



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

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*Report of Activities
2000*

A map of the African continent is shown, with the countries of West and Central Africa shaded in red. The rest of the continent is white with black outlines for country borders. The text 'Report of Activities 2000' is written in blue, italicized font across the red-shaded area.

UNAIDS ICT/WCA - English version, March 2001

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Rapport d'activités 2000

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Report of Activities 2000



World Bank

West African Initiative (WAI)

Contents

■ <i>List of acronyms</i>	4
■ <i>Introduction</i>	7
■ <i>Development of regional technical resources networks</i>	11
■ <i>Identification and promotion of regional best practices</i>	21
■ <i>Regional system of management and exchange of information and experiences</i>	23
■ <i>Strengthening regional partnership on AIDS</i>	31
■ <i>Management and co-ordination of the Inter-Country Team</i>	39
■ <i>Assistance to countries</i>	45
■ <i>Conclusion</i>	49
■ <i>Annex : UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa</i>	51

List of acronyms

AARN	African AIDS Research Network
AAS	African Anti-AIDS Society
ADF	African Development Forum
AFDB	African Development Bank
AFRICASO	African Network of AIDS Service Organisation
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome
APF	Francophone Parliamentary Assembly
ARV	Antiretrovirals
AUSTD	African Union on Sexually Transmitted Diseases
AUSTI	African Union on Sexually Transmitted Infections
AWCA	AIDS in West and Central Africa
BMS	Bristol Mayers Squibb
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CERPOD	Centre for Studies and Research on Population for Development
CICHD	Centre for International Co-operation in Health and Development
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CPA	Country Programme Adviser
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation
FHA	Family Health and AIDS Prevention
GIPA	Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV
GLIA	Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS
GRIA	Inter-Agency Regional Group
GTZ	German Technical Co-operation Agency
HCR	High Commission for Refugees
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICC	Inter-Country Co-ordination Committee
ICT/WCA	Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFPP	International Family Planning Programme
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Organisation for Migrants
IMS	Information Management System
IPAA	International Partnership against AIDS in Africa
ITSF	International Therapeutic Solidarity Fund
IUTRD	International Union for Treatment of Respiratory Diseases

MAU	Maghreb Arab Union
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NAP+	Network of Africa People Living with HIV
NARA	National AIDS Research Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
PAI	Pan-African Institute for Development
PLWHA	People Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
POC	Provision of Care
PSI	Population Service International
PSR	UNAIDS Policies, Strategies, and Research Department
ROWCA	HCR Regional Office for West and Central Africa
SPP	Strategic Planning Process
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SWAA	African Women's Association on AIDS
TRN	Technical Resources Network
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WAHO	West African Health Organisation
WAI	West African Initiative
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WHO/AFRO	World Health Organisation /Regional Office for Africa

Introduction

The main mission of the UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa (ICT/WCA) is to provide efficient support for the intensification of efforts in the prevention, care and alleviation of the impact of HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa.

To this effect, the Inter-Country Team :

- supports the initiatives and existing inter-country networks by organising mechanisms for exchange, collaboration and provision of support to countries ;
- mobilises regional technical support and resources in favour of priority and innovative actions.

The work plan for the period 2000-2001 covers eight major programme areas, namely :

- Regional and sub-regional partnership ;
- Information management and exchange of experiences ;
- Networks for mobilising technical resources ;
- Support and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission ;
- Migration, mobility and refugees ;
- Vulnerable populations, particularly young people and women ;
- Support to national, local and community responses ;
- Management and co-ordination of the Team.

These areas were selected according to the needs expressed by countries of the region, priority areas of interest to the UNAIDS Secretariat for the 2000-2001 biennium, and results of activities carried out by the Team in 1998-1999.

According to the components of the joint programme budget of the UNAIDS Secretariat for 2000-2001, the eight areas of activity served as the basis for programming the work of the Team as follows :

Capacity building and support at regional/inter-country level

Area of activity : Regional and sub-regional partnership

Objective : To consolidate regional and sub-regional partnership in the priority sectors of activity and to mobilise resources from the United Nations and other partners in the framework of the enhanced HIV/AIDS control.

Advocacy, public information and resource mobilisation

Area of activity : Information management and exchange of experiences

Objective : To improve the flow of information, and enhance the exchange of experiences in the priority areas of the Inter-Country Team through the development of an Information Management System (IMS) and documentation of Best Practices.

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Capacity building and support at regional/inter-country level

Area of activity : Technical resources networks

Objective : To strengthen the capacities of resource persons and institutions through the development of technical resources networks (TRNs) in the priority areas for West and Central Africa.

4

Strengthening the capacities of NGOs and greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS

Area of activity : Care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

Objective : To encourage greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in national control plans and to ensure better access to care and efficient prevention of mother-to-child transmission in West and Central Africa.

5

Protection and support to vulnerable populations

Area of activity : Migration, mobility and refugees

Objective : To develop intervention strategies aimed at reducing vulnerability and providing care and support for mobile populations (migrants, truck drivers, refugees and internally displaced people) in West and Central Africa.

6

Protection and support to vulnerable populations, particularly young people and women

Area of activity : Vulnerable populations, particularly young people and women

Objective : To improve access and coverage in prevention and care services to vulnerable populations, particularly young people, drug users, sex workers and their clients in West and Central Africa.

7

Capacity building and support at national level

Area of activity : Support to national, local and community responses

Objective : To strengthen national, local and community responses through strategic planning and development of community approaches in West and Central Africa.

8

Management and coordination

Area of activity : Administration, management and co-ordination

Objective : To ensure the management and co-ordination of the Inter-Country Team

As a continuation of actions initiated during the previous biennium, the 2000-2001 work plan is also an expression of the dynamic role played by the Inter-Country Team in the region, in terms of both the nature of the services required and the various factors to be taken into account in the planning of the response to HIV/AIDS. To meet the different needs, the Team pays particular attention to the development of partnerships, the management of the flow of information and the strengthening of technical capacities.

The present report of activities gives account of the implementation of the work plan for the first year of the 2000-2001 biennium. It describes the activities carried out in the context of UNAIDS action in West and Central Africa since 1996 in the spirit of continuity, of consolidation of the achievements and introduction of new activities aimed at an efficient, co-ordinated and adapted response in the region. It also highlights the most pertinent products obtained in the year 2000.

The support received from the regional partners, UNAIDS Theme Groups, Country Programme Advisers and UNAIDS Focal Points, Networks of Non-Governmental Organisations, Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS, regional institutions and all the other partners was of immense help. The permanent consultation and collaboration, co-ordination and harmonisation of our activities contributed to the implementation of the major part of planned activities. All this could not have been possible without the moral support and understanding of UNAIDS, particularly of the Executive Director, during the periods of socio-political crisis experienced by Côte d'Ivoire in 2000.

The Inter-Country Team wishes to thank all those who gave us their time, their support and their solidarity throughout the year 2000.



Development of regional technical resources networks for the intensification of national responses to the epidemic

Technical resources networks of UNAIDS Inter-Country Team and operational Secretariats

- *Migration* : Paul Corr ea " West Africa " Training Centre, Cheik Anta Diop University, Senegal
- *Strategic planning* : Pan-African Institute for Development (PAI), Burkina Faso
- *Care of People Living with HIV/AIDS* : Network of specialists and UNAIDS/WAHO Technical Working Group on ARVs, Fann Hospital, Senegal
- *Network of journalists and press correspondents* : Pan-African News Agency (PANA), Senegal
- *Community responses* : ENDA Sant  and Salvation Army

Significant products

- **Mobility** : With the objective to reduce risks associated with migration of populations, the extension, intensification and transition to regional scale on all migration routes linking the following five poles are being implemented. The inter-country programmes will attain their cruising speed in 2001 :
 - West african countries : Burkina Faso - C te d'Ivoire - Mali - Niger - Senegal
 - Gulf of Guinea coastal countries : Benin - C te d'Ivoire - Ghana - Nigeria - Togo
 - Lake Chad Basin : CAR - Cameroon - Chad - Niger - Nigeria
 - Congo River Basin : CAR - Congo - DR Congo
 - Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA) : Burundi - DRC - Kenya - Tanzania - Rwanda - Uganda
- **Strategic planning** : Eleven (11) countries received technical and financial support from the Inter-Country Team.

Migration and HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa*

Population movements (migration, sex work, mobility due to socio-economic instabilities,...) in West and Central Africa constitute one of the factors accounting for the spread of the epidemic.

The Inter-Country Team has, from the very beginning, devoted a greater part of its activities on this issue. The research-action projects carried out in five West African countries (Burkina Faso, C te d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Senegal) have helped to finalize a migration and HIV/AIDS situational analysis guide and to propose an action plan for reducing the vulnerability of mobile people to HIV/AIDS.

A technical resources network was established to support the strengthening of prevention and care activities along the main inter-country highways of West Africa and its extension to the secondary road network. In 2000, the network helped to :

**Activity supported by the World Bank under the West african Initiative (WAI)*

- analyse the situation along the following new routes : Abidjan-Lagos main road, and Lake Chad and River Congo basins ;
- support the development of a plan of action aimed at linking all the highways of West and Central Africa up to the countries of the Great Lakes through three buffer countries of the three regions : Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria et DR Congo.

Migration and HIV/AIDS : Partnership for action

As part of the activities of the network, a workshop on migration and HIV/AIDS was organised from 29 May to 1 June 2000 in Bamako, Mali. It brought together 45 participants representing governments, NGOs and national and international associations, development partners and research institutions. The workshop offered the participants the opportunity to share experiences, to identify the mechanisms of analysis and collaboration between countries in the sub-region, and to enhance the responses to HIV/AIDS in these countries.

The recommendations of this workshop mainly concerned the exchange of information and experiences, the evaluation and extension of on-going actions, and an increased commitment on the part of governments, communities and partners for an efficient approach to AIDS control in the context of migration/mobility.

Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) - Lagos (Nigeria) main road

The Inter-Country Team organised from 24 to 25 July 2000 in Accra, Ghana, a workshop on the development of an action plan on migration and HIV/AIDS along the coastal road linking Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria.

The workshop, organised in partnership with Africare, the World Bank, Care International, GTZ, PSI, and FHA/USAID, enabled the participants to discuss the results of the situational analysis concerning the West African coastal road linking Abidjan to Lagos; to identify priority interventions, actors and support structures including those of surrounding villages; and to develop a joint action plan on migration and HIV/AIDS involving all the partners. It was recommended that a technical group on migration and HIV/AIDS be set up in each country and that an inter-country project on curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS along the Abidjan to Lagos West African coastal road be developed. This project, estimated to cost USD 1 million, would receive administrative and technical support from the Inter-Country Team. The UNAIDS would contribute about USD 250,000 on the basis of USD 50,000 per country.

Migration/mobility in the Lake Chad and River Congo basins

In order to combine the initiatives of West Africa, on the one hand and those of countries of the Great Lakes on the other, for an adapted and efficient response in West and Central Africa in the context of migration, the Inter-Country Team carried out a situational analysis on mobility of people along the main roads of countries of the Lake Chad basin (CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria) and on the Congo-Oubangui Chari (CAR, Congo, DR Congo) waterways. This analysis underscored the importance of mobility, the major factors of vulnerability and on-going responses.

An action plan would be proposed to the different partners and to all the countries mobilized for its implementation. A technical and political working framework will be adopted during the meeting in February 2001 to ensure the success of the programme.

