

Tim → Chris → UN Action

Scientific Research Planning Meeting on
Aligning HIV and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Part A. Meeting Information (To be completed by the UN Action Secretariat)			
RMC Meeting No: RMC-010	Project¹ No: UNA-019		
Date of Meeting: February 14, 2011	RMC members in attendance at meeting: Gillian Holmes and Maura Heron (UN Action), Mari Matsumoto (MDTF), Leo Kenny (presenting from UNAIDS), Claudia Garcia Moreno (WHO), Mendy Marsh (Unicef), Kate Burns (OCHA), Natalie Man (DPKO), Maha Muna (UNFPA)		
Part B. Project Summary (To be completed by the Participating UN Organization)			
Date of Submission: February 2011	Participating UN Organization(s): UNAIDS		
Focal Point of the Participating UN Organization(s): UNAIDS Name: Leo Kenny Address: 20, Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland Telephone: +41.22.791.3666 Email: kennyl@unaids.org	Project Title: Scientific Research Planning Meeting on Aligning HIV and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response		
	Project Location(s): Dakar, Senegal: Universite Cheikh Anta DIOP		
UN Action pillar of activity: <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge building <input type="checkbox"/> Support to UN system at country level	Projected Project Duration: March 2011- October 2011		
Proposed project, if approved, would result in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Project <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of previous funding <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)	Total Project Budget: US \$212,608		
	Amount of MDTF funds requested: US \$ 69,550		
	Percentage of indirect support costs from MDTF contribution: 7%		
Projected Annual Disbursements:	2010 \$	2011 \$ 69,550	2012 \$

¹ The term "project" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

	2010	2011	2012
Projected Annual Commitments:	\$	\$ 69,550	\$

Overview

- a. Provide a brief overview of the project, including overall goals and objectives, key strategies, expected results, and intended beneficiaries.**

A scientific research planning meeting is proposed in support of advancing UNAIDS' priority commitment to stop violence against women and girls, and to align global, regional and national strategies for preventing sexual violence and HIV and AIDS.

The UNAIDS Regional Support Team for West and Central Africa in collaboration with the leading virologist Souleymane M'Boup (Director, Senegalese Society for Immunology and African HIV/AIDS Network) will host a two and a half day expert group meeting of leading virologists, epidemiologists, mathematical modellers, social scientists and public health specialists, with the aim of identifying new approaches for assessing the role of sexual violence in HIV risk transmission. The meeting will identify opportunities to accelerate, expand, and/or strengthen new and ongoing biological, clinical, behavioral and social science research relevant to HIV/AIDS risk, prevention, disease progression, and treatment.

Understanding the role of sexual violence in HIV risk transmission and prevention is a research challenge best met collectively, through collaboration among researchers working in complementary scientific areas and the integration of behavioural and social science research into biological, clinical, and applied research. With the aim of identifying new opportunities for HIV prevention and response and the adoption of best practices, the meeting will identify opportunities and strategies for assessing the implications of sexual violence for HIV risk transmission through supplemental applied research in the behavioral and social sciences, and the incorporation of behavioural and social science research into biological, clinical, and applied research. The meeting will also address the research design, data collection and measurement challenges of capturing the social dynamics that may contribute to the incidence of sexual violence and HIV risk in conflict affected settings, including through qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Background and Rationale

The debate regarding the role of sexual violence in HIV transmission raises important questions about the explanatory power and utility of the most widely used and accepted bio-social indicators used to assess individual risk and understand HIV impacts and drivers. A pivotal question at the centre of this debate is whether reducing sexual and gender-based violence in HIV-hyperendemic countries will also reduce HIV risk, particularly for young women and girls. The role of force or coercion on transmission risk has yet to be made explicit in the data linking HIV with factors such as sexual debut, levels of sexual experience, age difference between partners, age of marriage and even condom usage.

As a contribution to this debate, ASCI commissioned research exposed significant flaws in existing epidemiological models that have yet to consider the virological and social implications of sexual violence for transmission risk. Findings highlighted both the challenges of collecting epidemiological data and their relevance in the absence of reliable baseline and comparative data

for either HIV or sexual violence incidence and prevalence (particularly over comparable time periods, study groups and age groups, and among men/boys). They also identified significant flaws in epidemiological models that have yet to consider the virological implications of sexual violence for transmission risk.

