

EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO HIV AND AIDS

A World Bank – DFID Partnership

Background

Over the past two decades, the community response to HIV and AIDS has become a critical component of all countries' national AIDS strategies. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) around the world have made tremendous efforts to prevent HIV and mitigate its impact. However, the extent to which CSOs have contributed to stemming the HIV epidemic over the years has not been assessed or documented in a systematic and rigorous way. CSOs acknowledge the need for a more solid evidence base for the results their work.



Similarly, the World Bank; DFID; PEPFAR; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and other international donors, which have been allocating an increasing amount of resources to the community response over the past decade, are calling for more robust evidence on the effectiveness of their support of the community response.

Objective

To address some of these needs, the World Bank in partnership with DFID, the UK NGO AIDS Consortium, and other partners is launching an evaluation of community responses. This will be done under the oversight of National AIDS

Commissions.

The evaluation takes place in 2009 - 2010. The primary objective of this evaluation effort is to help build a robust pool of evidence on the effects of specific HIV and AIDS activities and programs implemented at the community level along the continuum of prevention, care, treatment, and support. The overarching hypothesis to be tested is that the community response adds value to the national program.

Evaluation Focus

This evaluation will focus on the following three areas: (i) tracking the flow of funds from national to community levels; (ii) assessing the effects of the community response on the course of the epidemic; and (iii) identifying any social transformation occurring in selected communities as a result of the HIV and AIDS community response.

DEFINITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

“CSOs include AIDS service organizations, groups of people living with HIV and AIDS, youth organizations, women’s organization, business, trade unions, professional and scientific organizations, sports organizations, international development NGOs, and a wide spectrum of religions and faith-based organizations, both globally and at country level” (UNAIDS, 2008)

Approach and Methodology

Given the diversity of the three focus areas, multiple methodologies and data categories will be used: quantitative, qualitative, technical, financial, and social. Drawing from a broad range of data sources and analytical approaches will provide rich results and facilitate cross-fertilization among the findings in the three evaluation areas. Primary data will be collected as needed in the selected communities. However, the evaluation will maximize the use of

existing reliable data that may permit an analysis of changes over time. Evaluators will also conduct selected data reconciliation and triangulation to generate more robust findings. Descriptive and experimental studies will be considered, as well.

While promising, evaluation efforts such as these face important challenges that must be borne in mind: (i) clarifying what constitutes a community-based response; (ii) accurately attributing effects to specific community-based responses; (iii) accommodating the variety of organizations falling under the community-based-providers umbrella; (iv) addressing the time lag between implementation and effect; and (v) responding to the need for—and difficulty of—achieving methodological integrity and statistical significance in the evaluation while keeping it realistic and grounded.



Consultation and Sharing of Evaluation Findings

Consultations with DFID and other key stakeholders will take place throughout the planning and implementation phases. These stakeholders may include researchers, evaluation specialists in national and international agencies, community-based organizations, NGOs at the global and national levels, and other partners, such

as UNAIDS, PEPFAR, USAID, and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

This evaluation complements the World Bank Global HIV/AIDS Program (GHAP) Multi-region Impact Evaluation Program, which includes Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

During and at the end of the evaluation, the core evaluation team will work with national counterparts to disseminate the evaluation's findings through a variety of channels, including briefings with community leaders, policy makers, researchers, and development partners; presentations on the methodology and analytic approaches employed; and the publication of approaches and findings. The findings generated by the evaluation will be used to strengthen the future design and implementation of community-based activities and programs as well as to sharpen stakeholders' policies and support strategies for the community response.



This brochure is provided to inform readers about the Evaluation of the Community Response to HIV and AIDS. Its intent is not to solicit proposals.

For information about the HIV and AIDS work of the partners in this evaluation, please refer to the following Web sites:

- ✦ *The Global HIV/AIDS Program, the World Bank: www.worldbank.org/AIDS*
- ✦ *The Department for International Development, United Kingdom: www.dfid.gov.uk*
- ✦ *The UK NGO AIDS Consortium: info@aidsonsortium.org.uk*