

Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support



Road map and next steps for 2010 and beyond

June 2010

What is universal access?

In 2006 governments made a historic commitment at the United Nations to scale up dramatically the AIDS response. In the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (2006) countries committed to provide universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services to all those in need by 2010. The achievement of universal access remains a fundamental priority for UNAIDS. This commitment has as its foundation the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001), in which governments first made a series of time-bound commitments to expand their efforts to address HIV. Both of these instruments support achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly MDG 6, which seeks to halt and reverse the spread of HIV by 2015.

UNAIDS is calling for a review of universal access in 2010 that will reflect on the commitments made in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment and the 2006 Political Declaration, building on the data received from countries through the UNGASS reporting framework.

The country and regional consultations that kicked off the commitment to universal access in 2006 identified a number of barriers to expanding HIV programming, including poor supply systems and financial mechanisms, weak health systems, low levels of human resources, high levels of stigma and discrimination, gender inequality and marginalization of key populations at higher risk. Nevertheless, countries committed to tackling these obstacles and set national targets for universal access.

Although progress has been achieved in some countries in the areas of prevention of mother-to-child transmission and the provision of antiretroviral therapy, many countries are hindered by insufficient progress in addressing the obstacles identified in the first set of country consultations, as well as the underlying social determinants of HIV risk and vulnerability. In particular, high levels of discrimination against people living with HIV, gender inequality, violence against women and girls, and marginalization of men who have sex with men, people who use drugs and sex workers, combined with punitive laws, policies and practices, continue to hold back effective national responses.

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What does universal access bring to the response?

Moving towards universal access requires a specific focus on monitoring and accountability. Thanks to the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment and the Political Declaration of 2006, the world now possesses the most comprehensive and valuable data on the epidemic and the response in history.

Universal access reviews and consultations can be used to mobilize key stakeholders and constituencies, strengthen and expand critical partnerships, and identify resources and assure effectiveness and efficiencies.

What is the aim of the 2010 reviews?

The aim of the 2010 reviews is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and constituencies to take stock of steps towards national targets, identify current obstacles and decide together about what needs to be done now in order to achieve universal access and ultimately the MDGs.

Specifically, the reviews should:

- ▶ Analyse the universal access achievements to date.
- ▶ Analyse existing approaches to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, and what is required to achieve the targets.
- ▶ Analyse data about who becomes infected with HIV and how those populations have changed over the past few decades¹—‘know your epidemic and know your response’.
- ▶ Define strategies to accelerate progress where it is lagging.

The universal access review process is designed primarily for mobilizing and advocating forward action at the country level. Keeping a record of those issues and decisions discussed by stakeholders provides the platform for more effective follow-up and monitoring. It is a tool for country advocacy and should be shared with all relevant stakeholders.

In addition to country reviews, UNAIDS will work with regional political bodies—social and economic mechanisms—to strengthen the review process and increase momentum and political mobilization. Furthermore, regional reviews will provide an opportunity to assess progress and set goals for regions. Policy advocacy will be developed around common regional challenges and solutions.

What happens to universal access next?

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to review the commitments in the Declaration of Commitment (2001) and the Political Declaration (2006) to universal access in 2011. UNAIDS is proposing that reporting on progress achieved (UNGASS + 10 years and universal access + 5 years) will take place in June 2011 at the United Nations General Assembly.

Given the importance of these commitments, UNAIDS is calling on the General Assembly to reiterate and extend the commitment to universal access and to report back on progress in June 2016.

Principles for future work by UNAIDS

- ▶ Review mechanisms will ensure that the next steps are inclusive of stakeholders and constituencies and that they remain key assets for mobilization.
- ▶ UNAIDS will continue with the global, harmonized, standardized collection of the 25 UNGASS country indicators and the four global indicators. The reporting schedule will be as follows:
 - ▶ 2012: countries report on 2011 data.
 - ▶ 2014: countries report on 2013 data.
 - ▶ 2016: countries report on 2015 data.
- ▶ UNAIDS will support a full review of universal access in June 2016.
- ▶ UNAIDS will develop select indicators to allow the measurement of specific new strategic priority directions. Some of these additional indicators are already being collected as part of the broader MDG monitoring and evaluation process.

¹ These are different key populations at higher risk of HIV, such as young women, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs, sex workers and prisoners.

Key components of the universal access reviews

There are several key components related to the universal access reviews, including:

- ▶ Country consultations.
- ▶ Regional reviews with political bodies and other high-level meetings and conferences.
- ▶ Global report/universal access assessment report scorecards.
- ▶ Communication and messaging.

Country consultations—there are reviews planned or under way in 117 countries. Each consultation on universal access will prepare an aide-memoire or report, a record of the discussion that identified the barriers and the steps to address them in order that universal access and the MDGs are achieved. They should be used by stakeholders so that the issues identified will feature in the onward planning for new or revised national strategic plans on HIV. UNAIDS will ensure dissemination among partners and will monitor how these aide-memoires are used in the future planning of national strategic frameworks or plans.

Regional reviews—throughout the next 12 months there will be a series of opportunities to articulate the HIV agenda. The regional reviews will focus on creating regional momentum at the political level and will include key organizations such as the African Union, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Organization of American States, and others.

