JICA's Strategy in Response to HIV/AIDS

With full respect for the each developing country's ownership, JICA works with them to respond to priority issues to be resolved related to HIV/AIDS based on the strategy below.

Targets

JICA supports the developing countries' efforts to strengthen the comprehensive and integrated health systems to minimize the spread of HIV infection and to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV and their families. JICA contributes to establishing a society in which people can live without fear from the threat of HIV/AIDS and in which those who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS can receive necessary medical and other care services.

Approaches

- To expand support as part of comprehensive response to HIV prevention, treatment and care integrated into public health system, emphasizing prevention to protect people against infection
- To approach both "government (national and local)" level and "local community and people" level to support sustainable response to HIV/AIDS
- To facilitate the process of Capacity Development in human resource development, organization strengthening, and institution building to ensure that MDGs will be achieved and outcomes will be sustained for the long-term period
- To formulate cooperation plans through dialogue with each developing country to fit with the national strategy and to ensure the ownership
- To have greater impact through partnerships with international organizations, bilateral donors, and international and local NGOs
- To expand support on HIV/AIDS linking other programs in health sector, as well as intending response to HIV/AIDS in support of other sectors in the perspective, such as poverty reduction, community development, education, agriculture and social insurance.

Activity Areas

The top priority area is "Prevention" and "HIV Testing (VCT and providers-initiated CT)". Although these specific priorities are highlighted, cooperation strategies in each country are developed to meet the real needs based on the HIV/AIDS epidemics and progress of HIV/AIDS response in the country.

- Acceleration of effective and proven HIV prevention program (condom promotion, preventive education/BCC, PMTCT, blood safety, STI control, specific approaches to key population such as youth)
- Integration of prevention, treatment and care through expansion and strengthening of quality VCT service (support providers-initiated testing and counseling according to each country's national policy and situation)
- Support to establish ART system to provide quality clinical care to PLWHA (diagnosis, laboratory quality assurance, adherence monitoring, TB/HIV etc.)
- Empowering community in the field of care and support for PLWHA and the families
- Strengthening basic health system to sustain HIV/AIDS program

PICK UP!

JOCVs for HIV/AIDS program (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers)

JICA annually recruits Japanese youths for HIV/AIDS program and dispatch them to local governments, local NGOs, schools, youth centers and so on. JOCVs are working with people in developing countries to improve HIV/AIDS program management and implementation.
More than 100 JOCVs are working in more than 30 countries especially for HIV prevention, care and support, and program management.

Total 248 As of January 2008

HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in JICA: Red Ribbon Campaign and Behavior Change Workshops on World AIDS Day

To raise awareness on HIV/AIDS issues among the staff, JICA conducts "World AIDS Day Campaign" from late November to December 1st since 2005. Staff working in any sector wears handmade-red ribbons and Behavior Change Workshops are organized.

On the World AIDS Day in 2006, Bono, the lead singer of rock band U2, visited JICA President Sadako Ogata. Bono has been active for raising awareness on issues in Africa, such as HIV/AIDS and poverty. They exchanged views and participated in putting handmade-red ribbons on the board.

Mainstreaming multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS

JICA is expanding HIV/AIDS related multi-sectoral interventions, while JICA's main technical cooperation in HIV/AIDS is in health sector. Examples include: HIV/AIDS education program in schools and youth activities in collaboration with Ministry of Education or Ministry of Youth, HIV/AIDS education related to regional transport corridor initiative or national borders, HIV/AIDS education to construction workers in infrastructure sector, and involvement architects for improvement of VCT service environment.

Involvement of architects to improve VCT service environment in Kenya and Ghana

JOCVs, architects, visited VCT centers and proposed simple and low-cost improvements in the facility of VCT centers for the clients' privacy securing from an architectural aspect, such as change in the direction of the doors, disposition of furniture.

A song on VCT composed in Malawi

Mr. Kohei Yamada, JOCV in Malawi, composed an awareness raising song on VCT and HIV/AIDS prevention with the famous singer Mr. Mlaka Maliro. It was huge hit and entered the charts at number one.

HIV/AIDS program focusing on regional corridors

HIV prevention program focusing key populations at higher risks along corridors (truck drivers and sex workers) is promoted in Zambia. JOCVs in Kenya work closely with community people in collaboration with "Safe-T Stop Project" of USAID/FHI*, which aims HIV/AIDS impact mitigation along Eastern African Corridor.

* Family Health International