

### Continued work to reconcile data

UNAIDS has recognized the 2008 reporting process as more collaborative than in previous years and also more robust in terms of checking different data sources. This was the first time divergences in national data were identified and reconciled in a systematic way. Many countries reported that the process was a catalyst promoting healthy dialogue between stakeholders that reinforced a sense of country ownership.

In most cases the Joint UN Team worked closely with countries on the quality control of data, ensuring a thorough examination of methodologies and analysis of data. Work to reconcile data will continue in the months ahead as more analysis and data emerges.

### Use of the UNGASS data

The country data informs the basis of the UN Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly in June 2008 as well as the 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic to be launched by UNAIDS at the Mexico City International AIDS Conference 3-8 August 2008.

As many improvements have been seen in this year's process in the quality of data, stakeholder participation, number of reports and the data analysis capacities UNAIDS is confident that a clearer picture of national responses to AIDS is emerging.

An improved reporting process means countries can better "know their epidemic" enabling them to target their strategic response accordingly.

UNAIDS is keen to ensure that the engagement of stakeholders does not end with the publication of the report, opportunities should be identified throughout the year.

### Country level advocacy opportunities can include:

- Engagement with parliamentary AIDS committee, through Cabinet memos and presentations and media briefings, features and news stories
- National level consultations and reviews
- Support from the UN Country Offices on reflection and analysis and use of the national progress report to address gaps and weaknesses in national responses

### June 2008 High Level Meeting on AIDS

National delegations from most African countries will attend the United Nations High Level Meeting in New York. Many national delegations this year include a place for civil society or representation from organizations of people living with HIV.

Some Eastern and Southern Africa Heads of State are expected to attend alongside Ministers of Health from many countries in the region. Delegations will also most likely include the directors of national



*These national reports feed into regional and global tracking and mobilization and inform national stakeholders of progress, gaps and challenges. The reports are used to guide national strategic planning and programmatic decisions and also inform resource mobilization efforts and advocacy.*

*All the data and analysis in these Fact Sheets have been taken from the National Reports.*

AIDS councils and permanent secretaries working on AIDS.

A civil society task force, supported by ICASO, is working with the Office of the President of the General Assembly to agree civil society participants to take on an active role at the meeting. Further information is available at: [www.icaso.org/ungass.html](http://www.icaso.org/ungass.html)

Full reports from the High Level Meeting, including the outcome document, will be available at the UNAIDS website [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org) and will inform advocacy and strategic planning for the coming months and years.

### **Regional Level Opportunities**

Country member networks and organizations are encouraged to analyze, discuss and review the national reports. Regional level analysis and comparison of national data, progress, weaknesses and knowledge gaps can help mobilize further support needed for strengthened national responses.

Further information: [www.unaidsrstes.org](http://www.unaidsrstes.org)