IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTISECTORAL HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:
A large number of HIV/AIDS programs in Africa have adopted multisectoral approaches. However, the implementation of these programs has been slow. Part of the explanation lies in inadequate information about the concepts, methodologies, and tools for implementing these programs. Therefore, this poster provides an operational framework for effectively implementing these programs. It also gives examples of successful multisectoral programs and underscores the need for these types of programs.

CONCEPT:
Multisectoral approaches to HIV/AIDS are defined as the actions that each sector (e.g., health, education) could undertake to mitigate the impact of the epidemic on its core activity and thus strengthen each sector’s abilities to contribute to economic development and to HIV/AIDS care and prevention requirements appropriate to each sector. This approach is distinct from cross-sector or intersectoral activities, which refer to different sectors working together to achieve a common goal such as orphan care or youth development. Both are part of multisectoral approaches.

OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMS:

SUCCESS OF MULTISECTORAL APPROACHES:
Uganda is considered one of the world’s successes in reducing the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate. In 1995, Uganda adopted a multisectoral approach to similar to those outlined in the operational framework. About a dozen ministries are involved in responding to HIV/AIDS problems from their vantage points. The involvement of different ministries created national ownership and commitment. Each sector adopted policies and programs to support HIV/AIDS programs, especially those implemented by the AIDS Service Organization (ASO) at the community level. For example, equitable and inclusive educational policies enhanced access to education by orphans and vulnerable children. Zambia also adopted a multisectoral program and has shown signs of success in reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence rates. The USAID Mission in Zambia is helping different sectors respond better to HIV/AIDS. For example, it is helping farmers diversify into new cash crops with higher skills and crops requiring less input and labor in high-prevalence areas; the education sector is engaged in strengthening the management of the education system. In South Africa, the USAID Mission has adopted economic growth strategies that will help reduce inequalities in income by generating employment for vulnerable groups. It is encouraging microenterprise programs that include HIV/AIDS messages. In addition, microenterprise activities are being linked to private sector programs. In Ethiopia, the USAID Mission has obtained support from partners engaged in democracy and governance programs to build capacity among nongovernmental organizations and mobilize civil society for HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS: A VICIOUS CYCLE

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS:

CONCENTRATION OF HOUSEHOLDS:

SUCCESS OF MULTISECTORAL APPROACHES:

FIVE ESSENTIAL STEPS TO IMPLEMENTING MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMS:

CONCLUSIONS:
Multisectoral programs are a necessity in high-prevalence countries such as each and every sector of the economy and every section of the society is devastated by the impact of HIV/AIDS.

Mitigation of the impact on different sectors should be a high priority for countries and donors. The existing management and systemic weaknesses in almost all sectors are made worse by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Thus, systemic strengthening in each sector is crucial for macroeconomic growth as well as for providing adequate care and support and prevention services by different sectors addressing the basic determinants of risky behavior, e.g., inequality and poverty.

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