



HIV/AIDS Unit

FACT SHEET

Objectives

The unit's main objective is to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate an HIV&AIDS awareness programme as well as prevention strategy to reduce the risk of HIV transmission or contraction among UNMIS peacekeepers.

The secondary objective is to build social capacity in combating HIV&AIDS through outreach programmes and campaigns in support of the Government of National Unity.

Training programmes

- **Induction training** is conducted for all incoming contingents, UN Military Observers, UN Police, Military Staff Officers and international and national civilian staff, including UN Volunteers. Mandatory to all staff, the training covers basic facts about HIV&AIDS as well as sexually transmitted infections, prevention strategies/safer sex practices, counselling and testing, UN policy on HIV&AIDS, sexual exploitation and abuse, gender and HIV, and treatment.
- **Training of peer educators in HIV&AIDS peer leadership** aims at providing trainees with knowledge about HIV&AIDS for practical behaviour change methods and one-to-one coaching. The 10-day course is open to all peacekeepers, the larger UN family, non-governmental organizations and members of the Sudanese uniformed services.
- **Weekly supportive/awareness programmes** aim at fostering general awareness and boosting reinforced behaviour change following the earlier training programmes.
- **Training of change agents** was conceived after the success of mainstreaming HIV&AIDS in support of the north and south Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commissions. It is a 10-day training aiming to sensitize participants about the disease.

- **Training of HIV&AIDS Counsellors** is both a preventive and support programme to promote voluntary confidential counselling and testing. The course duration is 18 working days.
- **Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)** have supported the Government of National Unity in HIV&AIDS capacity building. Two QIPs were successfully implemented during 2007 and 2008, training some 250 local people about HIV&AIDS.

Services

- **Pre-test counselling** is offered to clients undergoing HIV tests, preparing them for test results.
- **HIV testing kits** are offered, enabling individuals to know their HIV status within 10 to 20 minutes with absolute confidentiality.
- **Post-test counselling** aims at supporting risk reduction strategies, coping, networking, advocacy about support groups and referrals.
- **Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)** aims to prevent or reduce the risk of contracting HIV after exposure if apply within 2 to 72 hours for 28 days. PEP kits are available in all UNMIS Sectors.

Achievements

- More than 61,588 UNMIS members have received HIV&AIDS awareness training over five years.
- Some 44 HIV and AIDS peer educators training courses have been organized, graduating 1,286 peer educators in HIV&AIDS; 240 HIV&AIDS change agents have been trained in 10 Change Agents courses; four HIV&AIDS counselling training courses have been held, graduating 96 counsellors.
- More than 1,122,000 members of the Sudanese population, including members of

the military, ex-combatants, local police and students, have been reached through awareness activities.

- In support of Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) services, the unit has trained 96 HIV&AIDS counsellors and established seven stationary VCCT services in Khartoum as well as in all sector headquarters. More than 1,400 peacekeepers have benefited from this service.
- Through collaboration with UN Police, more than 3,460 members of Local Police Forces have been reached.

Challenges

- Language barrier during capacity building activities; lack of baseline data on HIV&AIDS in local context.
- Traditional and religious beliefs inhibit campaign strategies, especially prevention strategies (safer sex).
- Inability to completely meet high demand for technical, practical and logistical support by the Sudanese due to mandate restriction.
- Lack of funding for external HIV&AIDS capacity building activities hinders mainstreaming of HIV&AIDS issues in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, among other programmes.

Useful links

www.unaids.org

www.uncares.org

www.unplus.org

www.avert.org

www.worldaidscampaign.org

www.aidsportal.org

www.aidsalliance.org

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