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ADDRESSING HIV AMONG UNIFORMED SERVICE IN PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN DRC



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OVERVIEW OF MONUC

MONUC Mandate

- 1999: MONUC : a small Observation mission;
- Currently the biggest mission : 22,000 peacekeepers:
Uniformed personnel : 18,500 Civilian: 3,500
- Over 58 countries contribute police personnel, military observers or contingents (17 countries are contributing troops)

MONUC Mandate and HIV

- - MONUC mandate did not include HIV
- - 2002 a policy adviser was recruited -Currently **5 staffs**

WITHIN MISSION PROGRAMME

- Core mandate of the HIV unit :
to reduce the risk contracting or spreading HIV
- Mandate expanded to include integrating HIV into mission mandates, such as **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)**.

Programme includes :

- **Mandatory induction training**
- **IEC and awareness items distribution** (UNAIDS HIV awareness cards).
- **male and female Condom distribution**
- **Community Outreach activities**
- **Plan of VCCT**
- **PEP**

ACHIEVEMENTS

1 - ACTIONS DEDICATED TO PEACEKEEPERS

- Induction Training
 - 15,000 trained in contingents
 - 1500 military observers and staff officers trained
 - 600 civilian police trained
 - 3000 international and national staff trained
- Awareness cards sending a positive message of care)
w/UNAIDS Basic information : magazines, pamphlets and brochures w/ PID
- VCCT capacity building workshop
- IEC material : Playing Cards and draughts game /UNFPA
- Condom availability w/UNFPA

2 - Actions dedicated to government structures : FARDC, Police Nationale Congolaise, Health and Education

- Training: 2888 soldiers /1st Integrated Brigade/FARDC w/UNFPA
- 9 tones of condoms & drugs distributed /UNFPA
- children's workbook - teacher's guidebook produced by UNESCO

3 - Outreach programs targeting vulnerable groups

Youth, victims of sexual violence W/NGOS &UNS

4 – Actions dedicated to general populations

- AIDS sensitization Fair in Beni
- Valentine's Day Sensitization
- WAD observation

CHALLENGES

- **Logistic** constraints
- **Limited staffing** - Need 4 NPOs
- Budgetary & Administrative constraints
- Related to **deployed troops** : Spread, turnover, level of awareness, cultural and religious barriers
- **Death** cases related to HIV & **sexual misconduct** “ zero tolerance”
- **Lack of capacity**
 - Need of **VCCT**
 - **ARTs** not always available
 - Need of scaled up **counselors** training
 - Need scaled up **peer educators** training
 - Need of Scaling up **PEP** kits availability
 - Reliable **Data Collection**
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation**

LESSONS LEARNT...

- Adaptation, support, partnership is a need
 - support service from MONUC medical section (civilian) & Military medical facilities
 - need to combine static with mobile strategies
- Collaborative support from UN Agencies
 - UNAIDS can help set up dated and **harmonized data collection** and M&E system
 - UNAIDS can help assist in **behavioral studies** for AIDS peacekeepers programs
 - As a partner, UNAIDS can help by providing **resource persons** for activities like **radio programs, counseling, peer education, etc**

LESSONS LEARNT

- Peacekeepers can be agents of behavioral change
- The role of MONUC is not fighting just HIV, but also gender-based violence, and not only in its own ranks, but countrywide

Thank You!

