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Parliamentarians for Global Action



Capitalisation Series: SDC Supported Projects and Activities in HIV/AIDS

A fact sheet elaborated in the frame of the 2009 SDC Backstopping Mandate with support from the Swiss Centre for International Health of the Swiss Tropical Institute

Introduction

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia is still concentrated amongst marginalized groups, such as men having sex with men, sex workers, etc. This leaves a narrow window of opportunity to control epidemics before they become widespread, threatening larger numbers of people, and having serious consequences on Asia's economic and development progress. Political leadership and commitment is known to be a critical factor for success in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Reaching out to parliamentarians as key opinion and decision makers to set the agenda, make policy and allocate resources, is thus a crucial strategy in addressing HIV and AIDS.

Objectives

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) aim to mobilise public support around HIV and AIDS, and the needs of those affected as part of a greater movement of international solidarity. It is expected that PGA activities will sensitise Members of Parliament from a variety of countries and assist them to develop concrete measures to address HIV and AIDS issues, and create an enabling environment for the implementation of internationally agreed developmental goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS.

Project Description

PGA was established in 1978 in Washington, DC, U.S.A. by concerned parliamentarians from around the world to take joint action on global problems which could not be solved by any one government or parliament. While its initial driving force was the critical need for nuclear disarmament, the PGA today works on an expanded list of global issues such as fostering democracy, human rights and population issues, HIV and AIDS, conflict prevention and management, international law and environmental issues. Since 2005, PGA (Sustainable Development, Health and Population Program) has concentrated on policy advocacy for HIV and AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, and co-infections in South Asian countries with Parliamentarians and key partners such as Actionaid International, UNAIDS Pakistan, UNDP, UNFPA and WHO. In accordance with the global mandate of PGA, the activities undertaken by PGA members in South Asia have been designed as a model for implementation in other regions and countries. In February 2009 and with the support of SDC, PGA organized a two day seminar on HIV policy in Nepal, resulting in the Kathmandu Declaration of Action.

Outcomes and Achievements

The events and conferences organised in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka gathered parliamentarians, ministers and politicians around the issue of HIV and AIDS, and resulted in these policy makers being sensitised and more committed to contributing to the HIV/AIDS response in their country. Thanks to PGA's efforts, national and local action plans were developed defining clear

measures to mobilise resources to fight against the pandemic, create an enabling environment to address HIV and AIDS issues and prevent the spread of the virus in the South Asia region. As an example of an outcome of one of these regional conferences, the Government of the Sindh Province in Pakistan committed an investment of \$8.3 million for HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes.

SDC Partnership

The SDC South Asia Division has been involved with the PGA since 2004 through the provision of a series of small scale grants in the areas of HIV/AIDS, and migration, and since 2007 through a three year programme contribution to PGA. Through SDC South Asia's contribution to PGA, a series of specific events and conferences on HIV and AIDS issues, have been supported in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

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More about this Project

PGA Sustainable Development Program: www.pgaction.org/prog_sust.aspx

PGA: www.pgaction.org

Kathmandu Declaration of Action 2009:

www.pgaction.org/uploadedfiles/Declaration%20Nepal.pdf