

## Priority Communicable Diseases: HIV/AIDS



The prevalence of HIV in adults was estimated at 2.2% in 2005-2006 (DHS). In pregnant women, the 2006-2007 sentinel study estimated the prevalence at 4.8%. Since 2003 there has been a dramatic change in HIV/AIDS within the country as a result of funds provided by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), leading to an increase in the available resources for tackling HIV/AIDS. The number of people subject to HIV/AIDS tests increased from 58,000 in 2004 to 476,000 in 2008, and the number of patients increased from 2,000 in 2003 to 17,000 in 2008.

In 2008, Haiti launched a National Plan with a multisectoral strategy comprised of six axes of intervention: risk reduction, vulnerability reduction, impact reduction, promotion and defense of human rights, sustainability of interventions; and epidemic monitoring and research.

Despite these initiatives, Haiti continues to be the first country most affected by HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. The virus affects men and women of childbearing age, and the vulnerable populations. Children are particularly at risk, and the country still does not have universal access.

On January 12th, the earthquake of 7.0 magnitude which struck Haiti has forced approximately 1 million Haitians into temporary camps and shelters. An estimated number of 500,000 additional people have migrated to other departments less affected by the earthquake. The displaced population constitutes a new group at risk for HIV/AIDS.

### Activities carried out:

- PAHO/WHO was one of the main partners to support to NAP in elaborating the strategic lines for HIV in the National Intermediate Health Plan
- PAHO/WHO has provided support to the National Aids Program (NAP) to assess of the post disaster HIV situation.
- PAHO/WHO supported the NAP in facilitating coordination responses among HIV/AIDS partners
- PAHO/WHO participated daily in the Post Disasters Needs Assessment (PDNA) process with HIV partners in order to advocate and include HIV issues in the general reconstruction plan of the country

### Next steps:

- Strengthening the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP as per its acronym in French) of Haiti.
- Support in implementing the post disaster Intermediate Health Plan
- Support the unaffected departments to pursue the implementation of the original National Strategic Plan 2008-2013.
  - Support in reinforcing the Information system on HIV
  - Integrate Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) in PAHO/WHO Free Obstetric Care Project (SOG as per its acronym in French)
  - Participation in the review of the national standards of treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS.
  - A situation analysis of congenital syphilis and prevention of PMTC
- A study of the warning signs of resistance of HIV to antiretroviral therapy
- Support for the National Laboratory as a reference laboratory.
- Pilot projects implemented with support from PAHO/WHO for their inception, preparation and monitoring of the implementation:
- Participation in the coordination of the activities of the international agencies with UNAIDS.
- Support data collection and the development of annual reports on the HIV situation in the country, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNAIDS.
- Planning the evaluation of the national response to HIV.