Enhancing the initiatives of countries of the Great Lakes on AIDS

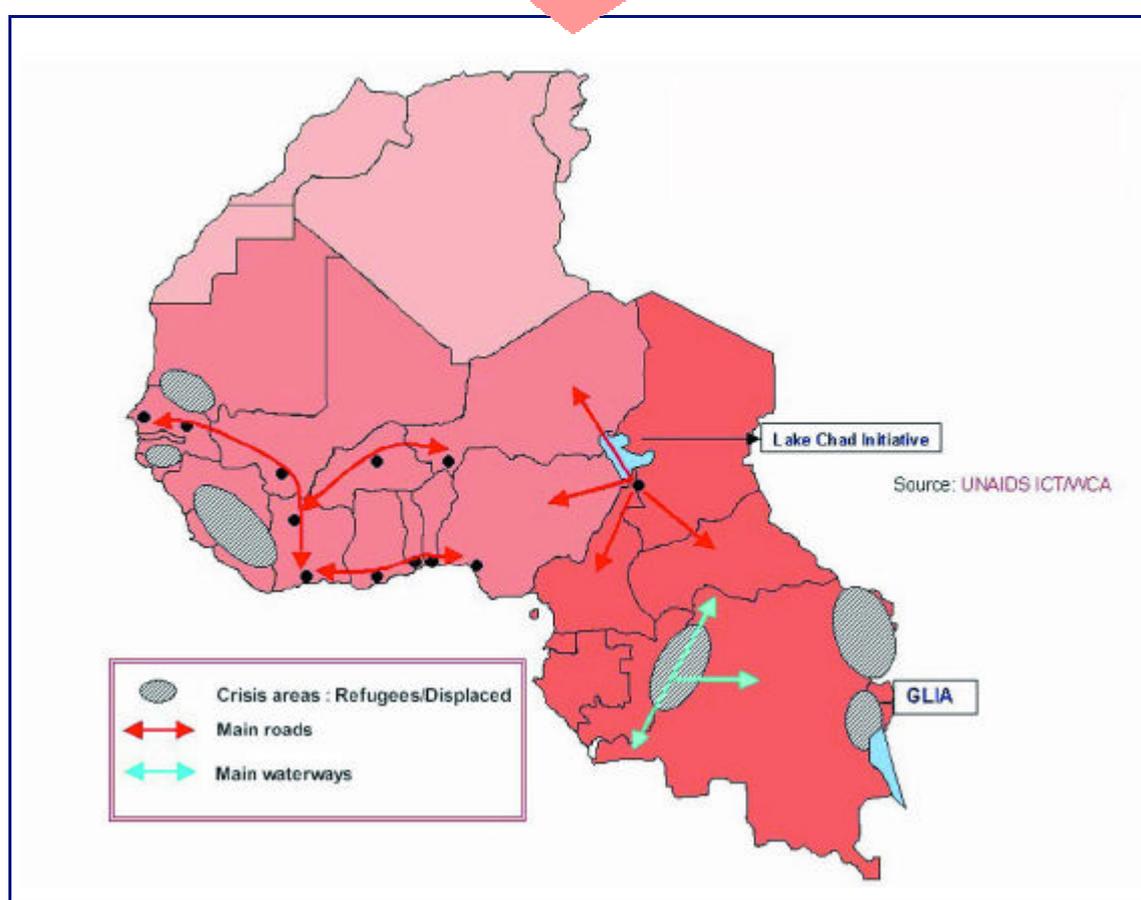
The Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA) which was launched in April 1999, held in

October 2000 two meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, with a view to enhancing its action.

The first was a workshop for harmonising the HIV/AIDS projects developed along the main roads of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda which helped to identify the different joint and complementary interventions. The strategies and responsibilities of the different implementation agencies were harmonised.

The second meeting was devoted to the review of the structure of the GLIA and the development of an operational framework. The development of a short-term action plan should facilitate the relaunching of the activities of the Initiative.

Fig.1 - inter-country programmes on mobility and emergency areas



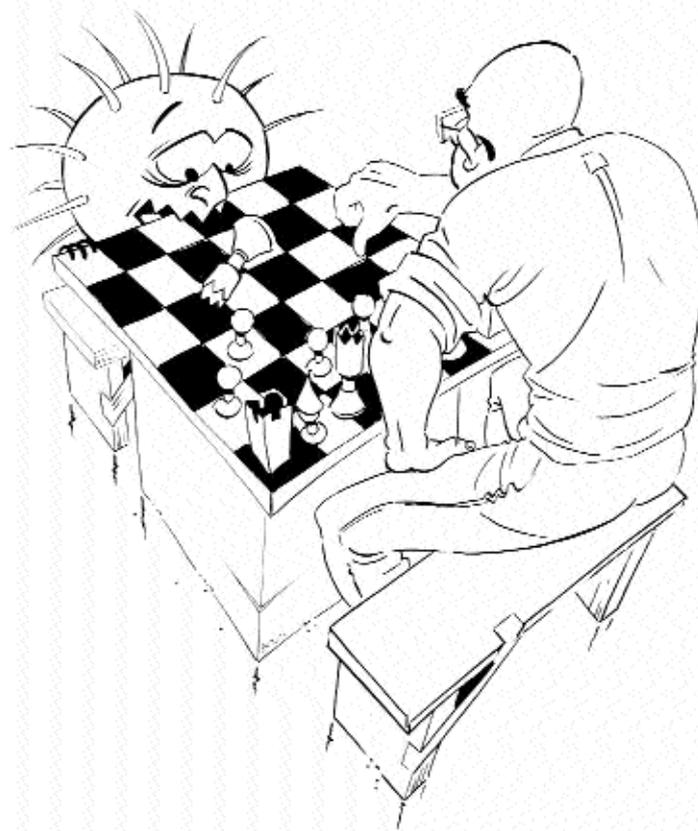
Strategic Planning and Local Responses

The technical resources network on strategic planning created by the Inter-Country Team in April 1999 has been strengthened in its role of reflection and support to countries. The Pan-African Institute for Development (PAI), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, continued to serve as the secretariat of the network.

An annual meeting was held from 30 July to 04 August 2000 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. New technical resources co-opted as facilitators or co-ordinators of the strategic planning process in the countries, national beneficiaries (co-ordinators of National AIDS

Control Programmes (NACP), were associated with this meeting which focused on the following objectives :

- to review the different experiences ;
- to define the practical stages required to bring the implementation and extension of the national response to scale ;
- to examine ways of integrating the different complementary approaches ;
- to participate in the search for funding for activities of the network.



Capacity Building in strategic planning and management of NGO community projects

A training workshop on capacity building in strategic planning and management of community projects was organised from 15 to 20 October 2000 in Lome, Togo. It brought together officials and representatives of NGOs and community associations on AIDS from 13 countries in North and West Africa. The training resulted in the constitution of a pool of national trainers who will organise, with the support of the Inter-Country Team and the strategic planning network, national training courses with the objective to master the appropriation of the strategic planning process at the national level in order to facilitate the integration of NGO activities into the national framework ; to strengthen the resource mobilisation capacities of the associations ; and to manage community-based projects and networking.

Community and local responses in West and Central Africa

In partnership with the Salvation Army and ENDA Santé, the inter-country project on strengthening community responses to HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa pursued and developed its activities in four countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal.

This project facilitated the creation of a technical resources network which contributes to

capacity building among grassroots organisations by supporting community HIV/AIDS prevention and care initiative based on local needs. These experiences are being documented as best practices in the area of community responses.

Members of this network participated in the meeting on local responses held in Mwanza, Tanzania, from 05 to 07 June 2000. The meeting enabled the participants, drawn from 20 countries in West, Central and Southern Africa, to learn more on Tanzania's experience in the area of local responses.

The Mwanza meeting was followed by the African Conference on Participation and HIV/AIDS control held from 12 to 16 June 2000. This discussion forum offered decision-makers and practitioners from African countries, and international and academic institutions, the opportunity to exchange their experiences and identify the practical modalities for extending community participation in HIV/AIDS control.

Sex Work in the Context of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic*

A workshop on the strengthening of situation analysis capacities in the context of sex work in West and Central Africa was organised from 21 to 24 March 2000 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The objectives of the workshop were to :

- review experiences of situation analysis in different contexts of sex work in West and Central Africa ;
- explore the best methods for reaching and understanding the different contexts of sex work in the sub-region ;
- reach a consensus on an appropriate framework for carrying out situation analyses of sex work in the sub-region ;
- develop a regional technical network for collaboration to support the implementation of situation analyses and programmes in the area of sex work in a concerted and co-ordinated manner.



*Activity supported by the World Bank under the West African Initiative (WAI)

Useful lessons were learnt from the review of experiences on the various approaches used in the countries while the best methods for reaching the different types of populations in the context of sex work were identified. The situational analysis guide proposed by the Inter-Country Team was adopted. A technical resources network in support of the development of situation analysis capacities and implementation of programmes was also put in place.

Prevention and Care of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Following a workshop on care for people living with HIV in West and Central Africa held from 30 June to 3 July in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Inter-Country Team advocated for the creation of a network comprising regional competencies and experts for developing in each country national response capacities in the area of care. The Advisory group set up during this meeting had identified the technical support needed in the countries for improving the provision of care, and indicated the type of competencies required for networking in order to support the countries and define the mandate, terms of reference, and organisational framework of this support network.

In 2000, the Inter-Country Team, in collaboration with the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), supported the creation of a group of technical resources comprising ARVs prescribers and a technical working group on access to ARVs.

Greater accessibility to ARVs in West and Central Africa

- Draft policy on prevention and management of HIV/AIDS for staff of World Bank missions and the United Nations system in West and Central Africa

The draft policy was prepared in April 2000 in collaboration with the World Bank. Its main objective was the adoption of a policy on human resources in the area of HIV/AIDS at the work place for United Nations staff with the participation of a network of ARVs prescribers. In this regard, the inventory of services and technical resources available in West and Central Africa was prepared while a conceptual framework for prevention and access to care and treatment of HIV/AIDS was proposed for staff of the United Nations system and their families, particularly, those of the World Bank, in West and Central Africa.

- UNAIDS - West African Health Organisation Technical Working Group

In the framework of the initiative on access to ARVs, the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) and the Inter-Country Team set up a technical working group comprising clinical, biological and pharmaceutical experts and the pharmaceutical industry to study the modalities and mechanisms for ensuring greater accessibility to ARVs in West and Central Africa. The conclusions of the meeting, which was held on 21 and 22 September 2000, were passed on to the Ministries of Health of Mali and Congo, members of the contact Group.

- Second African Workshop on ARVs, Dakar, Senegal, 14 - 15 October 2000

This meeting, which was organised by the AAS, BMS, AUSTI, NARA, with the collaboration of UNAIDS, enabled the different African actors, particularly, members of the technical network of ARVs specialists of West and Central Africa and the UNAIDS - WAHO on ARVs to exchange views and share their experiences, review the results obtained in the (clinical and biological) management of ARVs treatments and determine the modalities for using these drugs, which are still inaccessible to the majority of Africans.

Integration of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis into the continuum of care

The Inter-Country Team contributed to a meeting from 2 to 6 May 2000 in Pretoria, South Africa, for information and training of Anglophone consultants on the implementation of the programme for integrating HIV/AIDS/TB into the continuum of care, which was organised by the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO). The main recommendations of the meeting were : the updating the WHO guide for managing tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and the need to organise a similar workshop for Francophone countries.

Within the same framework, the Inter-Country Team facilitated the 13th conference of the African region of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases in Conakry, Guinea, from 24 to 27 May 2000. The conference, which was devoted to the theme " Promoting respiratory health in Africa ", decided to integrate HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis into the continuum of care proposed by WHO/AFRO.

