

ECA/FSSD/POP/MR/10/00



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Food Security and Sustainable Development Division

**REPORT OF MISSION TO UNFPA, NEW YORK
5 to 11 March 2000**

by

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**Addis Ababa
March 2000**

BACKGROUND

As part of the efforts of the international community to develop a coordinated and intensified approach to combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic globally, and in Africa in particular, the UNAIDS co-sponsors met in January 1999 at Annapolis, USA. The meeting resolved to create the International Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (IPAA) in Africa, urging all parties involved and especially the primary stakeholders, the African people and their governments, to

- act on an emergency basis to drastically slow the spread of HIV in Africa;
- commit themselves to building a coalition of all key actors; and
- recognize that a sustainable political environment and social mobilization were vital for an effective response to HIV/AIDS.

The donors' meeting on International Partnership Against HIV/AIDS held in April 1999 in London was a follow-up meeting to the Annapolis one. The meeting recommended, among other things, that an advocacy strategy should be embarked upon by the partners to enlist the full commitment and financial support of African governments, policy makers, opinion and community leaders in addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Subsequently, UNFPA, in collaboration with UNAIDS, organized activities aimed at bringing all partners in the field of advocacy to assist the partnership to develop a coordinated and joint advocacy framework against HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. UNECA was one of the partners identified and invited to a meeting aimed at developing the framework.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

Mr. Israel Sembajwe, Senior Population Affairs Officer, UNECA/FSSDD was requested to represent the organization at the meeting planned to take place from 7 to 9 March 2000. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To review the available Advocacy materials within each organization targeting high level policy makers;
- To decide on the types of advocacy materials to be developed under the joint advocacy project;

- To identify the countries to be visited for the country level assessments/situation analyses before the full project development; and
- To identify the agencies/donors that would like to be actively involved in the development and implementation of the project.

PERSONS MET

The mission met a variety of persons including Ms. Kerstin Trone, Deputy Executive Director, Programme (UNFPA); Ms. Virginia Ofosu-Amaah, Director, Africa Division (UNFPA); and number of officers from other UN agencies, international partners against HIV/AIDS, and selected representatives of country HIV/AIDS programmes. A detailed list of the participants in the meeting is attached as Annex 1.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Annex 2 presents the Draft Agenda of the meeting. The major sessions of the meeting included:

- Framework presentation: Advocacy Targeting High Level Policy Makers in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Materials for HIV/AIDS Advocacy (presentations by ECA, The Futures Group International and the Ghana Impact Project);
- Experiences in HIV/AIDS Advocacy (presentations by PANOS London, and National AIDS Programme Coordinators for Cote d'Ivoire, South Africa, Uganda and Senegal);
- Experiences in HIV/AIDS Advocacy (presentations by UNAIDS, UNAIDS co-sponsors and other UN agencies;
- Comments from bilateral donors; and
- Group work on the Project Strategic Framework.

The UNECA/FSSDD Officer actively participated in all these activities and effectively made a presentation on *UNECA/FSSDD Activities in the Area of Advocacy with Special Reference to the PEDA Model*. The Power Point presentation made by the Officer is attached as Annex 3.

The meeting agreed that before meeting most of the objectives listed in the invitation letter to the meeting, the Project Strategic Framework and Action Plan had to be formulated first and agreed upon.

LESSONS LEARNT BY THE MISSION

The meeting demonstrated unqualified commitment among all the participants to significantly scale-up their collective effort in Africa to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS, sharply reduce its impact on human suffering, and halt the further reduction of human, social and economic development in the region.

FACILITATING FACTORS

The effective leadership provided by UNFPA in ensuring that the Partnership Against HIV/AIDS actively moves forward in forging common approaches, as well as the commitment of all participants facilitated the smooth holding of this meeting.

GENDER

In discussing the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the African population (especially that of Sub-Sahara Africa) gender issues were put on the fore front, and the participation in the meeting reflected a near 50 to 50 representation of the sexes.

BOTTLENECKS/CONSTRAINTS

No single bottleneck or constraint was experienced during this meeting.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

It was agreed that

- UNFPA would complete the draft report of the meeting and circulate it to the participants for comments before finalizing it; and
- After agreeing on the Project Strategic Framework and Action Plan, the Partnership would be in position to develop HIV/AIDS materials.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNFPA, New York, provided a professional and warm environment for the meeting. The participants wish to express their gratitude to the organization for this environment.

**Joint Advocacy Against HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa
Planning Meeting
UNFPA Headquarters, New York
7-9 March 2000**

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