

## National Strategy Action Plan for the Fight against HIV/AIDS in Serbia, 2005-2010

### Prevention

#### Specific goals:

- Reduce the number of newly infected and early detection of HIV infected persons and persons suffering from AIDS;
- Raise general awareness level about the interdependence of the social health determinants and HIV/AIDS, and create conditions to change the environment for the persons living with the risk;
- Maintain low rates of STDs infection for STDs are one of key factors for the spread of HIV;
- Enhance the quality and volume of the prevention related services;
- Build the capacity of government authorities and organisations, and NGOs, to more effectively respond to the needs of persons living with the risk.

Target Groups	Sub-goals	Measures/Activities	Time of Implementation	Implementing Parties	Resources
General population					
	Harm reduction to minimise the HIV/AIDS risky behaviour among general population	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Increase the volume of accessible information about the transmission risks of HIV infection, STIs and the possibilities for protection.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Implement the health promotion campaigns, designed to elevate the level of responsibility towards preservation of one's own health and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS risks.</p> <p>Develop the programs for continuous education of the population, with the use of media to disseminate information about HIV/AIDS and with the development of communications to support the HIV/AIDS prevention.</p> <p>Increase the capacity for counselling work with general population.</p> <p>Ensure that each pregnant woman is offered advice related to the HIV/AIDS risks in accordance with the protocol and is provided access to voluntary, confidential, and free testing.</p> <p>Education of journalists/media and continuous provision of quality information about HIV and AIDS.</p>	Continuously, with annual evaluations	Local community, AIDS Commission, NGOs	Budget of the Republic
Target Groups	Sub-goals	Measures/Activities	Time of Implementation	Implementing Parties	Resources
Young people					
	Reduction of the number of new HIV infections among young people	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Increase, among young people, the volume of knowledge and skills to avoid HIV infection and STIs.</p>	Continuously, with annual evaluations	UN and international partners Local community,	Budget of the Republic

		<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Develop the programs for adoption of safe sexual behaviour, including the abstinence, namely the delayed sexual activity until an adequate level of psychophysical and social and economic maturity is reached, and the use of condoms.</p> <p>Support all programs which provide to the young people the knowledge and skills necessary for development of healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Develop and spread the peer education model.</p> <p>Use the media that are popular among young people, and other forms of communication with young people, to disseminate information about HIV/AIDS and develop positive models from the aspect of safe sexual behaviour of young people.</p> <p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Develop and support the services focused on the needs of young people.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Develop, within the primary health care system, the services for young people which would focus on the counselling work, HIV and STIs prevention, improvement and protection of the reproductive health of young people, prevention of addiction diseases and affirmation of healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Increase the capacities for counselling work with young people related to HIV and AIDS prevention, within the non-governmental organisation and social care institutions.</p> <p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Increase the use of condoms.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Implement incentive economic measures for the distribution and sale of condoms.</p> <p>Support the social marketing and its development intended for the use of condoms.</p> <p>Develop educative programs for responsible family planning which would be supportive of the use of condoms.</p> <p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Define the programs and implement the education about HIV/AIDS and STIs, and prevention measures at all levels of education system.</p>	Continuously	<p>ME, local governments and NGOs</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>Ministry of Culture and Information, media</p> <p>Local community, ME, AIDS Commission, LGs</p>	Budget of the Republic
			Continuously, with annual evaluations	<p>MF, MK, NGOs, media, LGs</p>	Budget of the Republic