The Inter-Country Team, in consultation with WHO/AFRO will finalise in 2001 the establishment of a **technical working group** on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis for West and Central Africa. The main objectives of this group will be to :

- promote the exchange of experiences and information ;
- ensure the dissemination of the WHO strategy among the members and examine with the countries the best adapted alternatives for each of them ;
- provide technical and pedagogical support to countries ;
- monitor and evaluate the technical support and situation of countries ;

Prevention of mother - to - child transmission of HIV " WHO Technical Consultation "

The Inter-Country Team participated in a technical consultation meeting on the latest developments in the field of PMTCT, which was held in Geneva from 11 to 13 October. The following points were adopted by the meeting :

- Large scale use of Nevirapine (NVP) to reduce MTCT ;
- Confirmation of the directives on breast feeding of infants born to mothers infected by HIV, published in 1998 by WHO and UNAIDS ;
- Integration of PMTCT of HIV into the minimum package routine of care to be given to women and children.

New development in the area of MTCT and exchange of experiences among countries

The meetings organised in the form of video conference (Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Senegal : 2 October 2000 ; Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa : 14 November 2000), enabled the participants not only to discover the United Nations global prospects on MTCT and the new developments in this area but also to share the experiences of the different countries.

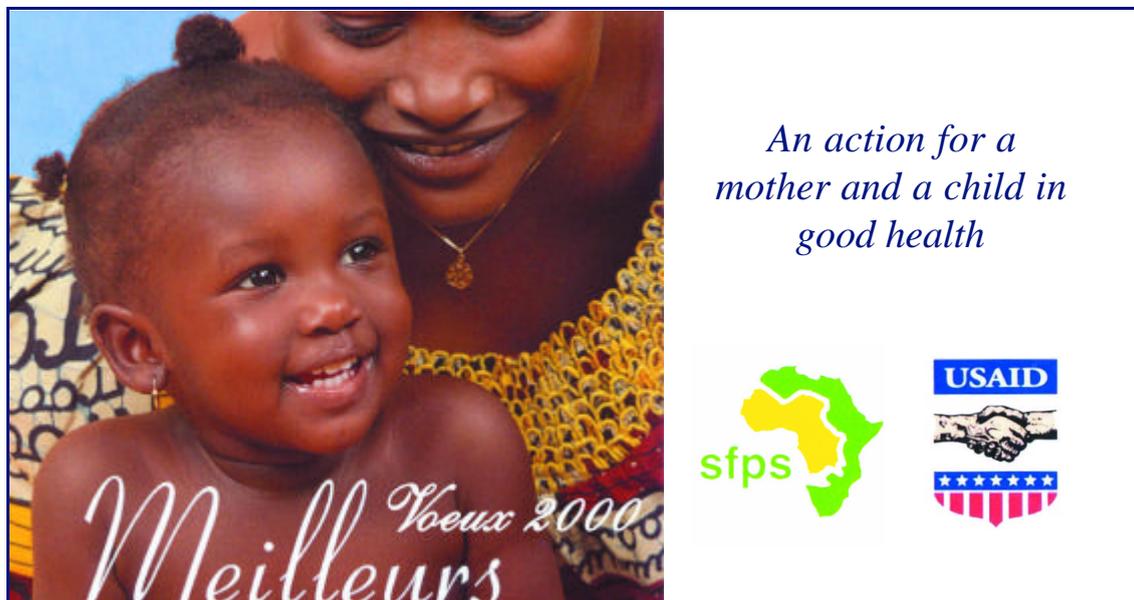
Establishment of the Regional Interagency Group (GRIA) on PMTCT in West and Central Africa



As part of the efforts to intensify partnership against AIDS in West and Central Africa, and more specifically under the global inter-agency initiative for reducing mother - to - child transmission (MTCT) of HIV, the Inter-Country Team organised on 19 December 2000 a meeting with partners of the United Nations Organisation (WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, World Bank, AfDB) and NGOs and regional institutions for research, co-operation and action (Muraz Centre, IRD, ITSF, RETRO-CI, FHA/WCA, the network of women living with HIV, SWAA).

During this meeting, the following points were retained :

- The principle of GRIA (Groupe Régional Inter-Agence) was accepted by all the participants with the following working modalities : electronic information network, tele-conferencing, video-conferencing and meetings ;
- The secretariat of the group was entrusted to UNAIDS ICT/WCA ;
- The chairmanship was entrusted to UNICEF for the year 2001 ;
- A work plan for the first quarter of the year 2001 was drawn up.



UNAIDS/WHO - WAHO Committee of Experts

This committee of experts chaired by the Inter-Country Team, met in Bamako on 17 November 2000, to prepare a resolution for the Fourth General Assembly of the Ministers of Health of the Economic Community of West African States. At the end of the meeting, the Ministers adopted the African Strategy on an HIV vaccine and agreed to submit their decisions on the specific measures to the summit of ECOWAS Heads of State.



Identification and promotion of regional best practices in the strengthening of national strategies

Health of Young People in West and Central Africa

As recommended by the Regional Meeting on the Health of Young People in West and Central Africa, which was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 13 November 1998, the Inter-Country Team, in collaboration with the WHO, UNICEF and USAID, contributed to the publication of the document entitled "Health of Young People, from reflection to concrete action ? "

Local Responses in the Gaoua District (Burkina Faso)

Within the framework of UNAIDS Collection of Best Practices, the experience of the Gaoua district in Burkina Faso on the local responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic is being documented in collaboration with the Local Responses Unit of UNAIDS, Geneva. This case study will help to present :

- a model of decentralised, integrated and multisectoral planning of HIV/AIDS control actions centred on, and developed by the individual and the community ;
- the possible impact of responses that are developed at a local level on the reforms of the health system.

Ambulatory Treatment in West and Central Africa

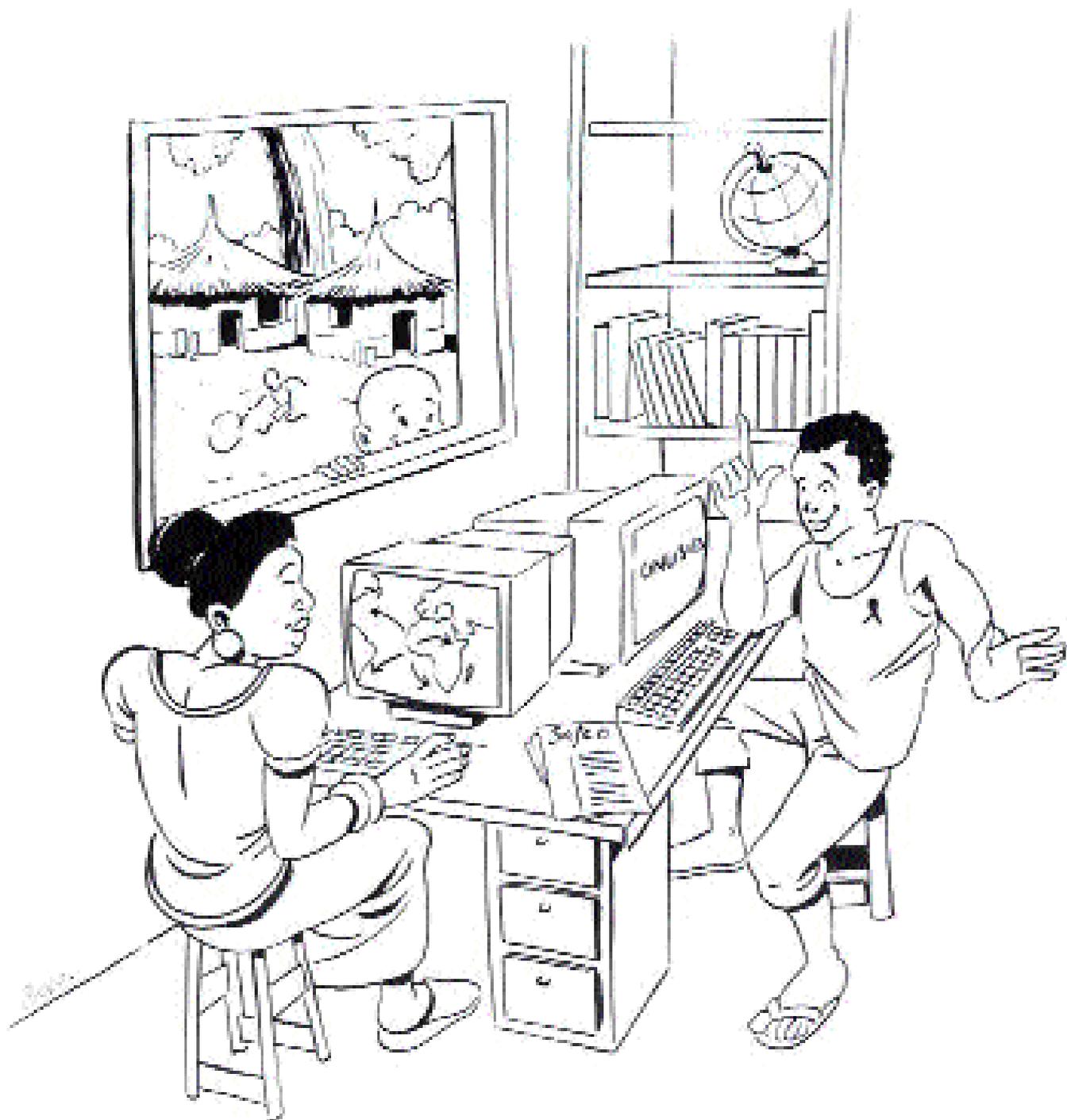
The experiences of ambulatory, medical and psychosocial care of people living with HIV/AIDS, associating voluntary and anonymous testing, in four countries (Cameroon, Congo, Mali and Senegal) are being documented in the Best Practice Collections.

Strategic Planning : Multisectoral approaches for expanding local responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic

The Inter-Country Team initiated the development of a case study on the implementation of the strategic plan at sectoral and district levels in Burkina Faso. The study concerns microplanning in sex work, prison environment and army contingent circles, in enterprises and along main roads.

The Yérélon Initiative : Understanding and reaching sex workers in Bobo Dioulasso

The Inter-Country Team facilitated and contributed to the realisation of a study aimed at identifying mechanisms for understanding and reaching sex workers in Bobo Dioulasso. This socio-anthropological study conducted by Centre Muraz will be published in 2001.



Establishment of a regional system of management and exchange of information and experiences

Significant products :

- ***Electronic forum for discussion and information exchange: SAFCO - "AIDS in West and Central Africa "***
Date launched : 9 March 2000, 1110 members, 56 % of whom are based in West and Central Africa, 1680 messages received of which 221 were published
- ***Electronic information exchange network on Migration in West and Central Africa "Migration-WCA"***
Date launched : 9 June 2000, 90 members, 25 messages published
- ***Electronic information exchange network of the National AIDS Control Programme "NACP-WAC"***
Date launched : 23 June 2000, 21 NACPs out of 29, 88 members, 24 messages published
- ***Electronic information exchange network of strategic planning technical resources in West and Central Africa "SPP-WCA"***
Date launched : 8 September 2000, 79 members, 13 messages published
- ***Network of partners against AIDS in West and Central Africa "Partner-WCA"***
Date launched : 2 October 2000, 47 members, 8 messages published
- ***Web site : UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central***
Date launched : 1st September 2000 <http://www.onusida-aoc.org> with links on the homepages of the following sites : www.mbolo.com, www.aviso.ci, www.panapress.com, www.globeaccess.net
- ***Quarterly Bulletin of the UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa : SAFCO*** - Number 01 January - March 2001, 7000 copies, including 5000 in French and 2000 in English
- ***Publications*** : production of 11 publications with 8 of them both in English and in French

Electronic Discussion and Information Exchange Forum

SAFCO (AIDS in West and Central Africa)

Date launched : 9 March 2000

SAFCO is a UNAIDS initiative launched in partnership with the German Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ), the SIDA 2 Project of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), ENDA Santé, the HIV and Development Regional Project of UNDP, UNFPA and Fondation du Présent. SAFCO is a trans-sectoral and inter-community public forum where "grassroots" contributions and those of national and international institutions facilitate and stimulate informed and updated actions. SAFCO has 1110 members with 56% of them based in West and Central Africa. A total of 1680 messages were

received on SAFCO and 221 published. Topics discussed on SAFCO include : access to care and treatment; community responses; partnerships and political mobilisation; local and national responses ; mobile populations and migrants ; prevention of mother-to-child transmission; voluntary testing and counselling ; and the situation of sex work.

