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Combination
Prevention for HIV
Central America and Mexico



Success Story

Strengthening the quality of HIV prevention interventions by building the capacity of local NGOs in Nicaragua

The National Prevention Strategy in Nicaragua has created a model that not only emphasizes quality but also promotes sustainability.

In August of 2012, the programs receiving funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for HIV programs in Nicaragua, met with regional and local USAID representatives to formulate and define a National Prevention Strategy. The purpose of this strategy was to join efforts among implementing partners, avoid duplication, and ensure a better coverage of HIV prevention interventions in the country.



As a result of this strategy, the Pan American Social Marketing Organization (PASMO), implementing partner for the USAID Combination Prevention Program for HIV in Central America, was assigned the task of providing technical assistance and methodological coaching to all of the implementing partners and NGOs, in addition to those NGOs receiving funds from the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (hereinafter, "Global Fund"). By having this task assigned, it also implied that PASMO would no longer implement combination prevention interventions in the field and focus solely on capacity building and technical assistance to improve the quality of the interventions being conducted by the NGOs.



As of fiscal year 2013, PASMO conducted an assessment of the training and methodological needs of the participating NGOs and their staff. Subsequently, the NGOs were invited to participate in interactive Congresses in which the Program presented and shared the behavior change communication methodologies that had been developed for most at-risk populations in the region. After these events, each NGO selected and began to implement specific methodologies for the target populations, and PASMO initiated an in-depth coaching and quality assurance process that included accompaniment in the field.

During the first phase of this process, fourteen NGOs receiving USAID funds participated, and five months later, the Global Fund requested the inclusion of their eleven sub-recipient NGOs.

Jeydi Espino is an outreach worker at the Xilonem Women's Center of Estelí and one of the participants of the coaching process. She says, "The methodology we selected has helped improve our outreach with female sex works, because it is easy, practical and reflective of their context and reality". Additionally, Cristabella who is a transgender outreach worker at ADESENI says that the interactive methodologies designed by PASMO are more engaging for target groups and allow them to open up.

The National Prevention Strategy in Nicaragua has created a model that not only emphasizes quality but also promotes sustainability, as the NGOs will continue to receive accompaniment, materials, methodologies and methods that will allow them to more effectively reach most at-risk populations with key prevention interventions.