		<b>Activities</b> Develop educative programs about healthy lifestyles. Continuous education of teachers, peer educators and parents/custodians.			
Target Groups	Sub-goals	Measures/Activities	Time of Implementation	Implementing Parties	Resources
Vulnerable groups					
	Harm reduction to minimise risky behaviour among particularly vulnerable populations				
<i>Intravenous drug users (IDUs)</i>	Harm reduction to minimise risky behaviour among IDUs	<b>Measures</b> Create the conditions necessary for implementation of the harm reduction program. <b>Activities</b> Multisectoral cooperation on implementation of the institutional capacity building program, and consequential improvement of the program quality and comprehensiveness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote the value of the harm reduction program.</li> <li>- Adopt the principles of the harm reduction program.</li> <li>- Alleviation of the discrimination and stigmatisation levels.</li> </ul>	Do 2007.	Ministries within the AIDS Commission, UN and international agencies, media, NGOs, Commission for Addiction Diseases	Budget of the Republic
		<b>Measures</b> Development and implementation of the harm reduction program. <b>Activities</b> Development of the educative programs and training of professionals for application of the harm reduction methods (methadone therapy, exchange of needles and syringes, and other methods). Development of the educative programs focused on IDUs for implementation of positive practice for avoidance of HIV infection (increasing the knowledge about HIV/AIDS, building the motivation of avoid the risk, using personal and sterilised injection equipment, using condoms, etc). Bringing together the governmental and non-governmental capacities in the implementation of harm reduction programs.	2008-2010	Ministries within the AIDS Commission, UN and international agencies, media, NGOs	Budget of the Republic
<i>Persons practicing prostitution</i>	Harm reduction to minimise risky behaviour among persons practicing prostitution	<b>Measures</b> Elevate the level of knowledge and skills for reducing the risk of HIV infection and STIs. <b>Activities</b>	Continuously	Ministries within the AIDS Commission, UN and international agencies, NGOs	Budget of the Republic

		<p>Assess the level of existing knowledge and behaviour. Develop the capacities for implementation of the program for reduction of risky behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer and/or collegial education.</li> <li>- Development and distribution of educative material and condoms for sexual workers and their clients (mandatory involvement of intermediaries – pimps, brother owners, and others).</li> <li>- Development of preventive projects with educative contents (counselling and testing).</li> <li>- Development of the fieldwork capacity within the support and counselling work intended for commercial sexual workers (male or female).</li> </ul> <p>Development of the fieldwork capacity to support commercial sexual workers, and counselling work with them.</p>			
<i>Men who have sex with men (MSM)</i>	<b>Harm reduction to minimise risky behaviour among MSM</b>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Create the necessary conditions in the environment to support the preventive programs for MSM population.</p> <p>Development of the program for prevention of HIV/AIDS spread.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Assess the level of existing knowledge and behaviour of the MSM population.</p> <p>Raise the awareness of the MSM population with regard to the risks of HIV injection and STIs.</p> <p>Alleviate discrimination against the MSM population.</p> <p>Develop the capacity for implementation of the programs for reduction of risky behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education of all the parties implementing the programs.</li> <li>- Development and distribution of educative material and condoms.</li> <li>- Development of the preventive projects with educative contents (counselling and testing).</li> </ul>	Continuously	NGOs, AIDS Commission, international agencies	Budget of the Republic
<i>Prison inmates</i>	<b>Harm reduction to minimise risky behaviour among prison inmates</b>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Raise awareness among the prison inmates about the presence of the risk of HIV/AIDS infection and the need to implement the measures for prevention of the HIV and STIs spread.</p> <p>Development of the educative programs for all who stay in closed environments (prison wardens, prison inmates) about the risks of HIV/AIDS infection and STIs.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Identification of main parties to implement the programs for prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.</p>	<p>Continuously</p> <p>Do 2007.</p>	Ministry of Justice, AIDS Commission	Budget of the Republic

		Education of the personnel about prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs. Implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention programs for closed environments. Development and distribution of the educative material for the persons in closed environments about HIV/AIDS prevention.			
<i>Police and military</i>	<b>Harm reduction to minimise risky behaviour among members of police and military</b>	<b>Measures</b> Raise awareness among members of military and police about the presence of HIV/AIDS risk and the need to implement the measures to prevent the spread of HIV and STIs. <b>Activities</b> Identify the main parties to implement the programs for HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention. Define the programs for the information, educational, and communication focused on gaining knowledge about the risks of HIV/AIDS and STIs. Distribution of condoms and promotion of their use.	Continuously	MIA, MD, AIDS Commission, international institutions, NGOs	Budget of the Republic

## Care, treatment and support to the persons living HIV/AIDS

### Specific goals:

- Promotion of the state of health and quality of life for the PLWHAs;
- Creation of necessary conditions for timely diagnostics of newly infected and newly diseased in order to provide effective treatment, including the timely therapy for the children born from HIV-infected and/or diseased mothers;
- Providing continuous health care at all levels;
- Providing necessary conditions for timely laboratory testing in order to monitor the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy for the persons with HIV/AIDS.