*Closed electronic networks **

Electronic information exchange network on Migration in West and Central Africa : Migration-WCA

Date launched : 9 June 2000

The electronic network for information exchange on migration in West and Central Africa, "a closed electronic network", was launched by the UNAIDS Inter-Country Team with the objectives : to enhance regular exchange of information and experiences among actors of the response to HIV/AIDS ; to support advocacy; and to stimulate open debate. The network has so far 90 members drawn from the following countries : Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Switzerland, Chad, Togo and USA. The messages published related to programmes on mobile populations while the discussion topics focused on sex work along the main migratory routes, experiences of migrants in Amsterdam and prevention along the highways.

Training of facilitators of the Migration-WCA network :

A training workshop for technical facilitators of the Migration-WCA network in the use of new technologies was held from 20 to 22 September in Dakar, Senegal. The participants were initiated to the use of computers, the Internet and electronic mail, to surfing on the web and using various search engines, to electronic forum and its use, to the role of technical facilitators and their responsibilities.

Electronic information exchange network of National AIDS Control Programmes in West and Central Africa : NACP-WCA

Date launched : 23 June 2000

The NACP-WCA electronic network is a closed electronic network for the exchange of information among national programmes of West and Central Africa. Its specific objectives are : to enhance collaboration between NACPs; to mobilise technical resources available in the sub-region ; and to develop partnership at the sub-regional level based on issues of common concern. The network comprises currently 21 NACPs out of the 29 covered by the ICT/WCA. To enhance participation and exchanges, members of the network of ARV specialists were integrated into the network of NACPs, bringing the current membership to 88. 24 messages were published on the following topics : situation of AIDS in Africa, international partnership, recommendations on condom use, announcements and minutes of meetings on strategic planning, prevention of HIV transmission by BAE, the West African Initiative, national responses to the epidemic and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Electronic information exchange network of Strategic Planning Technical Resources in West and Central Africa : SPP-WCA

Date launched : 8 September 2000

This forum is intended for the technical resources network on strategic planning for a national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The forum currently has 79 members. Contrary to other forums, the moderation of SPP-WCA will be entrusted to the Pan-African Institute for Development (PAI, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso) after the training of a moderator from this institution. Notwithstanding this decentralisation, the network will continue to receive technical support from the UNAIDS Inter-country Team for West and Central Africa.

Electronic information exchange network for Partners of the response to the epidemic in West and Central Africa

Date launched : 2 October 2000

This initiative resulted from the recommendations of the co-ordination meeting organised in May 2000 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, by the UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa and its partners to exchange information and experiences on the response to the epidemic. The information exchange network contributed to the enhancement of regional and sub-regional partnership in the priority areas of action and the mobilisation of resources from UNAIDS co-sponsors, other agencies of the United Nations system and partners. Partner-WCA currently has 47 members representing various organisations.

Web site of the Inter-Country Team

<http://www.onusida-aoc.org>

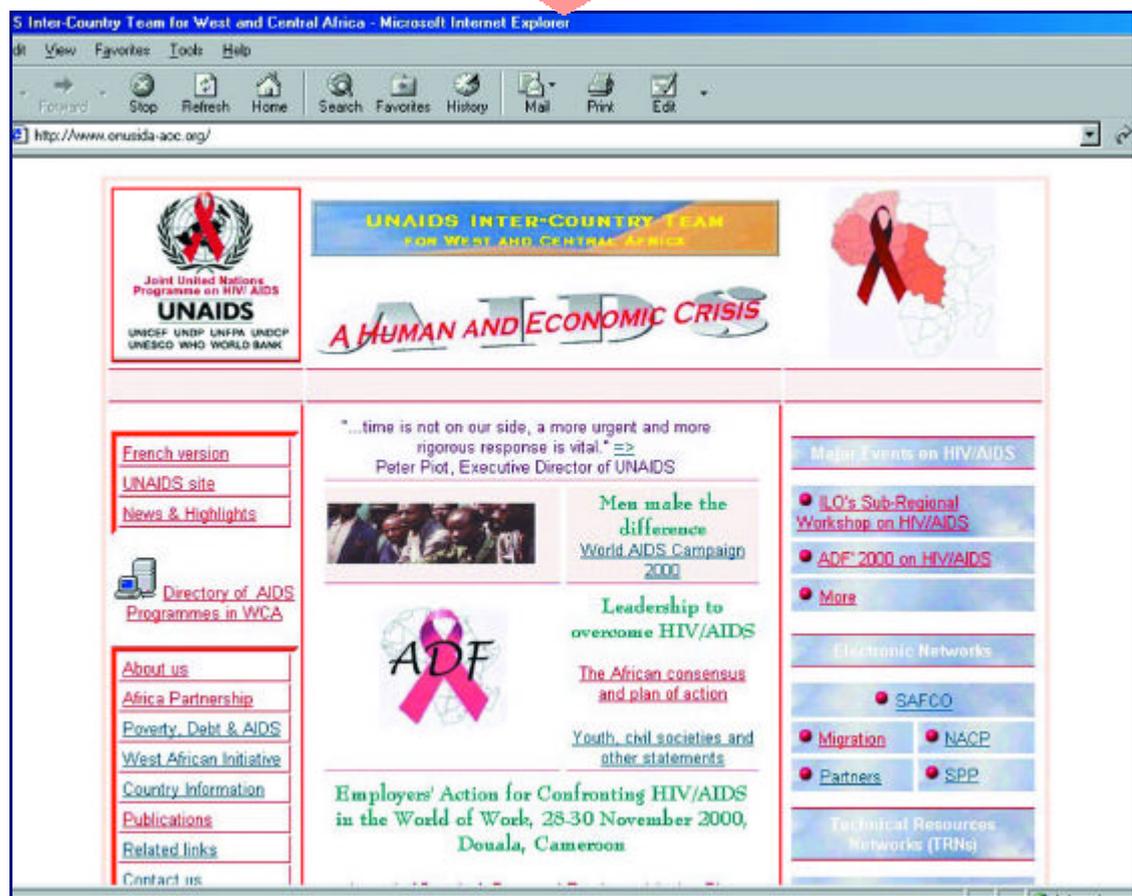
Date launched : 1st September 2000

The UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa has now a web site for the purpose of ensuring the visibility of its actions while serving as a useful database for actors involved in the response to the epidemic and the general public. The site, available in French and English, has the following sections :

- Major events on HIV/AIDS
- Electronic exchange networks
- Technical resource networks
- Publications of the Inter-Country Team
- Missions and programme components of the Inter-Country Team
- Country information
- Link to the web site of the UNAIDS Secretariat

Meeting of OAU Ministers of Health, May 2000

A web page was created on the occasion of this important meeting.



XIIth ICASA : the Inter-Country Team published on its web site information on the forthcoming of the Twelfth International Conference on AIDS and Sexually-Transmitted Diseases in Africa (ICASA), which will be held from 9-13 December 2001 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Operation Red Ribbon

Concept : To solicit the support of private operators with Web portals to facilitate access to the web site of the Inter-Country Team by a greater number of African Internet users.

During the period of 20 November to 20 December (or beyond), the partners of this operation were requested to put online a banner or an interactive trailer inviting their clients to visit the site of the Inter-Country Team <http://www.onusida-aoc.org>.

Recommended message : "X supports the global AIDS campaign : men make the difference ", for further information, click here <http://www.onusida-aoc.org/>.

Results : 9 Web portals (national and international) took part in the initiative in various forms.

- www.africaonline.com <<http://www.africaonline.com>>
- www.africaonline.co.ci <<http://www.africaonline.co.ci>>
- www.aviso.ci <<http://www.aviso.ci>>
- www.globeaccess.net <<http://www.globeaccess.net>>
- www.mbolo.com <<http://www.mbolo.com>>

www.panapress.com <<http://www.panapress.com>>
 www.panos.sn <<http://www.panos.sn>> (trailer)
 www.rfi.fr <<http://www.rfi.fr>> (quoted in an article)
 www.bbc.co.uk <<http://www.bbc.co.uk>> (quoted in an article)

Mailing List - Database

The Inter-Country Team conceived and established a "Mailing List" database, which will be used mainly for the distribution of publications and the compilation of technical resources. The database currently contains information on 250 institutions and human resources in West and Central Africa.

Quarterly Bulletin SAFCO

The UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa introduced a quarterly bulletin intended to review the activities and efforts made to the control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in West and Central Africa.

The first issue has been designed and 7000 copies (5000 in French and 2000 in English) will be published in January 2001. The editorial is signed by Dr. Ebrahim M. Samba, Regional Director of WHO/AFRO. This first issue contains the following items :

- International partnership on AIDS in Africa
- World AIDS campaign
- Technical documents
- Activities of co-sponsors and partners
- Activities of the Inter-Country Team
- Network of people living with HIV/AIDS

N° 01
January - March
2001

Safco
AIDS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Quarterly Bulletin of the UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa

CONTENTS

- ▶ **International Partnership against AIDS in Africa** page 2 to 5
- ▶ **World AIDS Campaign** page 6 to 7
- ▶ **Technical Papers**

"...time is not on our side, a more urgent and rigorous response is vital..."
Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS

Welcome to SAFCO !

The UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa (ICT/WCA) is launching an instrument for dialogue and free expression called "SAFCO".

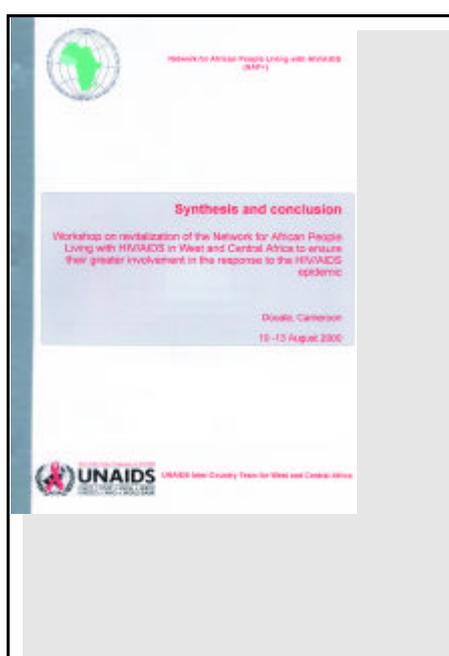
This quarterly information bulletin will carry out a review of the activities and efforts undertaken in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in West and Central Africa. It is a forum of reflection for readers, that should facilitate permanent dialogue around this vital issue.

