

Dear partners and colleagues,

The German BACKUP Initiative is a global programme funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Since 2002, BACKUP has helped partner countries worldwide to take greater advantage of funding opportunities provided by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We provide technical support for the development of national and regional capacity for effective responses to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. Our activities focus on the strengthening of health and community systems and gender equality. Our newsletter offers you regular updates on our work with national and international partners. Your feedback, questions and contributions are most welcome.

Eschborn, 28 September 2011

German BACKUP Initiative team (backup@giz.de)

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Forthcoming events

ICASA 2011

4 - 8 December 2011
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
The XVI. International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) will be addressing the theme 'Own, scale-up and sustain'. Read more on BACKUP's and partners' presence at the conference at [www.giz.de/...](http://www.giz.de/)

Further recommended newsletters

Health, Education, Social Protection (HESP) News

A bi-weekly newsletter supported by GIZ
Contact: Dieter Neuvians (dneuvians@gmx.de)

Global Fund Observer (GFO)

Independent newsletter about the Global Fund provided by AidsPan to over 7,000 subscribers in 170 countries
Read more: [www.aidspan.org/...](http://www.aidspan.org/)

Promoting empowerment through PLHIV participation



In a BACKUP-supported project, the Ecuadorian Coalition of PLHIV (CEPVS) has strengthened capacity at its headquarters and provincial offices. The project has enhanced the technical and political capacities

of a large number of civil society leaders, enabling them to participate more actively in improving the local and national

response to HIV. This includes better access to and quality of care for PLHIV, reducing stigma and discrimination in the workplace, and empowering people to live in dignity and health. As part of the process of strengthening the organisations and promoting PLHIV participation in Ecuador, CEPVVS conducted provincial assemblies in 11 regions. In January 2011, it held its seventh national general assembly with 70 leaders from 15 provinces. Topics discussed included the Global Fund HIV Round 9 grant, the specific activities conducted by CEPVVS, and the functioning of the Ecuadorian Country Coordination Mechanism. The CEPVVS National Assembly also elected the new Board of Partners, Board of Directors and Secretary General of the CEPVVS.

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Supporting the joint assessment of national HIV strategy in Ghana



In 2010 Ghana set out its new HIV Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 with a budget of over USD 900 million. With a funding gap of USD 600 million, it is vital for Ghana to mobilise additional

resources.

The Ghana AIDS Commission and its partners therefore applied to a new funding mechanism of the Global Fund. This is the National Strategy Application (NSA), which is based on a country's National Strategic Plan. Ghana successfully filed an Expression of Interest for the Second Wave of NSAs in February 2011 and was requested to commission an independent joint assessment of its national HIV strategy (JANS).

The JANS exercise took place in July 2011. GIZ supported this process by seconding a consultant to the JANS team. The JANS report identifies a number of actions which Ghana can take to optimise the implementation of its national HIV strategy.

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CSOs in Tanzania identify critical gender issues



This BACKUP-supported project aims to build capacity of 14 civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Masasi and Mtwara District. To provide first-hand information on critical gender issues for advocacy activities, the CSOs and their target groups – women, men and youth in the rural areas of

southern Tanzania – participated in a qualitative gender study. During this study, harmful traditional practices were identified. For example, the communities questioned some aspects of the prevailing initiation camps for girls and boys, as they teach very young children their respective gender roles in the community, including sexual practices. The study also showed that female genital mutilation – although thought to be abolished – is still practised in some areas. The principle of patriarchy, ‘mfumo dume’, was identified as the origin of gender imbalance in decision-making and unfair divorce and inheritance procedures. The participating CSOs are now developing advocacy activities involving traditional leaders and local government authorities to address these crucial issues.

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David Kato Vision and Voice Award

In recognition of the life and courage of David Kato and the continued struggle of sexual and gender minorities around the world, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) along with other partners, including GIZ, has established the annual David Kato Vision and Voice Award. David Kato, a human rights activist, particularly for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Africans, was murdered in Uganda in 2011.

Inspired by his work, the award will be presented annually to an individual who demonstrates courage and outstanding leadership in advocating the sexual rights of sexual and gender minorities, particularly in environments where these individuals face continued rejection, marginalisation, isolation and persecution. The award will be accompanied by a one-time grant (US-Dollar 10,000) to support leadership development and innovative ideas for promoting the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

Any person or organisation can nominate an outstanding individual before 1 November 2011.

Read more: www.visionandvoiceaward.com

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Regional consultation on CSS in Round 11

A regional consultation on ‘Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) for Key Affected Populations in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia’ took place on 22 – 24 August 2011 in Kiev, Ukraine. It was organised by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) in partnership with East Europe and Central Asia Union of PLHIV (ECUO) and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, with financial support of BACKUP. The consultation was supported by the Global Fund, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA and WHO Europe.

The 48 participants from 11 countries included representatives of national networks of PLHIV, men who have sex with men (MSM), organisations representing interests of people who use drugs, as well as members of CCMs and representatives of UN agencies involved in preparing national proposals to the Global Fund.

The participants received support in the process of including CSS activities in Round 11 grant proposals to the Global Fund. The consultation helped them improve their knowledge of the CSS framework, CSS goals, and indicators. The organisers are providing follow-up technical support to facilitate inclusion of and adequate funding for CSS components in Global Fund proposals from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region in Round 11.