Although many scholars, practitioners and policy-makers increasingly associate sexual violence in conflict situations with heightened HIV risk, it has yet to be identified as a specific factor in either epidemiological models of risk transmission, or as an entry point for HIV prevention and response. The dissonance between widely accepted “grey literature” documenting these links and the biomedical and epidemiological “science” of HIV measurement is fuelling a growing debate within humanitarian, security and public health arenas. Although HIV prevention is often a first-line response to sexual violence through STI treatment, provision of PEP, etc., sexual violence prevention is rarely considered an entry point for HIV prevention in the context of security and humanitarian responses, including through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and reconstruction and early recovery programmes. For the most part, addressing sexual violence is considered (and therefore resourced and programmed) as a part of human rights advocacy or as a reproductive health or gender issues. The course of this debate, and its conclusions, will have significant implications for the global HIV response, security sector reforms and humanitarian action.

Goals and objectives

Support is requested for an interdisciplinary scientific meeting that will convene leading experts across the biomedical, public health, policy and social science arenas. With the goal of advancing a more comprehensive response to the interrelated challenges of sexual violence and HIV/AIDS, the programme seeks to develop strategies for ensuring that the prevention of sexual violence and exploitation can be made central to the global response to HIV and AIDS, as well as within biomedical, public health and social science research. The meeting outcomes will be synthesized in a meeting report that will form the basis of a comprehensive research program on sexual violence, HIV transmission and conflict. A small, two-day research planning meeting, held immediately prior to the Expert Group Meeting, will develop a phase 2, dynamic model of sexual violence and HIV risk that incorporates virological, epidemiological and mathematical approaches.

The Expert Group Meeting will invite presentations from leading experts that propose strategies, topics, research designs (for current and new projects) for integrating sexual violence into ongoing (and future) HIV research across a range of basic and applied social and behavioural sciences and biomedical, clinical and operational research programmes. Similarly, experts working on sexual violence will be invited to propose ways in which HIV/AIDS risk can be incorporated into ongoing and future projects. With the aim of informing approaches to data collection, modelling, policy and programmes, emphasis will be given to research that can inform HIV prevention efforts and integrates the physiological and social factors of conflict and crisis related sexual violence into epidemiological and social models of HIV transmission risk.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- the structure and dynamics of small groups, institutions and organizations (e.g. military, humanitarian, reproductive health, legal); communities (e.g. in return areas, camp settings, especially vulnerable populations), the individual (e.g. perpetrator motivation; individual perception of risk); and larger demographic, political, economic, and cultural systems (e.g. in camp settings; before, during and after displacement, return areas);
- the influence of sociocultural and environmental factors (e.g. the effects of IPV, previous experience of sexual violence) on vulnerability, susceptibility and resistance to HIV and to sexual violence and exploitation;
- the role of social networks, family and household structures in preventing HIV and sexual violence risk;
- the impact of conflict-related population dynamics on HIV risk taking behaviours, sexual violence and exploitation
- the diffusion of HIV and sexual health-related information and practices in conflict contexts,
- new approaches to research design, data collection, measurement, and data analysis that integrate basic and social scientific approaches and research collaborations, including the application of information technologies to data collection and measurement; statistical modelling techniques; innovative research designs (e.g., multi-method, multi-informant designs); methods to reduce sampling, survey, and item non-response bias in research studies; behavioral observation procedures; qualitative and ethnographic methods;
- behavioral and social risk and protective factors associated with sexual violence and HIV (e.g. social support, substance abuse, socio-economic status, harmful cultural practices, the influence of community organization and the structure and functioning of families)
- the impact of HIV and sexual violence prevention in conflict settings (e.g. mass media interventions, rule of law, condom promotion, behavioural training)
- organization of and access to health care in crisis settings (e.g. social and cultural acceptability) and the translation of successful approaches into public policy.
- The role of masculinities and sexuality, gender and generational relations in shaping HIV risk, prevention and response;
- Community-based biobehavioral HIV prevention interventions, including interventions that address norms and attitudes about drug and alcohol use, sexual networking, and risk reduction practices;
- Methodologies for measuring, interpreting, or integrating sociocultural variables within biobehavioral HIV prevention research design and data analysis with attention to intervention targets;

Key strategies and expected results

- **Background papers (April-May)**

Five experts in the fields of virology, mathematical modelling, social science and public health will be commissioned to prepare exploratory background papers summarising literature in their respective fields and identifying key questions for further research and proposed methodology, and implications for data collection, and HIV prevention, policy and programmes.

