

WHO STAFF TRAINING COURSE ON HIV STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING FOR HIV IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

BEIRUT, LEBANON, 15-19 NOVEMBER 2009

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The number of countries with HIV/AIDS strategic plans has risen rapidly since 1998, when UNAIDS guidelines on strategic planning were first published. In 1998, many countries lacked even a basic framework for responding to the epidemic, whereas today nearly every country in the world has an HIV and AIDS strategic plan.

However, as a recent World Bank analysis discovered, most national plans have not actually been strategic, but have instead been “wish lists”, requesting resources that were unlikely to be generated and/or setting targets that were unachievable or immeasurable. Furthermore, many of the strategic plans have failed to adequately target those populations which drive the epidemic, producing instead a laundry list of potentially vulnerable groups, with little or no prioritization. Also most countries do not have strategic plans which are “evidence-based”. The analysis concluded that if activities and funding were more strategically directed and targeted, better results and greater impact might be achieved.

As countries have had increasing access to resources to address HIV and AIDS, there has also been a need to assure that these resources are spent strategically.

All these factors have brought into sharp focus the need for improved multi-sectoral and sector-specific strategic and operational plans. Such plans should provide clear guidance to national efforts in responding to HIV/AIDS and national challenges. They should guide integration and alignment with other health sector and HIV/AIDS efforts. They should also adequately respond to the needs and expectations of various stakeholders.

Accordingly WHO developed Planning Guide for Health Sector Response to HIV/AIDS which is a flexible tool designed to assist in the development of strategic and operational plans for the health sector response to HIV/AIDS. These plans must be consistent and synergistic with the national HIV/AIDS multi-sectoral strategic plans.

In fact, Regional office in collaboration with HQ is holding a strategic and operational planning for HIV in Health sector training workshop in Beirut from 15 to 19 November 2009.

Purpose

\ The workshop will be piloted in Eastern Mediterranean region and will be attended mainly by WHO staff. 4 National AIDS Programme managers from countries in the Region will attend this meeting as they are planning soon strategic and operational process in their countries.

Specific objectives

To improve knowledge and skills of WHO staff on strategic and operational planning for HIV in Health sector.

Expected Outputs

1. WHO training modules on strategic and operational planning for HIV in Health sector tested;
2. Built capacity of WHO staff and some NAP managers on strategic and operational planning for HIV in Health sector.