Target Groups	Sub-goals:	Measures/Activities	Time of Implementation	Implementing Parties	Resources
PLWHAs and their families	Building capacity of the health and social care institutions at all levels	<b>Measures</b> Development and application of standardised clinical protocols and foundation of a reference centre for diagnostics, treatment, and care.	2005-2006	Local community	Budget of the Republic
		<b>Activities</b> Prepare the guide for treatment and care of the persons suffering from HIV/AIDS, including the palliative care and psychological help. Provide continuous education for health personnel (good clinical practice guides), with the aim of gaining new knowledge and skills for diagnostics, treatment and care of the persons with HIV/AIDS. Develop protocols for laboratory diagnostics and develop reference	2005-2007	Local community	
			2005-2006	Local community, ME	
			2005-2007	Local community	
			2005-2006	Local community	
			2005-2006	Local community	

		<p>laboratories with regard to testing for HIV and implementing of quality control programs related to these issues.</p> <p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Development and implementation of protocol for the medical procedures for medical personnel safety control.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Ensure the adoption of universal measures and precaution procedures.</p> <p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Provide accessibility of appropriate health and social services at all levels.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Provide health care to the PLWHAs, in accordance with the good practice guides and quality standards, and provide for confidentiality of information and full respect of their civil rights.</p> <p>Provide to all PLWHAs equal access to a well-coordinated and continuous health care at all levels.</p> <p>Build the capacity of primary health care institutions to provide home care and treatment.</p> <p>Provide continuous education of health personnel and associates, including reduction of all forms of discrimination and stigmatisation against the infected and diseased persons.</p> <p>Provide to the children living with HIV/AIDS the appropriate health care, in accordance with the standard therapy protocol.</p> <p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Prevent HIV transmission from mother to child.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Ensure that every HIV-positive pregnant woman and her child get appropriate diagnostics and HAART, in accordance with the standard therapy protocol.</p>			
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## Role of the community in the fight against HIV/AIDS and support to the persons living with HIV/AIDS

### Specific goals:

- Create the environment free of discrimination and stigmatisation against the PLWHAs;
- Raise the general awareness level about interdependence between the health determinants and HIV/AIDS, with creating the conditions for changing of the environment for the person living with the risk;
- Support of the government institutions through establishment of legal framework and implementation of measures which will provide for the effective battle against HIV/AIDS and the support to the PLWHAs;
- Involvement of the institutions outside the health care system (education, health care, etc.) and civil sector as equal partners in the effective battle against HIV/AIDS.

Target Groups	Sub-goals	Measures/Activities	Time of Implementation	Implementing Parties	Resources
<i>Public, private and non-governmental sector</i>	<b>Raising awareness and strengthening of the PLWHAs supporting network</b>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Build and strengthen capacity of the institutions (governmental and non-governmental organisations) involved in providing the support to PLWHAs.</p> <p>Develop and provide necessary conditions for social integration of PLWHAs.</p> <p>Build the capacity of local communities for implementation of prevention and support programs.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Investigation of the social needs of PLWHAs, including the needs of their partners and members of their families.</p> <p>Establishment of cooperation with appropriate international partners in order to build the capacity of all relevant actors.</p> <p>Build the capacity of local communities to create a network for psychosocial support, including governmental and non-governmental organisations (social work centres, NGOs, humanitarian organisations).</p> <p>Development and implementation of the social care program for PLWHAs and members of their families.</p> <p>Development of media campaigns for building the non-discriminatory environment, tolerance and advocacy of the PLWHAs' rights.</p> <p>Building the PLWHAs's capacity to form associations and organisations and to take active part in the activities for mutual support, and to define their requirements for improvement of the conditions for social integration.</p> <p>Enactment of appropriate regulations governing the rights of PLWHAs.</p>	<p>Continuously</p> <p>Continuously</p>	Governmental and non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, international agencies, local community	Budget of the Republic