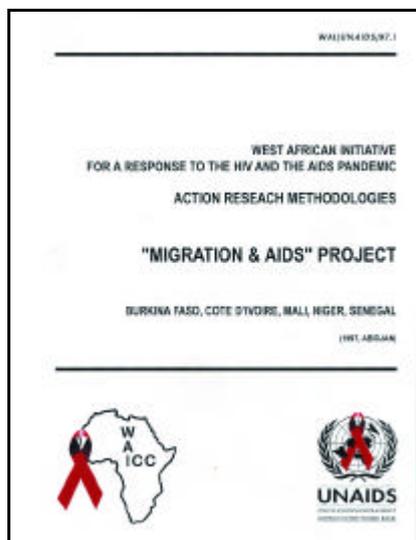
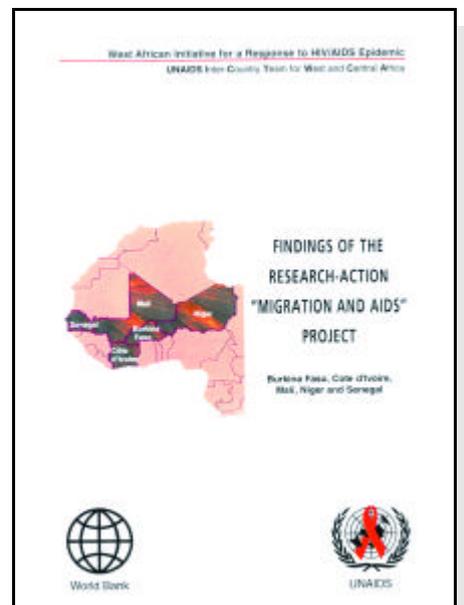
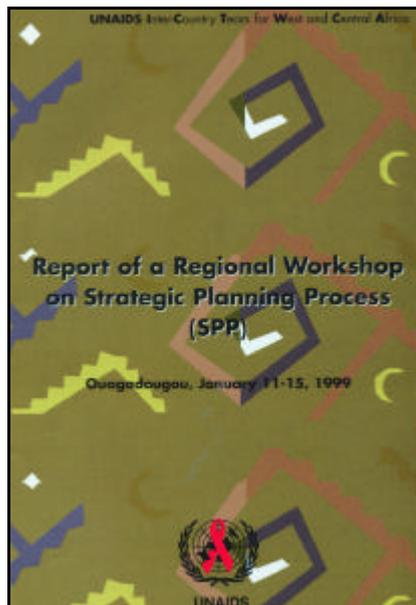
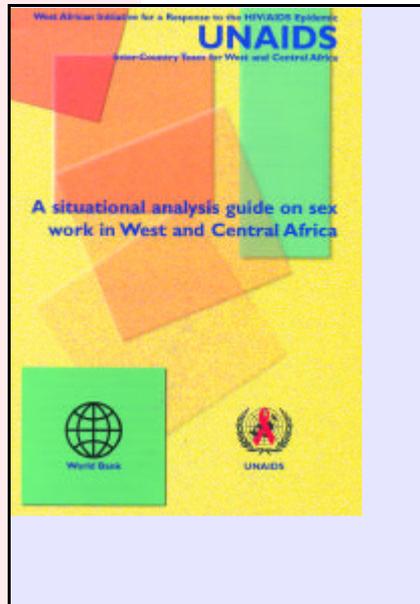
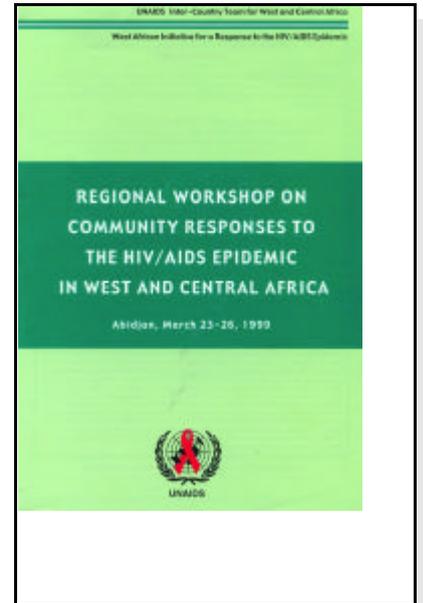
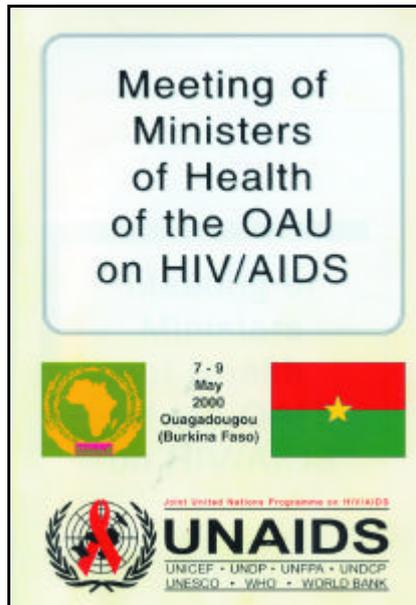
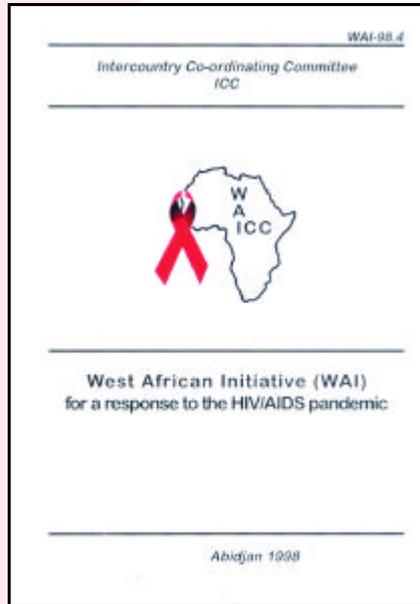
Publications

The following documents were published by the Inter-Country Team from January to December 2000.

E = English, F = French

- Aide-memoire for use by technical resources on strategic planning, December 2000 (F)
- A situational analysis guide on sex work in West Africa and Central Africa (E/F)
- Regional workshop on community responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in West and Central Africa, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 23-26 March 1999 (E/F)
- Report of the meeting of Ministers of Health of the OAU on HIV/AIDS, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 7-9 May 2000 (E/F)
- Report of the regional consultation workshop on caring for people living with HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 30 June - 3 July 1999 (F)
- Report on the workshop of the International Alliance of Religious Leaders for a response to HIV/AIDS in Africa, Dakar, Senegal, 2-4 June 1999 (F)
- Report of the regional workshop on migration and HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa, Bamako, Mali, 29 May - 01 June 2000 (E/F)
- Report of a regional workshop on strategic planning process (SPP), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 11-15 June 1999 (E/F)
- Report and conclusion of technical resources meeting on strategic planning : optimisation of strategic planning processes for a national response to HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 30 July - 04 August 2000 (E/F)
- Results of the " Migration and AIDS " research - action Project, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Senegal (E/F)
- Synthesis and conclusion of a workshop on the revitalisation of the African Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa to ensure their greater involvement in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Douala, Cameroon, 10 -13 August 2000 (E/F).







Strengthening of regional partnership on AIDS

Main Products :

- *Collaboration agreement and 2001 joint work plan* : CICHD, PANA, NAP+
- *Collaboration agreement being finalised* : AfDB, GTZ, UNHCR, FHA/USAID
- *Joint work plan 2001* : APF, ILO, African Confederation of Employers, UNICEF/WCARO
- *Advocacy and strengthening of partnership* : Theme Groups, National AIDS Control Programmes (NACP), Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

Development of Partnerships

Regional co-ordination

A regional co-ordination meeting was held on 10 May 2000 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Apart from the UNAIDS co-sponsors (UNICEF, WHO/AFRO, UNDP, UNFPA), the meeting was also attended by other agencies of the United Nation's system (FAO and WFP), and international partners (IFPP, AfDB, FHA/USAID, GTZ, Canada, the Netherlands and French Co-operation Agency). The rest of the participants were drawn from regional institutions (CERPOD, UEMOA), networks of NGOs and Associations of people living with HIV (AFRICASO, NAP+, Network of African Women Living with HIV) and AUSTD.

Objectives :

- to enhance the regional and sub-regional partnership in the priority areas of action ;
- to mobilise resources from UNAIDS co-sponsors, other agencies of the United Nations system and partners in the enhanced response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Recommendations :

- to encourage and promote interaction between the agencies and programmes ;
- to harmonise and co-ordinate the interventions at the regional level.

This meeting helped to enhance the regional partnership in the priority areas of action and resource mobilisation in West and Central Africa.

Network for African People Living with HIV (NAP+)*

In the framework of the revitalisation of NAP+ activities in West and Central Africa, a workshop was organised in Douala, Cameroon from 10 to 13 August 2000. The workshop, with a main objective to contribute to the strengthening of the NAP+ of West and Central Africa, helped to :

- identify the main areas of intervention of organisations and associations of PLWHA in NACPs ;

**Activity supported by the World Bank under the West african Initiative (WAI)*

- identify areas of co-operation between organisations and associations of PLWHA in West and Central Africa ;
- improve the mechanisms for co-ordination between organisations and associations of PLWHA in West and Central Africa ;
- develop a NAP+ action plan for West and Central Africa.

At the end of the workshop, which was attended by about thirty participants from 13 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Togo), NAP+ and UNAIDS signed a collaboration agreement aimed mainly at strengthening the capacities of NAP+, supporting advocacy activities of the Network and enhancing the exchange of information and experiences within NAP+ and among the countries.

Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa

On the occasion of the Medical Science Days organised in Libreville, Gabon, from 23 to 26 May 2000, the Inter-Country Team sensitised the wife of the Gabonese Head of State on the situation of women infected in Central Africa in particular and the support she could provide to the Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa through the action of Wives of Heads of State of the region.

African Development Bank (AfDB)

The Inter-Country Team participated in the consultative workshop on the AfDB's strategic plan for operations in member countries of the region in the context of AIDS control, held from 16 to 18 April 2000, in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. The workshop, which attracted 70 participants representing co-sponsoring agencies of UNAIDS (UNFPA, World Bank, WHO/AFRO), bilateral partners (GTZ, CIDA) and the AfDB Task Force on AIDS, endorsed the AIDS control strategic plan and the institutional framework for caring for AfDB staff living with HIV/AIDS.

In order to strengthen this new collaboration, the Inter-Country Team and AfDB have prepared a draft " Memorandum Of Understanding " (MOU), which will be signed by the two parties.

In this regard, the AfDB has joined the Regional Inter-Agency Group for PMTCT. The PMTCT component would henceforth be taken into account in HIV/AIDS projects funded by this regional development institution.

Partnership with the Family Health and AIDS Prevention Project (FHA/USAID) and German Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ)

As a follow-up to the regional co-ordination meeting held on 10 May 2000, the three partners met on 15 May 2000 to harmonise and enhance their regional co-operation for greater efficiency, while avoiding the overlapping activities. The meeting approved the drafting of a " MOU " and the development of a joint work plan for 2001.

Francophone Parliamentary Assembly (APF)

An agreement was signed between UNAIDS and the Francophone Parliamentary Assembly to promote a closer collaboration between the two institutions in the area of AIDS control. The Inter-Country Team participated in several meetings organised by this

institution of co-operation between Parliaments of all countries using French as a common language, particularly those in Francophone Africa. With the support of the Inter-Country Team, the APF :

- prepared a report on AIDS in Africa ;
- created a network of MPs on AIDS in Francophone Africa ;
- adopted two resolutions committing this forum to get involved in AIDS control in Africa within the framework of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa.

An action plan was drawn up in order to mobilise national MPs to help combat the epidemic.

Pan-African News Agency (PANA)

A capacity building workshop was organised for PANA correspondents in Dakar, Senegal, from 11 to 14 December 2000. It was attended by about twenty participants based in 15 West and Central African countries. A collaboration agreement was signed between UNAIDS and PANA with the view to promote the dissemination and exchange of information among AIDS control actors in West and Central Africa. A web page documenting “collection of local news on AIDS” has been created on the PANA web site while a printed and electronic monthly news bulletin on AIDS will be published as from January 2001.

Centre for International Co-operation in Health and Development (CICHD)

In order to strengthen the collaboration between the Inter-Country Team and the SIDA 2 Project supported by CIDA, a collaboration agreement was signed by the two institutions on 2 December 2000. The agreement lasts for a period of 5 years and covers the following key areas : sex work, STI, community and gender support, technical resources, partnership at country level and surveillance of the epidemic.