Global report/universal access assessment report scorecards—an international advisory team will be created to review country and regional reports. It will be comprised of stakeholders and constituencies from all levels—governments, United Nations organizations, partners and civil society—and will prepare a global assessment of the successes, challenges and way forward.

Communication and messaging—while 2010 will see concentration on how the response to HIV is supporting the achievement of the MDGs at a summit in September 2010, a full accounting for universal access will be made in June 2011. This is a significant time for the following reasons:

- ▶ It will be 30 years since AIDS was first identified.
- ▶ It will be 10 years since the countries agreed to a Political Declaration that sets out the framework for monitoring the response through a series of indicators.
- ▶ It will be five years since countries agreed to provide universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support services.

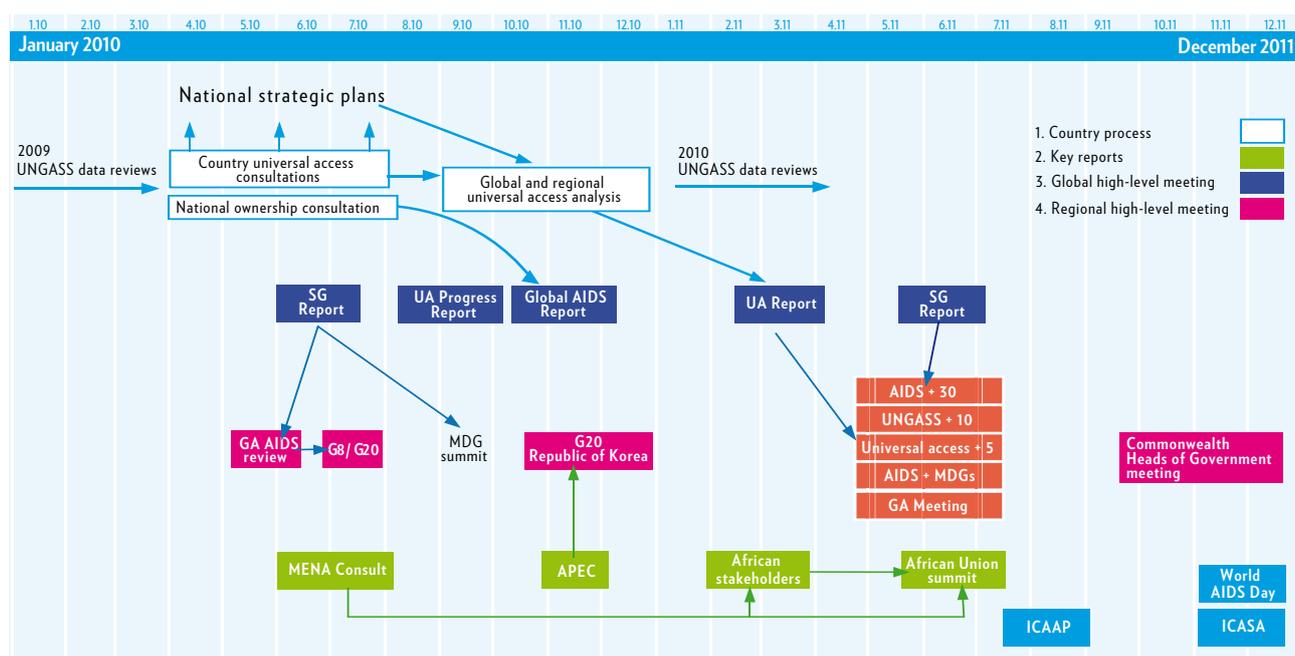
Some of the central issues the reviews will cover include:

- ▶ AIDS + MDGs: in order to meet the MDGs, significant progress must be made to achieve universal access.
- ▶ The centrality of civil society in the engagement at the country, regional and global levels.
- ▶ Equity.
- ▶ Effectiveness—reaching those most in need.
- ▶ Quality of services.
- ▶ Impact of AIDS on the development agenda.

Key reports will be used to highlight stocktaking and the way forward in 2010 and 2011, strengthening our understanding and promoting an AIDS agenda within the context of the MDGs.

- ▶ AIDS component of the UN Secretary-General's report for the MDG summit (September 2010).
- ▶ Universal access progress report by UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF (September 2010).
- ▶ UNAIDS global AIDS report (November 2010).
- ▶ Universal access assessment report scorecards (early 2011).

The next steps for 2010 and beyond



Next steps

An overview of the key next steps is as follows:

June to December 2010:

- ▶ Country consultations under way to review UNGASS data, assess progress or lack of progress against established country targets, improve knowledge of current transmission dynamics ('know your epidemic and know your response'), identify obstacles and barriers, and establish a remedial action plan.
- ▶ Additional high-level meetings, to include the African Union, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, organizations in the Middle East and North Africa region, the G8 and G20 and others.
- ▶ Universal access progress report (UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF).
- ▶ UNAIDS global report, published in November.

January to June 2011:

- ▶ Establish a universal access international advisory team.
- ▶ Universal access scorecards produced.
- ▶ AIDS + 30, universal access + 5, UNGASS + 10 meeting at the United Nations General Assembly, June 2011. A new Political Declaration is expected to highlight the commitment to universal access and to merge this commitment with the Declaration of Commitment (2001) and the Political Declaration (2006) with the MDGs.
- ▶ High-level mobilization and advocacy continue with select meetings that include the African Union and others. The High-level General Assembly session in June.

Uniting the world against AIDS