



# Stop TB Partnership

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The *Action Plan to Implement the strategy of the federal government to fight HIV/AIDS*, published in March 2007 is a joint publication from three German Ministries; Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

In the 82 page document, TB is mentioned twice. Enclosed please find the contents page of the document and the relevant pages where TB is discussed.

The full document is available at:

<http://bmz.de/en/service/infothek/buerger/AIDS.pdf>



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Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

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and Research

# Action Plan to implement the Strategy of the Federal Government to fight HIV/AIDS



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## Joint Preface by the Federal Ministers Ulla Schmidt, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul and Dr. Annette Schavan

For 25 years now, people in all regions of the world have been living under the threat of HIV/AIDS. In this quarter of a century we have gained new insights, gathered experience and know-how, and scored quite a number of successes. The successes in controlling this disease were achieved thanks to the great dedication of political and societal forces, the innovative capacity of researchers from the various disciplines combined with the commitment of those affected and their organizations. Substantial funding has been provided as well. Yet, in spite of all these efforts, the disease has not been vanquished, and the data continue to be alarming. In 2006, a total of 39.5 million people around the world were infected with the virus, with women being particularly hard hit by the increase in new infections.

To be promising, a HIV/AIDS control strategy must tackle a host of challenges – both on the national and the international level – and develop programmes and approaches tailored to each of them. In doing so, the prevention of new infections is of particular importance. The current Action Plan of the Federal Government addresses the most important issues and fields of research, concepts for action and priorities for its work in the fight against the immunodeficiency disease.

The Federal Government's Action Plan for the implementation of the HIV/AIDS control strategy helps to realize the objectives established by the European Union, the United Nations and the G8 States – objectives which Germany shares. During its Council Presidency, Germany will be focusing particularly on innovation, prevention and access to health services. The Action Plan sets out Germany's substantive and strategic contribution to achieving the internationally agreed goals and targets in controlling the disease. The Federal Government is aware of its responsibility and will persevere in its efforts to prevent the spread of HIV, ensuring the care of and support for those affected.

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It has been seen that the Join-In Circuit also works in other cultural circumstances, provided that it is modified and adapted beforehand in cooperation with the responsible players in the respective country.

#### Elements

- The BZgA intends to also use the Circuit in other countries in cooperation with the GTZ
- The Youth Film Festival, which is to be held in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and the Polish administrative district of Zochodniopomorskie in cooperation with Bordernet in the first half of 2007, is likewise to be organized elsewhere on a cross-border basis

## Eastern Europe

One focus of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects between Germany and Eastern European countries are serious health problems, particularly resulting from dangerously high HIV infection rates and other communicable diseases. In addition to HIV/AIDS, there is also an extensive spread of tuberculosis (TB), including its multiresistant forms, in the countries of Eastern Europe. The higher susceptibility to, and manifestation rate of, TB in persons infected with HIV often leads to double infections here.

In bilateral cooperation projects on HIV/AIDS, it is thus the approach of the BMG to also include measures to fight TB.

#### Element

- Above and beyond making financial contributions to supranational and international organizations, the BMG advocates a cooperative partnership with the countries of Eastern Europe. One key tool for this purpose are bilateral cooperation agreements aimed at the transfer of knowledge, particularly concerning issues relating to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and TB. In this context, the BMG attaches particular importance to the establishment of sustainable structures for cooperation between the state and civil society.

Triggered by an EU project, the countries bordering on the Baltic, together with Canada, Norway and France, established a partnership known as the Northern Dimension Partnership for Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS). This partnership project devotes special attention to the serious health problems existing in Northwest Russia, which threaten the functional capacity of society, and thus political stability in the region, in the medium term. Together with the other project partners, the Federal Government aims to achieve the closest possible cooperation at the project level. Consequently, the question being discussed is how a corresponding exchange of information could succeed. A database currently administered by the GTZ could be adapted for this purpose. Funding for a project database for the Baltic region has already been promised by the EU Public Health programme.

## 1.1 The HIV/AIDS pandemic: global trends

### Global spread

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to spread worldwide: a total of 39.5 million people were living with HIV in 2006. This includes the 4.3 million adults and children who were newly infected with HIV in 2006.<sup>16</sup> Since the outbreak of the pandemic, more than 25 million people have died of AIDS and almost 15 million children have lost one or both parents to the disease. Worldwide, infection rates are on the rise particularly among women: today, almost 50 per cent of infected people in the world are female; indeed, in sub-Saharan Africa, women account for almost 60 per cent. Young women between 15 and 24 years of age are especially vulnerable to HIV infection: in sub-Saharan Africa, three-quarters of persons in this age group living with HIV/AIDS are women. Other infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, are also on the rise in regions affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

### Feminisation of the pandemic

### Sub-Saharan Africa

The countries of sub-Saharan Africa are especially hard hit by the pandemic: two-thirds of all adults and children infected with HIV globally (24.7 million people) live here. In some countries of Southern and East Africa, more than 30 per cent of the population between 15 and 49 years of age are now living with HIV. In 2005 alone, two million children and adults died of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. The AIDS pandemic is not confined to specific groups but has spread into all sections of the population in many countries in the region. The feminization of the pandemic is particularly noticeable in sub-Saharan Africa: whereas in the initial phase of the pandemic far more males were infected here, women now account for 59 per cent of those infected.<sup>17</sup>

### Asia and Eastern Europe

Infection rates in Asia and Eastern Europe have also risen alarmingly in recent years. The rates of increase in the populous countries China (currently 650,000 infected persons) and India (currently 5.7 million infected persons) are especially worrying. In these countries, the pandemic still primarily affects injecting drug users, sex workers and their clients, and men who have sex with men. In Eastern Europe, the percentage of infected adults rose by 30 per cent between 2003 and 2005 (from 0.6 to 0.8 per cent of the population).<sup>18</sup> Here, the virus is primarily transmitted through intravenous drug use but also, and increasingly, through heterosexual and homosexual sex.<sup>19</sup>

### Positive developments

Despite the alarming increase in HIV infection rates in many parts of the world, some positive developments in recent years can also be noted. Successful HIV prevention strategies have been developed through cooperation between various actors. As a result of these and other measures, the prevalence rates and numbers of new infections are falling in some sub-Saharan African countries.<sup>20</sup> The international community has also scaled up its commitment in the fight against the AIDS pandemic in recent years. The relevance of this issue to every country has been recognized by various actors, resulting in an increase in financial resources and more intensive multilateral cooperation.

### Antiretroviral therapy (ART)

The development of antiretroviral therapies (ART) offers new opportunities to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic. ART enables people with HIV to live a longer and healthier life and can also reduce the number of new infections as it reduces the risk of transmission and motivates people to undergo HIV testing. Until ten years ago, the costs put this therapy beyond the reach of most people living with HIV worldwide, but the cost of treatment has now been reduced from US\$ 10,000 per year to around US\$ 150.<sup>21</sup> This cost reduction has played a part in significantly increasing the number of people who