

Executive Summary

Angola is geographically situated in the most affected region by AIDS, and between countries with the highest incidence and prevalence rates to HIV in the world, nevertheless comparatively it shows a scenario more favorable. Its historical context of almost 30 years of armed conflict seems to have delayed the epidemic advance. Therefore, the increase of poverty, the people mobility and the fast process of urbanization are relevant and worry aspects to the growth of HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Angola is among of African countries with the poorest people. It is considered a country of low human development. There are various limitations on people access education, such as schools and number of places in the basic learning deficits. There are also disadvantages and inequalities between men and women in the education access getting repercussion to all familiar structure.

The first AIDS case in Angola was dated in 1985. Until 2006 November, they are 24.798 HIV/AIDS cases registered. The fact of to reach mainly the young people, specially of feminine sex, became this an essential Project/Program of Ministry of Education (MED) to pass correct information about HIV/AIDS, preventive practices and debates about gender and power relationships which subject specially girls to risk of HIV infection.

The final evaluation of the Project “Strengthening the Education System in Angola to Combat HIV/AIDS” answers PNUD/Angola requirement searching to identify outcomes and difficulties in its execution process. The Project aims to strengthen the educative system and its role in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Angola. It is about the MED’s first systematic response to mitigate the AIDS impact in the educative system inserting itself in elaboration of HIV/AIDS policy publics in Angola.

There were analyzed effects and changes expected in relation to the end of execution of the Project, and its sustainability when institutionalized like “Education and Health Program in the Angola Educative System” of MED. This formalization was evaluated as measure of success of the Project. Also, there are success factors such as the importance of the work developed to the Angolan society, and the possibility of gather together individuals and social groups around the HIV/AIDS question, besides reach and repercussion of information passed through the learning system.

In the sense to guarantee the continuity of the work and the investment in this work until this moment, the formalization of MED’s Program should be effected guaranteeing a place to its execution and a enlarged staff following the repercussion and the increase of people demands. Besides the formalization of MED’s Program, other important outcome to its sustainability is the use of the curricular reform of Angolan educative system to include contents about HIV/AIDS of transverse way in all class and subjects.

In general, there are five learned lessons to be maintained and enlarged in the new Program:

1. Formalization of developed actions through the “Education and Health Program in the Angola Educative System”, into MED
2. Synergy with partnerships working in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Angola
3. Needs of agreements aiming to develop local actions and to recognize Provincial Nucleus of Education and AIDS (NPES)
4. Enlargement of partnerships between the government and the civil society organized
5. Better definition of goals and interests engaged in media talking

The Angolan experience was approached under the perspective of multiple cases focusing general aspects of the Project, and specifics aspects about Bengo and Kuanza Sul provinces. The implementation of activities was measured comparing the planning with that was really implemented.

It can say that 80% of the Project was implemented. However, some weakness was identified in this implementation, and their possibilities of maintenance. The best performance of the Project is the mobilization and engagement of institutions key in the strength of the education system, through the social actors’ formation. Certainly a conquest, but to be kept and strengthened should be to relate critically the reach of used information in formations specially through educative and instructional materials, as well as to assume the debate about condom as preventive method and to design strategies of its acquisition and distribution.

An relevant aspect to the sustainability of the Project/Program is the decentralization of actions through NPES. Task successful, besides technical and financial limits. Other aspect are partnerships with NGO, point out the PLWHA as protagonists, policy pressure, and the dialog with the government. These two channels of dialog strengthen the Project coverture.

About partnerships with NGO, should be created spaces to political talking aiming strategies to actions together. In turn, there are needs to increase the budget gone to actions and publics attended by NGO. These are not presents in the other way in the Project activities, neither in NPES. Nevertheless, they are indispensable in Angola HIV/AIDS scenario.

About the PLWHA’s visibility, actions developed by the Project are timid. As State’s policy it is possible to create a social place for these people expression minimizing speculations about their infection or fantasies about evil people, and considering them as citizens living a new social condition which cannot be controlled alone for them.

Social and political capital acquired by MED in these years mean expression, relevance and contribution, through actions developed, to the educative system, but also to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Angola became it a recognized social actor. In this sense, it is

possible to strength current changes without to lost alliances conquered. They can amplify the impact of their future actions.

Media registers are important to the public visibility of the Project, despite relations with divers communication vehicle to be few planned yet, and there is not a specialized professional in this area.

Other factor in focus are CAP and HIV/AIDS prevalence studies. They are considered presuppositions for precise information which give base to formations and the elaboration of materials, consequently helping to mitigate the epidemic impact. Preliminary data helped this evaluation showing information and perceptions about the epidemic. Final outcomes should be showed in 2007.

Among various strategies and recommendations showed by final evaluation of the Project, point out the following:

- To emphasize the importance of partnerships with NGO, Agencies and private sector, searching synergy between State–business–society favorable to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Angola
- Make sure if information and contents about HIV/AIDS in didactic materials used for the Program are harmonized with the Angolan health policy and the international statements
- To recognize and motivate the PLWHA participation in the formulation of policy public aiming recognize them as people politically living with rights and to mitigate stigma, prejudices and discrimination
- To emphasize the importance of decentralization meaning a process of creation of jointed consensus between central and provincial governments, and simultaneously the autonomy of local managements
- Through NPES, to incentive schools to develop extra-curriculum activities opened to the community
- To elect the radio as the mass media more efficient and popular to pass information about HIV/AIDS prevention. Also, it is a vehicle which permits to keep PLWHA's identity, in the case of their evidences.

Despite fragilities pointed, it is needed to recognize that the Project compromised the Ministry of Education with the fight against epidemic, conquered public recognition, strengthened local actions trough NEPS, and mobilized some NGO. The enlarged staff and the renewed strategic in the MED's Program are essential to continue the work and to mitigate the impact of epidemic for Angolan people.