USAID

The Inter-Country Team participated at the elaboration of USAID strategic plan against AIDS in West and Central Africa for the period 2000 - 2006, during a meeting held from 6-8 November 2000 in Bamako, Mali.

Regional Office of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in West Africa

The 34th Biannual Meeting of Health Officials of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was held from 21 to 24 November 2000 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), offered UNAIDS the opportunity to present its strategy in West and Central Africa and to discuss the basic principles for integrating HIV/AIDS programmes in situations of crisis and conflict. As a follow-up to the meeting, the Regional Office of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Inter-Country Team will elaborate a framework for co-operation in the area of HIV/AIDS, on the basis of comparative advantages.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) - Regional Office for Africa

As part of the implementation of the collaboration agreement signed in June 2000 between UNAIDS and ILO, a meeting was held from 28-30 November 2000 in Douala (Cameroon). The meeting was organised in partnership with the ILO Regional Office for Africa, the

International Employers' Organisation, the African Confederation of Employers and Associations of West and Central Africa, and it adopted the operationalisation of the platform of action on HIV/AIDS developed in September 2000 in Dakar. The Employers' Organisations launched the " Douala Appeal " and drew up their work plan for 2001 and 2002.

UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa

UNICEF and UNAIDS have drawn up a joint regional work plan for 2001 focussing on the following areas :

- *young people* : establishment of a network of partners intervening at regional and sub-regional level and dissemination of the regional action strategy ;
- *the risk map* : operationalisation of the knowledge acquired and integration into the planning process at the local and sectoral level ;
- *prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV* : regional situational analysis, integration of MTCT into the care continuum and operationalisation of the chairmanship of the regional inter-agency group.

Peace Corps

Discussions with the Management of the Peace Corps in Côte d'Ivoire and the technical support provided in the framework of a training session of agents of Peace Corps of Côte d'Ivoire on 12 December 2000 led to the adoption of the principle of a working meeting of all Peace Corps Directors in West and Central Africa and the Inter-Country Team, extended to the CPAs and UNAIDS national Focal Points.

UNDP

Following the decision of the UNDP Regional Office for Africa to close its HIV and Development Regional Project based in Dakar, the UNDP and UNAIDS examined possible mechanisms of collaboration in order to facilitate the pursuit of activities developed under the Project. Hence, based on an agreement between the Team Leader of the Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa and the Principal Technical Adviser of the Project, a consultant was mandated to propose an action plan to facilitate the integration of the activities of the UNDP Regional Office into the 2000 - 2001 of the Inter-Country Team. The areas concerned are :

- integration of the UNDP database on HIV and Development workshops, in the context of operationalisation of the technical resource network ;
- extension of the GIPA Project in West and Central Africa ;
- training workshops on HIV and Development ;
- UNAIDS/UNDP research project on integration of HIV and Development tools with the Strategic Planning tools in 5 countries ;
- training of Directors of the Great Lakes Initiative programme ;
- training of trainers HIV and Development for the Anglophone facilitators ;
- publication of the HIV and Development workshop document in English ;
- strengthening the regional networks, especially the network of people living with HIV, and the African network on ethics, law and HIV.

The funding retained by mutual agreement with the UNDP Regional Project for the implementation of the activities was not finalised, since the UNDP Project could not make its contribution. The negotiations will be pursued in 2001 to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

HCR

In the context of AIDS control in crisis situations and in countries in conflict and post-conflict, a basic working document on a collaboration framework agreement between the Inter-Country Team and HCR, Regional Office for West and Central Africa (DRACO) is being finalised. A Task Force composed of concerned and interested co-sponsors, ECHO, IOM, Red Cross, International and national NGOs working in refugee camps and in countries in conflict (GTZ, MSF etc...) was also created. The Task Force will meet in February 2001 to finalise the mechanisms for consultation and collaboration and a joint action plan will also be adopted.

Advocacy and Partnership Enhancement Activities

Theme groups and national partners in West and Central Africa

The sub-regional meeting of UNAIDS theme groups was held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) from 29 January to 3 February 2000. The objectives of the meeting were : to co-ordinate the actions of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (IPAA) among the key actors at national and regional level ; to share experiences ; and to have a better understanding of the activities of the theme groups with a view to ensuring an enhancement of their operations and efficient programming adaptations. The meeting adopted the following conclusions :

- Extension of the theme groups to NACPs, bilateral partners, NGO networks and the private sector ;
- Intensification of advocacy among Heads of State and governments ;
- Implementation of the international Partnerships in the countries : "Working in partnership : Intensifying national and international AIDS control actions in Africa" ;
- Special attention should be paid to countries with low and high prevalence as well as those in crisis, in conflict and/or under embargo ;
- Declaration of AIDS as a "national disaster" and giving priority to AIDS control in poverty reduction programmes, and in social development programmes ;
- Creation or revitalisation of the inter-ministerial co-ordination mechanisms ;
- Integration into African sub-regional organisations ;
- Making the Theme Groups responsible for project development, validation, monitoring and evaluation ;
- Acceleration of the process of transferring funds for projects in the countries.

West African Initiative (WAI) : Meeting of the Inter-Country Co-ordination Committee (ICCC)

The Inter-Country Co-ordination Committee (ICCC) of the West African Initiative (WAI) on the HIV/AIDS epidemic held its third meeting in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) from 7 to 8 February 2000. Apart from NACP Co-ordinators from 17 West African countries, the meeting was also attended by some Central African countries, representatives of national and international NGOs and other institutions, including the World Bank, AfDB, WHO and UNAIDS. The meeting highlighted the following challenges :

- successful integration of the actions into the national response (ex : strategic planning in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin) ;

- developing a framework for evaluating the interventions (evaluation exercise planned for the end of this year) ;
- establishing an information exchange and communication system (inventory of resources, translation of documents, etc.) ;
- mastering the priority areas, such as care, access to treatment and counselling, countries in conflict or under embargo ;
- developing skills and human resources (regional technical network and reference institutions) ;
- extending partnership for resource mobilisation.

Organization of African Unity

Meeting of OAU Ministers of Health

The Inter-Country Team participated actively in the meeting of OAU Ministers of Health, which was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 7 to 9 May 2000. The main objective of this ministerial meeting was to assess the various actions undertaken in the area of AIDS control in Africa with a view to strengthening the health sector. The Inter-Country Team contributed in the following areas :

- Creation and management of the web site of the ministerial meeting ;
- Technical and administrative support to the National Organising Committee ;
- Preparation of the press kit and support to media coverage ;
- Participation in the International Technical Committee.

The meeting of Health Ministers adopted and published "Ouagadougou commitment for action for the implementation of the declarations, decisions and recommendations of heads of state and government of OAU aimed at strengthening HIV/AIDS control in Africa".

Thirty-sixth session of the Summit of African Heads of State

The Team Leader of the Inter-Country Team represented UNAIDS at the eleventh ordinary session of the Committee of Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries and the seventy-second ordinary session of the Council of Ministers held in Lome from 2 to 15 July 2000. At the end of the thirty-sixth ordinary session of the OAU, which took place in Lome, Togo, from 10 to 12 July 2000, the Heads of State and Government, after discussing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, adopted the Lome Declaration on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

African forum on poverty reduction strategy

The Inter-Country Team participated in the African forum on Poverty Reduction Strategy, which was held from 5 to 8 June 2000, in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. It was organised jointly by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Capacity Building Foundation. The objective of this forum was to offer the participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and share their views on the strategic aspects of the fight against poverty and the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper.

On this occasion, the Inter-Country Team held a meeting with the participants from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Mauritania, which was also attended by the Principal Operations Officer of the World Bank, Washington. The meeting was an opportunity for UNAIDS to better understand the Poverty Reduction Strategic Papers of the different countries, and for the participants to exchange experiences in a less formal setting, and discuss the different areas where the Inter-Country Team could bring its support.

Regional Conference on the socio-cultural and political dimensions of HIV/AIDS in Africa, challenge for the third millennium, 9-10 October 2000, Cotonou, Benin

Within the context of the implementation of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, the Inter-Country Team contributed to the technical and administrative organisation of this conference, which brought together intellectuals, artists, writers and other popular figures. The conference resulted in the adoption of the Cotonou Appeal aimed at addressing the socio-cultural and political dimensions of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and a greater mobilisation of the African civil society.

Rights of participation and development of teenage girls

On the occasion of a regional workshop on the rights of participation and development of teenage girls held in Dakar, Senegal from 31 October to 03 November 2000, and organised by the UNICEF Regional Office and Population Council, the participants discussed extensively HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual exploitation of teenage girls. The discussion focused on the spread of the HIV/AIDS infection and its impact on young/teenage girls as well as the means for reversing the trend of the epidemic.

UNAIDS has joined the regional planning body in the area of participation rights and development of teenage girls comprising UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNF and the Population Council. This structure has developed a joint regional planning framework within which the HIV/AIDS epidemic will be addressed. The roles and responsibilities in the development of the action plan concerning seven West African countries were discussed.



Management and co-ordination of the Inter-Country Team

- Strengthening the technical capacities of the Inter-Country Team (more staff) and better working conditions (acquisition of appropriate premises and more efficient computer equipment) ;
- Globally positive evaluation of the Inter-Country Team ;
- Strategic vision of work defined to ensure better organisation of the action ;
- Enhanced collaboration with the regional Co-sponsors, theme groups and CPAs.

Planning of Activities

<u>2000-2001 Budget (USD)</u>		
<i>2000 - 2001 Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Regular allocated Budget</i>	<i>World Bank WAI Support</i>
2 950 000	1 172 000	1 299 935

Meeting on finalisation of work plans of UNAIDS Inter-Country Teams, Geneva (Switzerland) from 28 February to 3 March 2000.

2002-2003 work plan and budget

The Inter-Country Team proposed in December 2000 a work plan and a budget for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Retreat of the Inter-Country Team

On 27 and 28 March 2000, all the members of the Inter-Country Team reviewed the different points concerning its functioning and its efficiency. The discussions also focused on the mandate, the missions and the composition of the team. An assessment of the 1996/99 activities was made and the strategic work plan for 2000-2001 adopted.

Priority areas	Common strategies				
1. Strategic planning and community and local responses	Development of regional technical resources networks	Identification and promotion of regional Best Practices and case studies	Strengthening of partnership at the regional level	Development of the regional information management system	Administration, Management and Coordination, and support to countries
2. Vulnerable populations : migrants, refugees, displaced populations, young people, and sex workers					
3. People living with HIV/AIDS; Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), care and support					
4. Advocacy and Information/Communication					

Strategic
Vision

1996-2000
Strategic
Development

Priority Areas		
1996-1997	1998-1999	2000-2001
Strategic planning process	Strategic planning process	Strategic planning process and local responses
Community mobilisation	Community mobilisation & prevention	Vulnerable populations : migrants, refugees, displaced populations, young people, sex workers...
West African Initiative [vulnerable populations, People living with HIV (PLWHA)]	West African Initiative (vulnerable populations, Care of PLWHA)	PLWHA - <i>PMTCT</i> - <i>Health care and psycho-social care</i> - <i>Human rights</i>
Management of information and development of networks (technical resources)	Management of information and development of technical resources networks	Management of information and development of electronic and technical resources networks
Other areas : - <i>Blood Transfusion</i> - <i>STD</i> - <i>Human rights</i> - <i>Gender</i>	Other areas : - <i>Health care and psycho-social care</i> - <i>Best practices</i> - <i>International partnership</i> - <i>Regional initiatives and projects (GLIA, Lake Chad)</i> - <i>PMTCT</i>	Other areas : - <i>Best practices</i> - <i>International partnership</i> - <i>Regional initiatives and projects (GLIA, Lake Chad, WAI, Congo River)</i>
		Emerging areas : - <i>Poverty reduction</i> - <i>Conflict and post-conflict situations</i>

Staff of
UNAIDS
Inter-Country
Team

Position	Name
Staff International	
1. Team Leader	M'Pele Pierre
2. Régional Technical Adviser, West African Initiative	Sakho Mamadou L.
3. Régional Technical Adviser, Prévention and Community Mobilisation	<u>vacant since 21 April 2000</u>
4. Régional Technical Adviser, Programme Development Officer	Moumpala Octave
5. Régional Information Support Adviser	Sahlu Marcos
6. Technical Adviser, Poverty, Debt and HIV/AIDS	Kaba Setou
7. Technical Adviser, Strategic Planning, and Crisis and Conflict/Post-Conflicts Situations	Rwegera Damien
Regional Focal Points	
1. Mother-to-Child Transmission	S. Sibailly Toussaint
2. Care, Counselling and Support	Badini Damata Hélène
3. Moderation of electronic Networks	Ouattara W. Yafflo

Position	Nom & Prénom
Local Support Staff	
1. Financial Assistant	Gnampi B. Augustin
2. Administrative Assistant	Kone Aminata
3. Bilingual Secretary	Ouedraogo Talata
4. Driver	Makan Konaté
5. Driver	Bi To Boli

A performance evaluation scale was developed to facilitate the yearly evaluation of the local support staff.