- **Synthesis discussion document (June-July)**

Expert contributions will be synthesized into a background paper for the research planning

meeting. It will provide reviews of sexual violence and HIV challenges across various fields as well as of prevention and assessment approaches that are currently being applied. Drawing from these reviews, the document will raise a set of key questions that will guide the development of the research proposal and help set the meeting's agenda.

- **Expert Group and Research planning meeting, Senegal (Aug-Sept)**

A two and half day meeting will convene twenty experts to identify new approaches for modelling, assessing and researching the role of sexual violence in HIV risk transmission. The meeting will be hosted in Senegal by Souleymane M'Boup at the Senegalese Society for Immunology and African HIV/AIDS Network. By bringing together leading virologists, mathematical modellers, social scientists and public health specialists, the meeting aims to create a geographically and professionally diverse platform. Both plenary sessions and working groups will facilitate inter-disciplinary discussions regarding interaction between physiological and social risk factors in conflict settings, key research questions, and methodological implications.

- **Outcome document (November)**

Drawing from the meeting's outcomes the research proposal will be further developed and elaborate on an agenda for research that considers the role of sexual violence in HIV transmission in conflict affected settings. The proposal will identify the main research questions and make recommendations on how to address them. It will furthermore outline a strategy on how to advance appropriate research in this field as well as how to disseminate the research outcomes among UN agencies and other institutions and organizations dealing with HIV/AIDS.

- b. Specify the geographic location(s) of the proposal and/or countries addressed.**

The research program will be global, and give focus to countries with high prevalence of sexual violence and HIV. The expert meeting will be hosted in Senegal by Souleymane M'Boup at the Senegalese Society for Immunology and African HIV/AIDS Network. Background paper contributors and research planning meeting participants will be commissioned from a diverse community of scholars, policy makers and scientists from leading institutions from both the global north and south. Specific country case-studies will be proposed by participants on the basis of ongoing research projects.

II. Proposal's compliance with UN Action's Strategic Framework

- a. What pillar does the proposal fall under? (support to UN system action at country level, advocacy, or knowledge-building)**

The proposed Research Planning Meeting on Aligning HIV and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response falls under the knowledge-building pillar of the UN Action Strategic Framework. Research papers and background will create a knowledge base at the nexus of HIV/AIDS and sexual violence prevention, addressing the gaps in the existing literature and programming focused on the biobehavioral linkages between sexual violence and HIV/AIDS. The outcome document and research proposal will create a plan for advancing appropriate research findings and new agendas for action throughout UN institutions and NGO partners.

b. Explain how the proposal enhances UN system coordination and joint programming.

The research planning meeting will draw from work carried out by various UN entities, and representatives including UNAIDS, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, and DPKO. Knowledge created from this meeting will inform UN system coordination to implement programming to support HIV and sexual violence prevention efforts. It will also contribute toward implementation of S/RES/1960 (2010) by enhancing data collection and analysis of trends and patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence to assist the Security Council's consideration of appropriate actions.

c. Explain how the UN, governmental organizations, NGOs, and other key stakeholders will be engaged throughout implementation of the proposal.

UNAIDS will engage independent experts and research institutions in developing background papers, and share their findings within the larger group setting during the research planning meeting. It will seek expert technical support from the Social Science Research Council which led the global policy research initiative on AIDS Security and Conflict (ASCI) and provided advisory services to UNAIDS with respect to Security Council reporting on HIV/AIDS. The outcome document and research proposal will inform research agendas for UN programming and for the US National Institutes for Health, the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Group on Women and Girls, and will propose further partnerships for examining the biobehavioral relationships between HIV and sexual violence.

d. Explain how the proposal would strengthen the capacity of national institutions to deal with conflict-related sexual violence.

The meeting outcomes will inform national efforts to align sexual violence and HIV prevention response across development, health, humanitarian and judicial sectors. Findings will also inform guidelines for data collection, and strengthen existing mechanisms for collecting and analysing information on HIV and sexual violence.

III. Success criteria and means of evaluating results

a. Explain how the Participating UN Organisation(s) submitting the proposal have the institutional capacity to successfully achieve the proposed objectives.

