

## **E. REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIV/AIDS/STI, 2006-2015: MID-TERM EVALUATION**

### **Background**

1. The Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS/STI, 2006-2015 was approved by PAHO Member States in September 2005 (Resolution CD46.R15). It calls for a mid-term evaluation, which is being conducted during the period March-July 2012, to inform, revise, and update the targets, priorities, and strategies for the remaining years of the Plan.

2. The objective of the Plan is to provide guidelines for the countries of the Americas to respond more effectively to the HIV epidemic and to prevent and control sexually transmitted infection (STI). It aims to strengthen national plans in all countries of the Region as well as to encourage international and national planners to consider long-term impacts, sustainability, and the trajectory of the disease in relation to other long-term economic and human development goals.

3. The Plan has five critical lines of action:

- (a) strengthening health sector leadership and stewardship and fostering the engagement of civil society;
- (b) designing and implementing effective, sustainable HIV/AIDS/STI programs and building human resource capacity;
- (c) strengthening, expanding, and reorienting health services;
- (d) improving access to medicines, diagnostics, and other commodities; and
- (e) improving information and knowledge management, including surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, and dissemination.

4. For each line of action, specific strategies, targets, milestones, and indicators are defined in the Plan, which also establishes the role of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB) in support of the Plan, including its oversight and management.

### **Subregional Plans**

5. Building on the Plan, subregional plans were developed for the Caribbean, Central America, and the Andean regions. The Andean Plan ended in 2010 and was evaluated in 2011. The findings of that process are being incorporated into the mid-term review process. The other subregional plans will be evaluated using a methodology fully aligned with that of the Regional Plan.

### **Purpose of the Mid-term Evaluation**

6. The mid-term evaluation aims to:
  - (a) identify key achievements and challenges related to the regional HIV/STI health sector response and the implementation of the Plan; and
  - (b) update targets, priorities, and strategies for the health sector response as well as for PAHO's technical cooperation strategy for the period 2012-2015.

### **Scope of the Evaluation**

7. The mid-term evaluation covers the period 2006-2011 and has a regional scope, with specific attention to subregional processes, issues, and outcomes. There is a strong focus on the updating of health sector strategies based on new evidence and recent initiatives, events, and commitments related to HIV, including but not limited to:
  - (a) New evidence regarding HIV treatment as prevention.
  - (b) WHO/UNAIDS Treatment 2.0, for optimization of HIV treatment.
  - (c) Regional Initiative for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - (d) WHO Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV/AIDS, 2011-2015.
  - (e) Changes in the global financial situation related to HIV, including eligibility criteria for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and their consequences for the Region.

### **Methodology**

8. Within the parameters of limited resources, the mid-term evaluation applies a mix of approaches to allow for the highest possible level of stakeholder consultation and involvement and to generate a high level of ownership of the outcomes of the process.
9. The methodology has five main components:
  - (a) Desk review of regional and subregional plans, reports, and recent regional and global technical guidance documents.
  - (b) Consultations with stakeholders at regional and subregional events.

- (c) Stakeholder surveys administered via e-mail to national program managers, laboratory directors, people living with HIV, civil society organizations, advocates, and PAHO technical staff. Two different survey forms were designed for stakeholders and PAHO staff.
- (d) In-depth interviews with selected stakeholders, including UN partners, relevant regional and subregional organizations, chief medical officers, national program managers, representatives from subregional entities (such as the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS, and the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA), and PAHO regional, subregional and country staff.
- (e) Consultation with the PAHO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on HIV/STI through review and discussion of preliminary findings and recommendations, and joint formulation of final recommendations.

### **Implementation Process**

10. The implementation process includes:
- (a) Two consultants have been contracted to support the mid-term evaluation, one for the Caribbean process and another for Latin America. These consultants are working closely with the PAHO team to identify and collect relevant documents, develop data collection tools, and identify stakeholders to interview.
  - (b) In the Caribbean, a Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Health from Grenada was established to provide input into the evaluation process. At the regional level, the TAC will assume this role.
  - (c) Based on analysis of the collected data, two reports will be produced. The first will be a detailed report on the evaluation process and outcomes. The second will be a summary report with critical conclusions and recommendations for realignment and updating of the HIV/STI Health Sector Response for the remaining period of the Regional HIV/STI Plan, to be submitted to the 28th Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 2012.

***Implementation Schedule***

| <b>Dates</b>    | <b>Activity</b>                                                                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 2012      | Contracting of consultants; development of evaluation methodology and tools                    |
| April-May 2012  | Stakeholder consultations, surveys interviews, drafting of reports                             |
| 4-5 June 2012   | Meeting of the Caribbean Steering Committee for review of findings in the Caribbean process    |
| 11-13 June 2012 | Meeting of the TAC on HIV/STI for review of findings in the regional process and draft reports |
| 14-30 June 2012 | Preparation of final reports                                                                   |

**Expected Outcome**

11. The expected outcome of the mid-term evaluation is a collection of data and other relevant information for obtaining the guidance of the Governing Bodies on areas of emphasis for the implementation of the strategy for the remaining period of the Plan.