Premises

In view of the increasing number of its members, the Inter-Country Team acquired new offices that will enable the staff to work under better conditions.

Premises of
UNAIDS
Inter-Country
Team



Capacity building

- As part of an effort to strengthen the human resources management capacities, the programme development officer and the finance assistant participated in a training course organised at the UNAIDS Headquarters in Geneva from 1st to 5th May 2000.

The main objective of this training was to offer the field staff working in country and Inter-Country teams the opportunity to enhance their skills in the areas of administrative planning, implementation and financial follow-up. During the training, the Inter-Country Team made a presentation on the WHO/AFRO accounts management system which it is using.

- *Training of moderators and facilitators of closed electronic networks* : A training workshop for moderators and facilitators of closed electronic networks was held from 5 to 8 June in Abidjan. The objective was to familiarise the participants with the internet tool and electronic mail and to train them on the principles of moderation of closed electronic networks. Five participants (2 moderators and 3 facilitators) drawn from Senegal, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire participated in the training workshop.
- *Orientation of newly recruited staff* : The Information Support Adviser participated in the orientation programme for newly recruited staff, which was organised at the UNAIDS Headquarters in Geneva from 18 to 25 June 2000. The orientation programme helps to provide new recruits with information on the structure of the UNAIDS programme and the priorities for the biennium, and aspects of human resource management with the emphasis on the performance evaluation system. Generally, this briefing helps the new staff to better integrate within UNAIDS structure.

Consultation between the Inter-Country Team and Country Programme Advisers (CPA)

During a co-ordination meeting held on 1 August 2000 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Inter-Country Team met with the CPAs from Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and the UNAIDS focal point of DR Congo. The meeting was an opportunity for enhancing working relations within the organisation in West and Central Africa. At the end of the meeting, a consensus was reached on the following points :

- Making the information and communications mechanisms functional ;
- Need to organise an annual meeting between the Inter-Country Team and CPAs, and periodic meetings during conferences and workshops ;
- Theme groups and CPAs should take advantage of the plan of action of the Inter-Country Team to determine the requests to be presented for technical and /or financial support ;
- Assistance to countries should be prompt ;
- Need to organise country visits, giving priority to countries that have no CPA; the CPAs could be solicited for that ;
- Need to use local competencies ;
- Need to upgrade the knowledge of national teams involved in the strategic planning process; nationals and institutions could be identified for that purpose ;
- Need to involve the Inter-Country Team in the support and monitoring of projects proposed to the countries by PSR/UNAIDS/Geneva.

Evaluation of the Inter-Country Team

Mr. Giles Whitcomb, an independent consultant undertook a mission to evaluate the Inter-Country Team from 13 to 17 June 2000. The evaluation concerned essentially the original mandate, priority areas and the specific usefulness of the Inter-Country Team. For its visit to the Inter-Country Team, the consultant was joined by M. Joel Rehnstrom of UNAIDS Headquarters.

The evaluation was based on discussions and a questionnaire addressed to the countries, partners and theme groups. The general conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation were as follows :

“Overall Conclusion

The ICT/WCA is a small team with a big mission for a large part of Africa. Much of value of the Team is in having started as and remained a regional resource with as great if not greater accountability to the region than to a higher administrative level or governing body. In its four years of existence, through hard work, some trial and error, with uneven visibility and understanding of its role both within and outside UNAIDS, the Team has earned recognition of achievement and usefulness on several aspects of its work, in certain parts of its region. It has also earned recognition of potential achievement and usefulness on a yet greater number and yet more thematically and geographically dispersed activities; this is both opportunity and pitfall. The opportunity lies in the implicit acknowledgement that there is important work for such a regional team. The pitfall is frenetic activity for inconsequential effect, little matter the size of any team, let alone one as small as the ICT/WCA. The Team seems now to be achieving a critical mass in number and expertise. The needs in the region are numerous, diverse and pressing. How the Team chooses amongst these, and how effectively the Team follows through on its own choices will determine its future usefulness. In a sense as much will depend on how it works as what it works on.

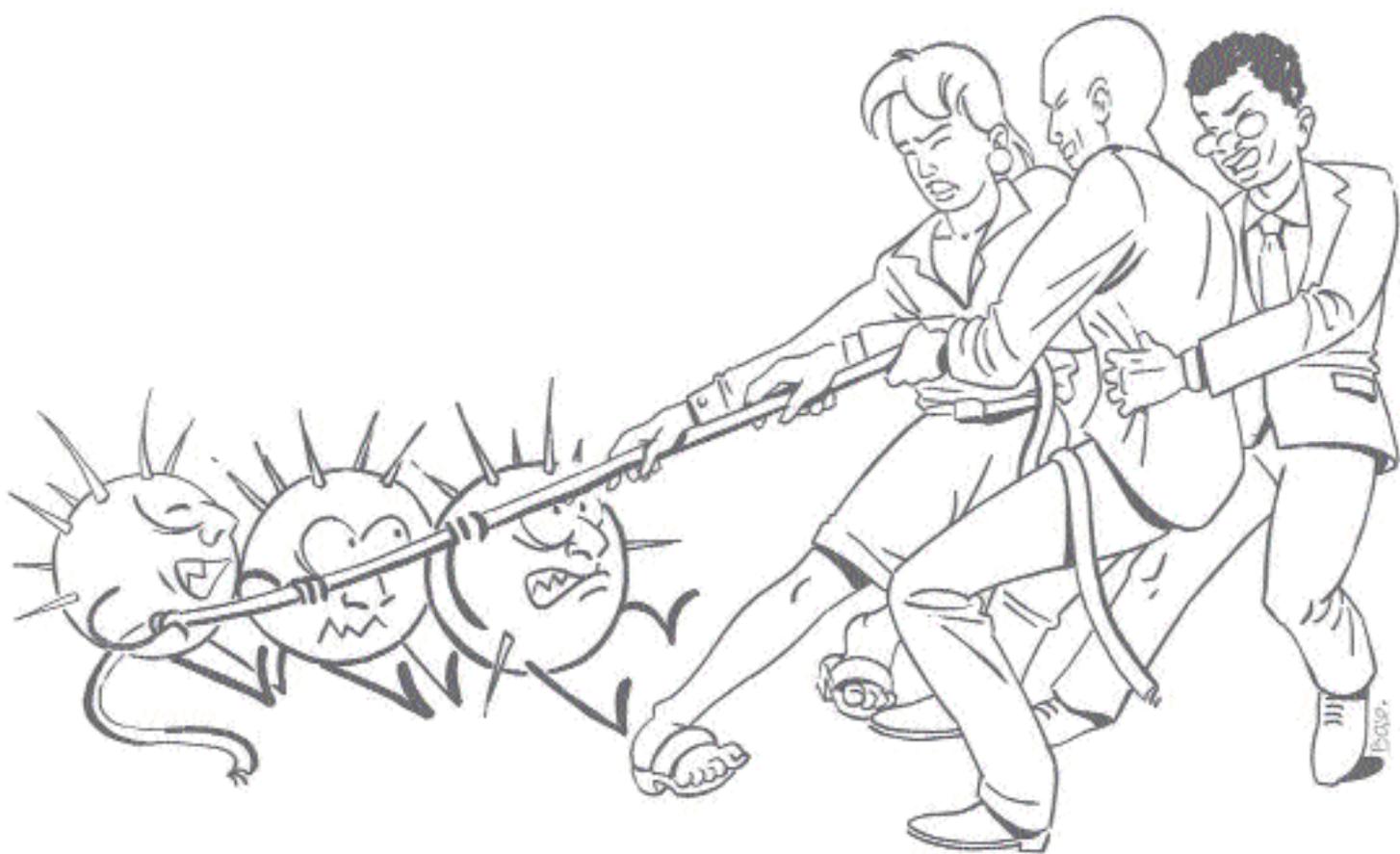
Overall Recommendation

It is recommended that the Team be continued and confirmed more fully as an authoritative UNAIDS resource for the whole region, accountable to the whole region; in this role the Team needs to be known and needs to be effective. The role needs to be confirmed partly by more explicit recognition from UNAIDS Secretariat, partly by more implicit recognition in the relationships and procedures within different parts of the UNAIDS mechanism, and partly through the Team making itself better known through effective actions in various functions. The primacy of the Team's accountability to the region implies avoiding a hierarchical relationship between the UNAIDS Secretariat, the Team, and elements of the UNAIDS mechanism at the country-level. Representational functions should be limited to what the Team and the Team alone can assume better than other representatives of Co-sponsors . The principal of the Team's attention and responsiveness should be kept on defining, prioritizing and acting on the needs of countries in the region, which it is able to address itself or refer to others.”

Giles Whitcomb, Independent Consultant
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Restructuring of UNAIDS

