

Joint Reviews of the national AIDS response

The term “Joint Review” refers to the comprehensive, periodic and systematic assessment of the overall national response to the HIV epidemic. It is led by the national Government of a country and involves participation at all government levels, as well as by civil society organizations, networks of people living with HIV, local and district authorities, and international donors and organizations.

Joint Reviews are a unique example of a nationally-led forum for sharing information, achievements, shortfalls, challenges and emerging issues, and assessing how well efforts and spending are aligned in meeting the goals of the national AIDS strategy.

National HIV responses consist of a diversity of activities across a whole range of sectors such as health, education and so on. They involve many more implementing and funding partners and actors than was the case a few years ago. The advances in treatment coupled with the significant increase in financial resources for HIV programmes of the last few years (through, among others, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, PEPFAR, and private-sector foundations) have added to the intensity and complexity of national responses. At the same time, the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support has infused a renewed sense of urgency and purpose to national responses.

UNAIDS has produced a *Guidance Paper on Joint Reviews* to help countries unite the many stakeholders involved in the national AIDS responses, in order to increase understanding of the epidemic and work collectively to achieve results.

The process is a vital tool in the global effort by governments and development organizations to ‘make the money work’ – ensuring that all AIDS funds are linked to national objectives and simplifying aid structures. The subsequent findings and their utilization will ensure the continued relevance of the national response and its adequacy, and contribute to more effective and efficient use of resources to meet countries’ universal access targets.

Just as every country’s AIDS epidemic and response is different, the Joint Review process in each country will differ according to the national political environment, health and social policies, infrastructure, economic development and other factors. However, the Guidance Paper lays out several principles which should help build a strong Joint Review process in any country, including:

- national ownership
- inclusiveness and participation
- commitment to results by all participants
- impartiality
- evidence informed
- enhancing national planning
- sensitivity to gender and human rights.



In addition to the Guidance Paper there is a range of tools to help national authorities carry out specific aspects that feed into or are part of a Joint Review. Links to some of these tools are provided under “resources” on the right of this page and we encourage you to inform us of any other tools available that are not yet linked here.

Resources:

Guidance Paper on Joint Reviews

http://data.unaids.org/pub/Manual/2008/jc1627_review_nationalaids_eng_en.pdf

UNAIDS AIDS Strategic and Action Plan service (ASAP led by the World Bank)

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTHEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/EXTHIVAIDS/0,,contentMDK:20974001~menuPK:4268486~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:376471,00.html>

ASAP – National AIDS Strategy Self Assessment Tool and Guidelines

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTHEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/EXTHIVAIDS/0,,contentMDK:20974844~menuPK:4268789~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:376471,00.html>

ASAP – National Strategic Plan Road Map

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTHEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/EXTHIVAIDS/0,,contentMDK:21070469~menuPK:4268811~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:376471,00.html>

The National AIDS Spending Assessment

<http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/HIVData/Tracking/Nasa.asp>