemic. It is estimated that 15.7 million women are living with HIV, almost 50% of all people living with the virus (UNAIDS, 2009). HIV is currently the principal cause of death among women of reproductive age (15-49) worldwide (WHO, 2009).

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a threat to people's lives and their individual rights and, in the case of women, the scenario is even more complex. Gender inequalities, the increasing feminization of poverty, the alarming rates of violence against women and other violations of women's rights contribute towards a scenario of increasing concern.

Highlighting the contributions and perspectives of women living with HIV, and with emphasis on reducing discrimination, UN Women have adopted comprehensive strategies to address the problem, stressing the links between the epidemic and violence against women, the feminization of poverty, insecurity and the limited political participation of women in decision making processes ■

Further information: www.unifem.org.br



➔ UNFPA

UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, promotes the right of all women, men and children to live a healthy life, with equal opportunities for everyone. It supports the countries in the use of data in formulating poverty reduction policies and programmes and contributes towards all pregnancies being planned, all childbirths being safe, all young people being free from HIV and AIDS and all girls and women being treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA supports the government in purchasing STD, HIV and AIDS prevention commodities; in the development of contents used as a reference in an integrated approach to the issues of primary and secondary HIV and AIDS prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights and in their incorporation into the processes of continuing education for professionals, including those who provide care to teenage and young women in situations of vulnerability, sexual exploitation, gender violence or human trafficking.

Having the promotion of gender equality as one of its priorities, UNFPA works in partnership with the government and civil society in the development of actions aimed at increasing the involvement of adult and young men in questions of sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and combating violence against women, including the promotion of shared responsibility between men and women to ensure protected sexual intercourse and prevent unplanned pregnancies.

UNFPA promotes the strengthening of youth leadership and participation in the formulation and monitoring of public policies, as well as the consolidation of social health activism networks, with emphasis on public policy watchdog activities and advocacy regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights exercised by women, especially women living with HIV and AIDS, belonging to historically discriminated groups and sex workers ■

Further information: www.unfpa.org.br



➤ UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), founded in 1946, promotes international cooperation among 193 Member States and six Associate Members in five mandate areas: Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information. The Organization's activities in this vast universe have a single objective: to promote peace.

Meeting this goal requires a whole set of actions, including the promotion of knowledge.

It is UNESCO's understanding that education is the principal instrument for mobilizing to prevent HIV. The Organization's permanent work in educational activities aimed at children, teenagers, young people and adults has resulted, within the domain of UNAIDS, in its leading HIV/AIDS education and prevention activities in schools. In this respect, UNESCO has launched worldwide the EDUCAIDS initiative, defined as one of the priorities of the Education for All movement, aimed at involving not only projects, but also the entire Education sector in the pursuit of the same objective. In Brazil the EDUCAIDS strategy is implemented through the Health and Prevention in Schools project. With emphasis on preventive education, this project contributes towards building key skills to HIV prevention. This focus also enables conditions that facilitate the spread of the disease to be overcome, such as poverty, gender inequality and violence and abuse against girls and women.

In Brazil and in other countries, UNESCO's five programme areas, its institutes, national and regional offices, have intensified, in collaboration with other partners, actions to fight HIV and AIDS. In this way the Organization is in a privileged position to take an intersectoral and interdisciplinary approach towards the actions organized by UNAIDS to achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes ■

Further information: <http://www.unesco.org/pt/brasil>



➤ PAHO/WHO

The objective of the **Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization - PAHO/WHO** is to guide the strategic collaboration efforts between the Member States and other partners with the aim of promoting health equity, fighting diseases, improving the quality of life and raising the life expectancy of the peoples of the Americas. The Pan American Health Organization – PAHO is the world's oldest technical cooperation body, responsible for countless victories in improving the health and quality of life of the population of the Americas. It covers 35 countries and is also part of the Organization of American States (OAS). PAHO/WHO's efforts are directed towards achieving common goals and multilateral health initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals, which constitute the international community's commitment to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations.

In the field of HIV/AIDS, PAHO/WHO works alongside its United Nations partners to achieve the goals of universal access to prevention, treatment and care, as well as contributing with the countries to addressing the challenges raised by the epidemic in the Latin American region.

The PAHO/WHO Country Office in Brazil, through its Family Health Unit, undertakes technical cooperation efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in keeping with the strategic actions defined by Brazil's health policies. This cooperation is in line with priorities defined by the Ministry of Health's STD, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department. The principal cooperation activities include supporting the development of HIV surveillance, antiretroviral drug surveillance, HIV drug resistance, the relationship between HIV prevention, care and treatment services, actions to reduce the mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis, with the aim of eliminating Congenital Syphilis, cooperation actions in frontier regions, focussing on more vulnerable populations, such as men who have sex with men, sex workers, trans persons, drug users and the prison population, as well as actions to support health services with emphasis on gender, race and sexual orientation issues.

Further information: <http://new.paho.org/bra/>



➤ ILO

Founded in 1919 with the aim of promoting peace and social justice, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is the only agency in the United Nations System to have a tripartite structure, involving the participation of representatives of employer and worker organizations as well as government representatives.