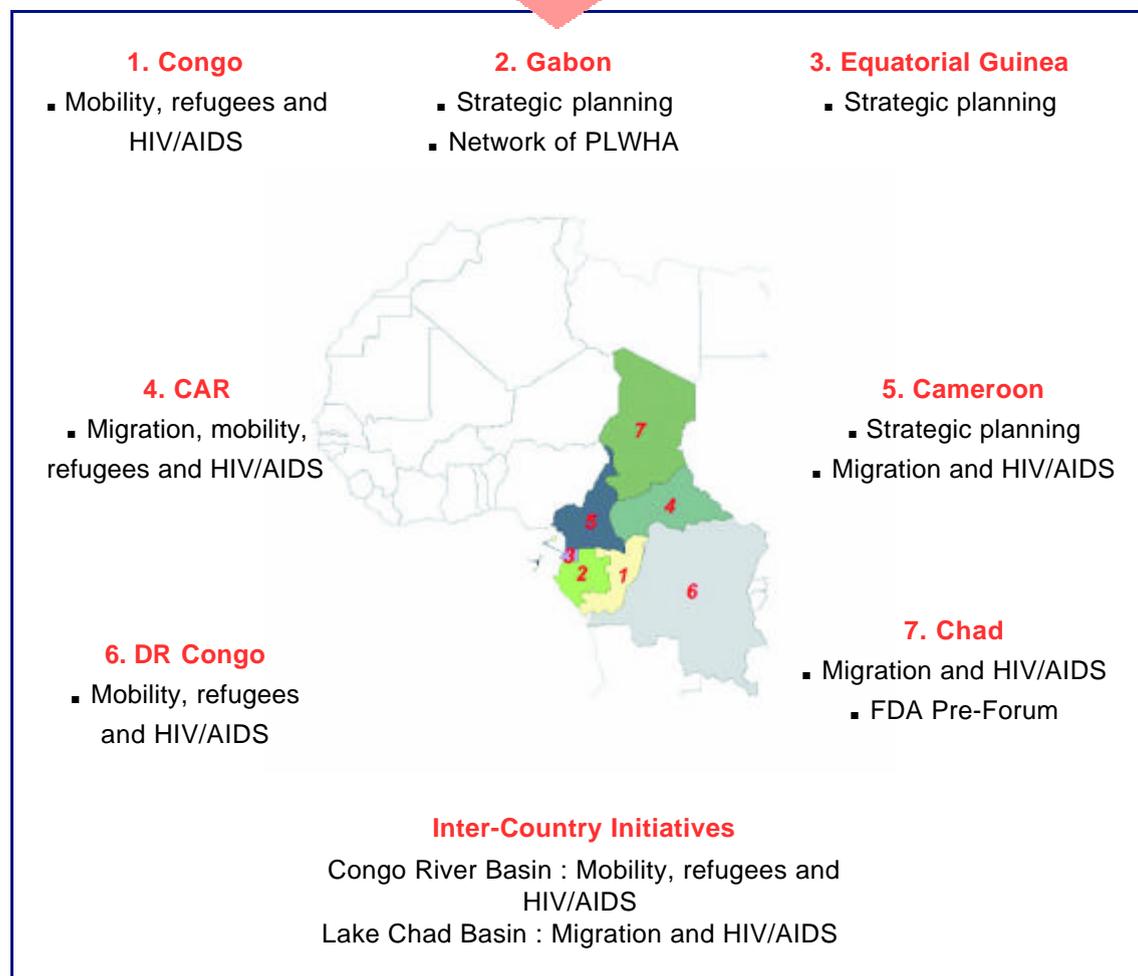
The Inter-Country Team was represented by the Team Leader in the “working group on restructuring of UNAIDS” convened by the Executive Director and which was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 19 to 27 October 2000.



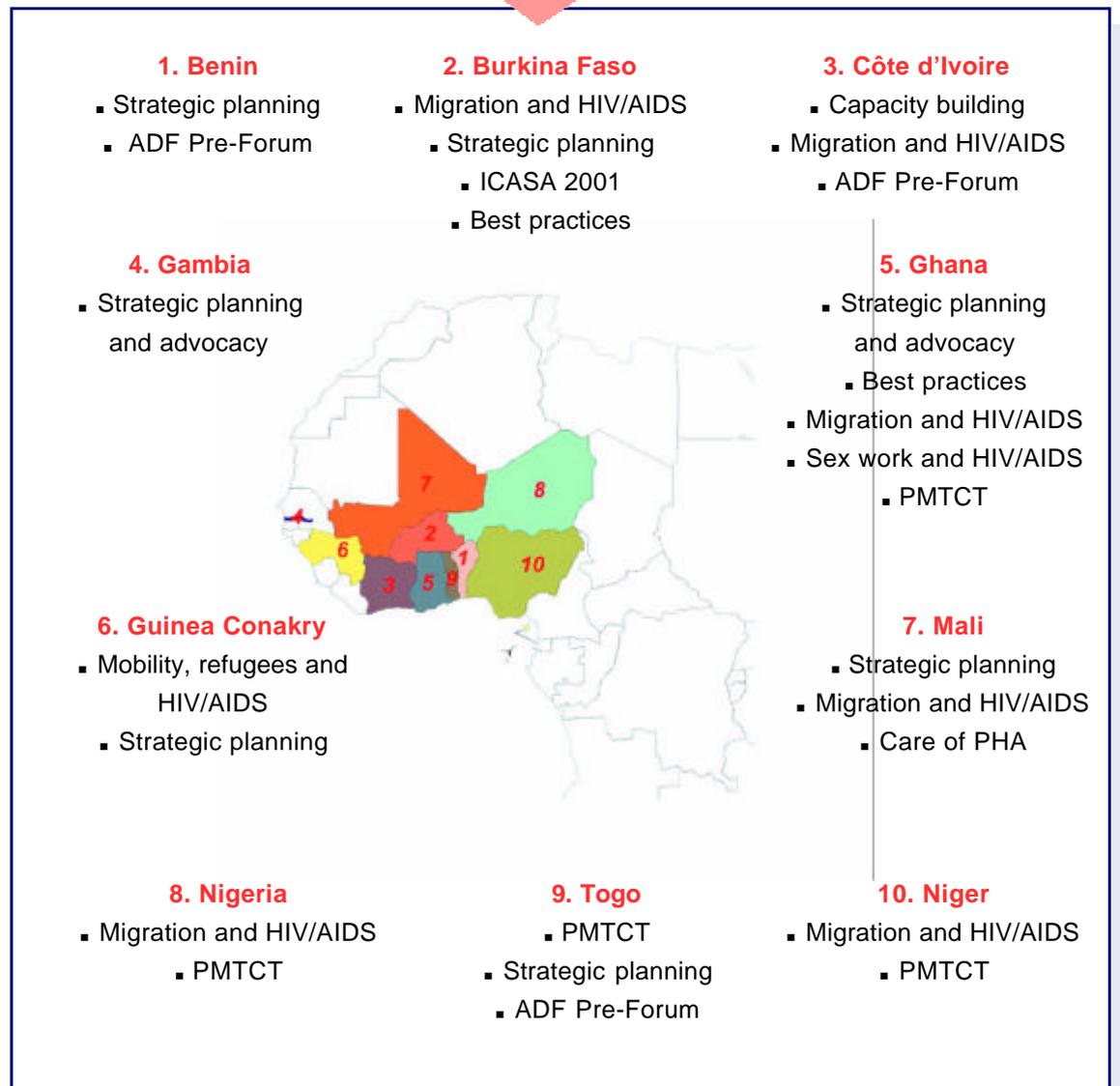
Assistance to countries through the UNAIDS Theme Groups

- **Seventeen out of 26 countries** received direct (technical and administrative) support from the Inter-Country Team in the following major areas :
 - Strategic planning
 - Implementation and extension of the response to the epidemic in the context of migration and refugees
 - National pre-forum in preparation of the African Development Forum
 - Care of People Living with HIV/AIDS
 - Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
- **Seven countries hosted nine regional meetings organised by the Inter-Country Team :** Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Togo.
- **Fourteen countries were visited :** CAR, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Nigeria, Togo and Senegal.

Central Africa : 7 countries



West Africa : 10 countries





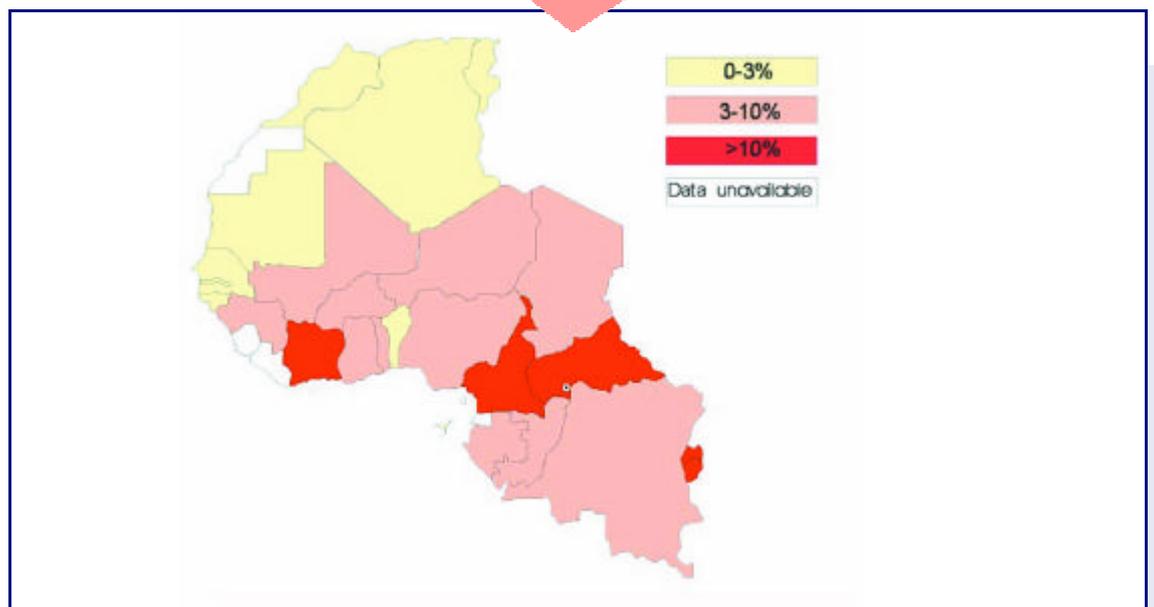
Conclusion

This report of activities for the year 2000 represents the visible part of the iceberg of an effort aimed at facilitating the processes and response adopted against the AIDS epidemic at regional, national and inter-country levels. The bases of communication, exchange of information and experiences on HIV/AIDS as well as the opportunities for technical assistance to countries are now firmly established in West and Central Africa through the different partners and UNAIDS.

The constraints in terms of human resources and working conditions were eliminated during the second quarter of the year 2000 (acquisition of new premises and integration of six new members into the Inter-Country Team).

The report of activities 2000 is also an assessment that should urge us to double our efforts in view of the spread of the epidemic in West and Central Africa.

HIV1 prevalence among pregnant women in urban zones in West and Central Africa



The maintenance and consolidation of achievements such as the international/regional partnership, the development of Inter-Country initiatives and electronic communication networks constitute a challenge that the Team should take up during the year 2001.

New cross-border issues like refugees, displaced people arising from various conflicts and emerging areas such as debt reduction and the fight against poverty urge the Inter-Country Team to adapt its action, taking into account the constantly changing socio-cultural, economic and political environment.

The internal reorganisation of UNAIDS, the evaluation of the Inter-Country Team, the improvement of working conditions and the increase in the number of technical human resources are all opportunities for further mobilising the Team and enhancing the roles of each member them to do more and better in 2001.

Annex : UNAIDS Inter-Country Team for West and Central Africa

Providing timely and high quality support to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and impact mitigation in West and Central Africa.

Missions : To build stronger and more effective national, local and community based HIV/AIDS programmes by :

- strengthening inter-country activities through existing networks and initiatives ;
- stimulating or facilitating the development of exchange and collaboration mechanisms ;
- supporting various different stakeholders, depending on their needs, either by mobilizing available expertise from within the region (national and co-sponsoring agencies, bilateral partners, regional institutions, NGOS, and organizations of persons living with HIV), or by using skills/competencies available within the Inter-Country Team ; and
- helping with resource mobilization and providing technical support to National AIDS Control Programmes (NACPs) through the Theme Groups.

Main objectives :

- To provide an effective technical support to national efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and impact mitigation;
- To build regional and sub-regional capacity through awareness-raising, and policy and strategy formulation ; and
- To ensure the secretariat of UNAIDS at the regional level.

Strategies :

- Creation of technical resources and networks for exchange of information and experiences ;
- Documentation of Best Practices and formulation of joint training programs ;
- National and local planning/evaluation and resource mobilization support ; and
- Design and implementation of joint HIV/AIDS policies and guidelines.

Geographical coverage (29 countries) :

North Africa : Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

West Africa : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Central Africa : Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, CAR, Congo, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea ; Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

Priority thrusts

- Vulnerable populations (youth, migrants and commercial sex workers)
- Countries in emergency situations: conflict, post-conflict and natural disasters ;
- Care and support for persons living with HIV/AIDS ;
- Fight against discrimination and stigmatisation ;
- Political advocacy and social mobilization against HIV/AIDS ;
- Strengthening partnerships at regional, national, and local level ;
- Information exchange networks ; and
- Technical resources development.

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