		<b>Measures</b>  Promote the research and scientific work related to medical, pharmaceutical, and other relevant sciences in order to improve the treatment and prevention.  <b>Activities</b>  Provide support to all research and scientific projects related to these issues.			
<b>Epidemiological surveillance over HIV/AIDS, monitoring and reporting</b>  <b>Specific goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely and appropriate response to current epidemiological situation;</li> <li>• Establishment of the institutional network for data collection and analysis at the level of the Republic.;</li> <li>• Obtaining of the appropriate data for continuous monitoring of the epidemiological situation and trends in order to to define the effective measures for control of the HIV/AIDS epidemics at all levels;</li> <li>• Providing necessary conditions for the development of a network of counselling centres for VCCT;</li> <li>• Establishment of the system for monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the overall response to HIV/AIDS epidemics.</li> </ul>					
Target Groups	Sub-goals	Measures/Activities	Time of Implementation	Implementing Parties	Resources
<i>Institutions involved in the monitoring, surveillance and reporting system</i>	Inclusive knowledge about the HIV/AIDS incidence and prevalence, including the trends and main determinants of HIV/AIDS epidemics				
<i>Selected institutions and entire population</i>	Provide the environment for voluntary testing for HIV (VCCT)	<b>Measures</b>  Providing the system of voluntary and confidential counselling and testing for HIV, together with the counselling before and after the testing.  <b>Activities</b>  Prepare the guide for counselling and testing for HIV.  Development of and support to the system of testing and counselling institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish the reference system to confirm HIV serological status in accordance with WHO recommendations;</li> <li>- In the blood transfusion services, provide for implementation of the procedure for testing each blood unit for HIV, in accordance with the recommended protocol;</li> <li>- Provide the quality system in the counselling system;</li> <li>- Provide the quality system in the laboratories for HIV testing, with application of appropriate standards;</li> </ul>	2005-2006	Local community, AIDS Commission, LGs	Budget of the Republic



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuous education of health personnel in the VCCT implementation.</li> </ul> <p>Inform the public about the significance of HIV testing, testing procedures, institutions conducting the testing, and civil rights during the testing.</p> <p>Provide the funds for continuous financial support to the VCCT.</p>			
	<p><b>Provision of the epidemiological surveillance system which makes it possible to see what are the trends of HIV/AIDS epidemics</b></p>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <p>Establishment of national register for the requirements of collecting the data, processing and analysing the data, and conducting the analysis for incidence and prevalence monitoring.</p> <p>Establishment of the system and monitoring the data about the factors affecting the risky behaviour.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>Build the system for early detection of the changes affecting the increase of the incidence of and research involving three types of surveillance over HIV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provide a mechanism for confidential recordation of data;</li> <li>- biological surveillance – periodical sentinel surveillance for HIV infection (and, preferably, also HBV and HCV infection), for example, through the seroprevalence surveys among the identified high risk groups (such as sexual workers, MSM, sexual workers' clients, prison inmates, young adults, etc), continuous screening for HIV status of the blood, tissue and organ donors;</li> <li>- behavioural sentinel surveillance – continued intersectional analyses of risky behaviour in general population and among the identified high-risk groups;</li> <li>- other sources of information – surveillance over the registered persons with HIV/AIDS, recordation of deaths caused by AIDS, surveillance over STIs, seroprevalence surveys among the young IDUs for HBV, HCV and HIV infection.</li> </ul> <p>Build the monitoring and reporting system according a set of HIV/AIDS indicators, as recommended by the UNAIDS (impact and outcome indicators, as well as the coverage indicators):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Epidemiological indicators – HIV infection prevalence, AIDS incidence rate and mortality cause by AIDS in the adult and children population, STIs incidence rate, TB incidence and prevalence rate;</li> <li>- Risky behaviour indicators– assessment of the number of IDUs, assessment of the number of sexual workers and their clients, etc;</li> <li>- Behavioural indicators – the use of condoms, sharing the equipment for intravenous administration of drugs, the number of irregular sexual partners, the age of sexual initiation, the knowledge and attitudes related to HIV infection;</li> </ul>	<p>2006</p> <p>2005-2006</p>	<p>Local community, RHIF, LGs</p> <p>Local community, LGs, International agencies</p>	<p>Budget of the Republic</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social and economic indicators – the number of population according to gender and age, social and economic status and education level, accessibility of health and social care.</li> <li>• Provide for the improvement of the reporting system for the requirements of evaluation, planning and decision-making in the HIV/AIDS prevention system.</li> <li>• Establish the services which would be in charge of timely response, based on the processed data.</li> <li>• Establish the appropriate system of monitoring and evaluation programs implemented with regard to prevention.</li> </ul>			
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