ILO understands that the workplace can help to contain the spread and alleviate the impact of HIV/AIDS, by promoting human rights, disseminating information and developing capacity-building and education programmes, adopting practical prevention measures, offering care, support and treatment, and the guarantee of social security.

To this end the ILO Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work (ILO/AIDS) is implementing a global strategy with the aim of contributing towards containing the epidemic, by means of developing awareness-raising actions and mobilizing governments, employer and worker organizations, promoting the integration of the workplace in the National HIV/AIDS Plans and studying and analysing policies on issues relating to HIV/AIDS in the world of work, among others.

In Brazil, ILO has supported a variety of national HIV/AIDS prevention and care efforts, as well as efforts to combat HIV/AIDS-related discrimination, in particular in relation to the application of ILO's Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, launched at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session. The Code defines ten principles for actions in the workplace: 1) recognition of HIV/AIDS as a workplace issue; 2) non-discrimination; 3) gender equality; 4) healthy work environment; 5) social dialogue; 6) screening for purposes of exclusion from work or work processes; 7) confidentiality; 8) continuation of employment relationship; 9) prevention; and 10) care and support. ■

Further information: www.oitbrasil.org.br



➔ UNDP

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is the United Nations Organization's global development network and is present in 166 countries. Working together with governments, the private sector and civil society, UNDP connects countries to knowledge, experiences and resources, helping people to build a better life and working together on the solutions identified by the Member Countries to strengthen local capacities, either through promoting access to qualified human resources or by means of technical and financial support.

UNDP's core mandate is to seek solutions to the challenges to national and global development jointly with governments focussing on the following thematic areas: Democratic Governance; Poverty Reduction; Crisis Prevention and Reconstruction; Environment and Energy and HIV/AIDS.

As a UNAIDS cosponsor, UNDP seeks to support the countries in placing the response to AIDS at the core of national development and poverty reduction strategies; building the national capacity to mobilize all levels of government and civil society to achieve a coordinated and effective response to the epidemic; and to protect the human rights of people living with HIV, women and vulnerable populations. Considering that AIDS is a global challenge, UNDP supports these efforts by offering knowledge, resources, as well as good practices used worldwide.

In its efforts to promote local and global development, in 1990 UNDP introduced worldwide the concept of human development, which promotes the adoption of public policies which consider people, and not the accumulation of wealth, as the purpose of development. The advance of the AIDS epidemic has a clear impact on human development, since it not only reduces the life expectancy of a local population, but also affects people's opportunities to make choices.

UNDP has been active in Brazil for more than 40 years, promoting and implementing projects, and seeks to respond to the country's specific challenges and demands through an integrated approach to development

As such UNDP, as a UNAIDS partner, commissioned and published at the Brazilian Government's request, a Technical, Economic and Legal Evaluation of Antiretroviral Production Capacity in Brazil.

UNDP has supported the Brazilian Government in its strategy of implementing South-South cooperation projects, in addition to undertaking projects in Brazilian municipalities with the aim of developing local capacities. It has also supported the Government in making progress towards achieving the targets established in the Millennium Development Goals/MDG.

Although it recognizes the great efforts made by the Brazilian Government in response to the HIV epidemic, UNDP believes that part of the challenges relate to supporting management. It has therefore developed a pilot project using its own resources, as part of the UNAIDS Integrated Plan for the Upper Solimões region (State of Amazonas) and the Juazeiro micro-region (State of Bahia). The pilot project is aimed at preparing and executing a joint action plan (intersectoral and intermunicipal) in response to HIV/AIDS ■

Further information: www.pnud.org.br



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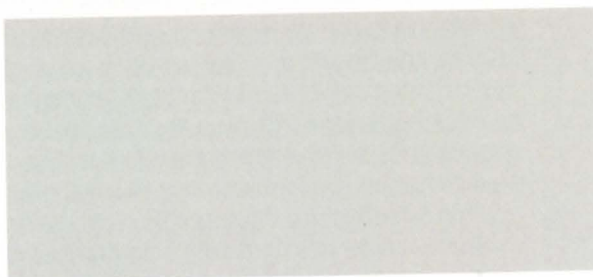
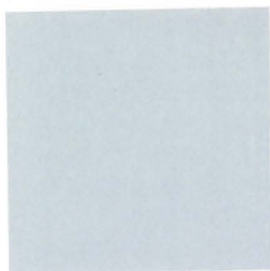
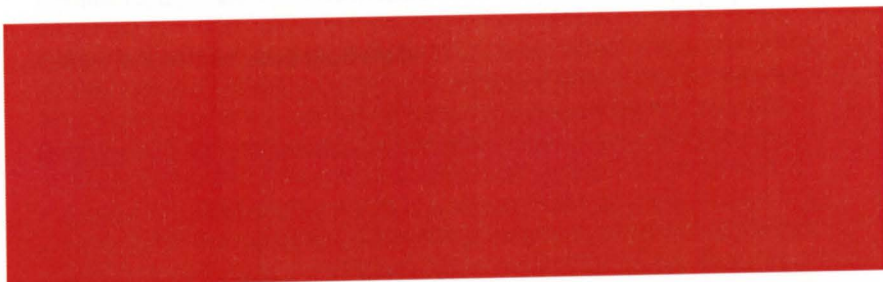
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**The United Nations and the
response to **AIDS** in Brazil**