



Activities June – Dec 2011

■ Commissioner

- Moscow MDG6 meeting
- European Parliament on World AIDS Day

■ SANCO

- Joint Action on HIV prevention
- Monitoring of HIV action plan implementation
- ECDC/EMCDDA joint guidance and risk assessment GR/RO
- Questionnaire impact of financial crisis on response
- Conferences: Lisbon, Stockholm, Ljubljana, EP meeting on response, HR 2012
- Briefings, correspondence, ...

■ Council

- EU statement on World AIDS Day



Questionnaire Financial Crisis and HIV Response

- Sent mid-November, responses received: 9 → 7 MS, 1 ENP, 1 EEA
- 8 questions
- Anonymised synthesis



Q1. Has there been any effects due to the financial crisis on the response to HIV/AIDS in your country?

- NO: 2
- (i) Limitations in HIV testing
- (ii) National Institute for Health Development: budget cut for HIV activities and interventions of 18% in 2009, no increase yet
- (iii) at local or regional level, due to local cuts in the health care sector
- (iv) Decrease in State PREVENTION budget about 25% in 2011
- decrease in funding HIV NGOs in 2011 at central health level (subvention > 130 000 € with decrease of 14% (5 NGOs concerned) (subvention < 130 000 € with decrease of 2% (5 NGOs concerned))
- Decrease of the budget of the national prevention institute (resp. for prevention campaigns every year)
- At the regional level some decreases, but all details are not yet available (as in (v))
- (v) general budget cuts in all sectors; so far HIV/AIDS prevention on national level not much affected; ART and OST covered by health insurance, no changes or reductions



Q1. Has there been any effects due to the financial crisis on the response to HIV/AIDS in your country? -II

- (vi) organisation level: 5% due to inflation; Planned programs to reach other MARP were postponed; no cuts at regional/local level; no direct correlation at national level;
- (vii) annual underfunding of the national programme led to cutting operations significantly since 2009
- limited funding leads to financing by priority: diagnostics of HIV, treatment + lab support ART, prevention HIV-transmission from mother to child
- b) YES: response to HIV/AIDS is one of the priorities of State policy. As a result of administrative reform, reform in the health system created State service on HIV/AIDS and other socially dangerous diseases.



Q2. Has there been changes in staff numbers and management dealing with the development, implementation and monitoring of HIV related activities/policies as a direct consequence to the financial crisis?

- NO: 7
- (i) services for vulnerable groups and PLHIV maintained and financed at the same level as before the crisis // budget cuts mostly affected public information campaigns, trainings for personnel, etc.
- (ii) at central level non replacement of one state agent among two who get retired // some NGOs had funds shortage and had to stop employments of some members of their staff



3. Are there concrete examples of budget cuts and impact on the situation for PLWH?

- NO: 5
- YES: 4
- in all sectors
- hospital budgets and hospital staff; difficult to maintain non medical jobs for global care of PLWA
- More difficult for patients to pay hospital tax and part of care which is not reimbursed by social security;
- in 2008, 15.4% people gave up care for financial reasons in the last 12 months, due to lack of complementary health insurance, to prices fixed by professionals, and to social environment of people (...jobs...)
- Situation of employment market also affects PLWHA



5. Has the legal environment in terms of HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, treatment etc. changed due to the financial crisis?

- NO: 8
- Legal environment changed for illegal immigrants (and eventual authorization to stay in the country when they are suffering from a severe affection and there is no treatment available in their home country) but there is no proof that it is linked to financial crisis



7. Are there effects on the cooperation with other countries or international institutions?

- NO: 8
- More difficult to send people to international meetings/conferences



4. Is there any indication that the social environment vis-à-vis people most-at-risk, affected or living with HIV/AIDS changed or is changing?

- NO: 7
- If a change then for the better (1)
- Unemployment rates increased generally, no reliable data to proof correlation (1)



6. Are there any effects on other policies or operations with relevance for HIV policies?

- NO: 8
- See comment on Q5



8. If you have observed changes due to the financial crisis: What would be the first necessary steps towards reaching a normalisation of activities against HIV/AIDS in your country?

- legislative changes
- increase budget and rebuild the activities which we had to reduce (campaigns etc.)
- close collaboration with all partners involved, concerted actions
- Harmonization of activities of all partners with a clear coordination
- create Governmental body responsible for HIV/AIDS
- audit all projects in the country
- adoption of the State target programme, implementation activities of all partners (donor investment) in problematic zones of this program (rational use of additional resources, avoidance of duplication)
- defining responsibilities of partners, a clear division of functions, a monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of the National Program