Read more on CSAT Regional Hub activities at the EHRN website in Russian www.harm-reduction.org/ru/...

CSAT undergoes mid-term review

In May 2011, the Civil Society Action Team (CSAT) initiated a mid-term review (MTR) to measure the initiative's effectiveness, efficiency and relevance after three years of implementation. The review also afforded CSAT and its partners the opportunity to understand the challenges, take stock of successes and document lessons learned. The MTR provides a sound basis for the CSAT Strategic Plan 2012-2014. An important part of the MTR was a site visit conducted in August 2011 to carry out an in-depth review of CSAT's Southern Africa Hub, set up one year ago and hosted by the Southern African AIDS Trust. As the most recently established hub, it offered insights into the challenges a new hub faces in initiating and implementing the programme. The site visit gave partners an opportunity to clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations, grasp the realities and challenges on the ground and learn from one another, with the aim of increasing CSAT's efficiency and effectiveness.

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Global guidelines for HIV prevention and treatment among MSM and transgender people

The World Health Organization (WHO) has addressed a major gap in public health by developing global guidelines for prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people. In this it was supported by the German BACKUP Initiative and a range of partners, including PEPFAR, UNAIDS, UNDP and UNFPA. Launched on 22 June 2011, these are the first guidelines to focus on a population group rather than on the disease. They incorporate a human rights framework and a range of interventions with both structural and biomedical focus. Due to stigma issues and criminalisation, many countries struggle or refuse to work on HIV prevention among MSM. With the guidelines in hand, such countries may now be able to take up these recommendations in their HIV/AIDS national plans. Since June 2011, WHO, UNAIDS and other partners have been promoting implementation of the guidelines.

Read more: www.who.int/hiv/...

Contact: Antonio Gerbase (gerbasea@who.int)

Integrating gender into HIV surveillance

In July 2011, the Zagreb Knowledge Hub hosted a WHO workshop on increasing gender-specific targeting of vulnerable groups in HIV surveillance. It identified priorities for gender-responsive HIV surveillance, which included potential gender biases in data collection, underreporting of MSM and enhancement of ANC-based surveillance. Recruitment of female injecting drug users (IDUs) and a process for case reporting to identify risks for women were further areas highlighted.

Participants proposed the following recommendations and follow-up actions:

- (1) Integrate gender-based violence related questions into HIV surveillance i.e. pre-surveillance assessments, behavioural surveillance surveys (BSS), qualitative research.
- (2) Examine multiple risk behaviours in pre-surveillance

assessments and in BSS for both male and female MARPs.
(3) Include questions on non-injecting drugs and alcohol use in BSS questionnaires.
(4) Include access to HIV services in surveillance i.e. pre-surveillance assessments, BSS and/or qualitative research.
(5) Include questions on disclosure of HIV status in BSS and/or qualitative research.
Contact: Joanna Jessie Vogel (vogelj@emro.who.int)

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Increasing institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming

HIV in Asia Pacific is largely concentrated among IDU, MSM and commercial sex workers and their clients. However, an increasing number of women are being infected through sexual partners. With BACKUP support, regional networks of HIV-affected communities have improved their institutional capacity to better address the needs of women and girls. In July 2011 a workshop was organised by Seven Sisters, networks of key affected populations and UNAIDS RST. It supported the two regional networks Asian Network of People Using Drugs (ANPUD) and Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility in Asia (CARAM Asia) in assessing their own capacities and effectively mainstreaming gender/sexuality concerns into their plans and actions. Gender mainstreaming tools were used, including the Gender/Sexuality Process Oriented Tool (GSPOT). Seven Sisters and UNAIDS are committed to expanding this support by using the regional networks as a mechanism for results-oriented gender capacity building. These capacity building activities supported by BACKUP funds have also led to the establishment of the UNZIP initiative.

Read more: <http://unzipthelips.org>
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Video-conferencing technology for distance learning in Africa

The Eastern and Southern Africa Knowledge Hubs (ESA KH) network was formed in 2008 by organisations across sub-Saharan Africa with financial support from GIZ. The network currently has 15 training institutions and NGOs under the umbrella of four Knowledge Hubs. With funding from GIZ and UNAIDS, the network has recently installed and tested a video-conferencing solution across Kenya, Sudan and South Africa. Its primary function will be to facilitate distance learning and regional meetings between members and their beneficiaries. Held back by its shortage of human resources for health (HRH), Africa requires a rapid scaling up of HRH if it is to realise the health-related MDGs. The ESA KH has implemented a proven and cost-effective means of offering training to large numbers of HRH across the region which will be showcased during the ICASA conference in Addis Ababa in December 2011.

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Further information

BACKUP fund allocation

This document contains charts of the allocation of funds since 2009 by region, disease, crosscutting area, area of technical support, constituency.

[giz2011-en-backup-charts-since-2009.pdf](#) (0.13 MB, English)

BACKUP activities and partners

This document provides a list of activities supported by the German BACKUP Initiative since 2009.

[giz2011-en-backup-activities-since-2009.pdf](#) (0.17 MB, English)

Read more

Please find all up-to-date documents on BACKUP's website.

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