

Component 2

Multi-Sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control

This primarily involves support to non-health Line Ministries/Public Sector Institutions to educate and empower their staff and dependents in STIs/HIV/AIDS avoidance behaviour and have these Ministries provide for their customary external clients (such as Community Teachers' Association, Women Groups, Farmers' Associations) with information and support that will enable them to prevent contracting the virus and STIs; support to those who do contract it, and assist in referral to health care professionals to provide necessary support for testing, counseling, care and support, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, treatment.

In addition, the staff of Line Ministry/Public Sector Institutions including those involved in HIV campaign, are sensitized on the importance of gender and human rights concerns in order to destigmatize HIV/AIDS so that People Living with HIV/AIDS in these institutions (PLWHAs) can conduct their lives in the open without fear of societal reprisal.

Strategies for the Multi-Sectoral Response

- **Institutional Strengthening Approach**

Integration of HIV/AIDS into the Public Sector delivery mechanisms. This is done through establishment of HIV/AIDS Management Team, Focal Point and office within public sector institutions. The Management Team is charged with the responsibility of preparing and implementing the Ministry's HIV/AIDS work plan; monitoring the Ministry's resources for HIV activities ensuring that HIV/AIDS are mainstreamed into the Ministry's delivery mechanism.

Capacity Building for Peer Education and relevant Training on HIV/AIDS Prevention. Sector institutions offer their staff regular training sessions usually in the form of seminar. Staffs are trained in peer education and other skills associated with STIs/HIV/AIDS and behaviour change.

- **Advocacy Approach**

Public sector institutions target different cadre of their staff with workshops on HIV/AIDS prevention. The workshops help the staff of the ministries/public sector institutions to recognize their personal risks to HIV infection and to be motivated to change. This involves identifying barriers to risk reduction and developing strategies to overcome them.

- **Dynamic Linking Partnership Approach**

This approach of establishing partners is based not on strength of one partner against other, but rather as one having a comparative advantage in complementing the other to fight against HIV/AIDS. Partnership is with NGOs and UN Agencies and its main thrust are linking programmes, exchange of information and expertise.

- **Participatory Approach**

Public Sector institutions are assisted in their training to assess the effectiveness of behavioural intervention strategies that result in decreased sexual risk taking and, in some cases STIs and HIV incidence.

Multi-Sector Response Accomplishments PDF

Institutional Strengthening

Since the effectiveness of the Project in October 2002, (14) fourteen Ministries/Public Sector have established HIV/AIDS Focal Point Offices and Management Teams to spearhead HIV/AIDS prevention efforts within their institutions. Each Management Team comprises of the Minister, Permanent Secretary, the Focal Point, Accountant and Heads of Departments with the Ministry/Institution. These institutions have developed work plans that are being funded by N...

The (14) fourteen institutions have trained Training of trainers on HIV/AIDS avoidance behaviour; Peer Counselors for VCCT and HIV/AIDS Avoidance Behaviour. The module/syllabus for training awareness raising have been generic and focused on helping staff of ministries to recognize the risks of HIV infection and to be motivated to change.

A Draft HIV/AIDS Peer Educator Training Manual and Reference Guide for trainers for the Ministries have been developed by the component.

Through support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology the Component has adapted the Life Skills Resource Material (Auntie Stella) for use in schools. The Minister of Education, Science and Technology launched the adapted version Sisi Aminata in April 2004. Teachers have been trained as facilitators of the programme.

Through support provided by UNIFEM, HIV/AIDS Focal Points and their Assistants were trained on integrating Gender and Human rights into their sectoral HIV/AIDS Work Plans. The UNIFEM HIV/AIDS Coordinator based in Lagos facilitated the training.

Resources Mobilization to Scale-up Programmes

Through the Component's forward-looking partnerships strategy, additional funding to the tune of US\$100,000 each has been sourced for the Sierra Leone Police Force and Sierra Leone Army from UNFPA to scale-up their HIV/AIDS Prevention activities. The funds provided are channeled to the HIV/AIDS Management Teams established by the Component.

The Component has a cordial working relationship with the United States Embassy and the US Department of Defense support to the Sierra Leone Forces in the prevention of HIV/AIDS among the personnel.

The Component assisted the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to develop a subproject proposal of US\$90,000 within the Artisanal Fisheries Development Project funded by the African Development Bank (ADB), to increase knowledge on HIV/AIDS risk factors, prevention strategy, attitudinal and behavioural change in the fishing communities. Activities have commenced also along the coastal fishing areas in Freetown and inland fishing communities are currently being targeted by Ministry under this initiative.

Partners Operating within the Multi-Sectoral Component

United Nations Children's Fund is providing support to the Ministries of Education, Science and Technology, Youth and Sports for the Life Skills.

United Nations Population Fund is providing support to the Sierra Leone Police and Armed Forces, Ministries of Education, Science and Technology in scaling-up HIV/AIDS prevention activities by integrating HIV/AIDS into the POPULATION Family Life Education Programme for schools.

World Food Programme is providing support to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology by integrating HIV/AIDS into the School Feeding Programme.

US Embassy is providing support through the US Department of Defense HIV/AIDS program Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

African Development Bank is providing support through its Artisanal Fisheries Development fund to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to target artisanal fishermen and women in HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

United Nation Fund for Women is providing technical support to public sector institutions to mainstream gender issues in their HIV/AIDS programmes.