Aligning HIV and sexual violence prevention is a central pillar of UNAIDS strategic framework and stopping violence against women and girls one of nine priority areas. UNAIDS' Security and Humanitarian Response team and field officers have well-established working relationships with militaries and peacekeeping missions, and is co-chair of the United Nations Uniformed Services Task Force. In the field, UNAIDS has collaborated extensively with other agencies including UNOCHA and UNDPKO both at headquarters and in the field and in carrying out assessment missions, providing technical and financial support. UNAIDS is also well positioned to integrate project findings and outcomes into its regular surveys and assessments and provides technical support to HIV/AIDS units in peacekeeping operations.

b. Describe the overall management structure of this project.

UNAIDS will lead and manage the project with technical and expert support from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the Senegalese Society for Immunology and the African HIV/AIDS Network. The meeting will be hosted by the Universite Cheikh Anta DIOP.

c. Explain how the proposal will be monitored and evaluated.

Background research papers and discussion document will be circulated among partners and research participants prior to the research planning meeting. Upon completion of the planning meeting and assessment amongst SSRC and UNAIDS, the outcome document and research proposal will be distributed widely amongst UN partners, research meeting participants and other relevant NGO groups and agencies.

d. Describe other attempts to apply for funding for this particular proposal.

In addition to funding sought from UN ACTION, supplementary funds will be requested from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support a portion of the direct meeting costs.

**UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
PROGRAMME² BUDGET FORM**

PROGRAMME BUDGET*	
CATEGORY	AMOUNT
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	\$1,000
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	\$24,000
3. Training of counterparts	
4. Contracts	\$40,000
5. Other direct costs	
Total Programme Costs	\$65,000
Indirect Support Costs**	\$4550
TOTAL	\$69,550

²The term "programme" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

Part C. Initial Review of Proposal <i>(To be completed by the UN Action Secretariat)</i>	
(a) Is the project explicitly linked to the UN Action Strategic Framework?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Is the project effective, coherent, and cost-efficient?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Does it avoid duplication and significant overlap with the activities of other UN system entities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Does it build on existing capacities, strengths and experience?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(e) Does it promote consultation, participation and partnerships and agree with the existing country coordination mechanism?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(f) Is the Project Proposal Submission Form fully completed?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(g) Is the Budget in compliance with the standard format?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
(h) Is the indirect support cost within the approved rate?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Part D: Decision of the Resource Management Committee <i>(to be completed by the RMC Chairperson)</i>	
5. Decision of the Resource Management Committee	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved for a total budget of US\$69,550 <input type="checkbox"/> Approved with modification/condition <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred/returned with comments for further consideration <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	
Comments/Justification: Approved without objection.	
Chairperson of the Resource Management Committee	
..... <i>C. GARCIA MORENO</i> Name (Printed)	
..... <i>C Garcia Moreno E</i> Signature <i>18 Feb-2011</i> Date
Part E: Administrative Agent Review <i>(To be completed by the UNDP MDTF Office)</i>	
6. Action taken by the Executive Coordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, UNDP	

		NIH	UNAIDS	UN Action	
Personnel (Consultants, experts)	Literature review and background papers	0	0	10,000	
	Meeting rapporteur	3,000	0	0	
	Final report	0	0	10,000	
	French Translation	3,000	0	0	
	Dissemination and follow up	0	0	4,000	
	SV/HIV Adviser 50 x \$500/day	0	25,000	0	
	Program assistant 32 days x \$250/day	0	8,000	0	
	(Travel)	pre and post planning meetings DC (2 x 2 x \$600**)	2,400	0	0
		Planning meeting Geneva x 3 days	2,590	0	0
		Phase II Modeling planning Senegal mtg 6x2x \$299*	3,588	0	0
		Flights 10 x Africa x \$1100	11,000	0	0
		Flights 10 x North America x \$1600	16,000	0	0
		Flights 5 x Europe x \$1100	5,500	0	0
		Per diem and transfers 25 pers. x \$399 x 4 days*	34,900	0	0
Total personnel		81,978	33000	24,000	
Contracts (Grants)	Phase II Modeling Dynamic Epi/Virological/Math model±	0	0	40,000	
	Conference host institution Senegal	0	10,000	0	
Total grants		0	10,000	40,000	
Supplies and communications	Conference materials	3,000	0	0	
	Print and mailing costs final report	0	0	1,000	
	Communications, copy, print, miscellaneous	3,000	8,673	0	
Total supplies and communications		6,000	8,673	1,000	
Total programme costs			51,673	65,000	
Indirect costs 7%				4550	
TOTAL		87,978	51673	69,550	

Note: NIH contribution requested (not yet committed)

* Per diem based on US Gov. rate (as of 1/Jan/2011) for Dakar, Senegal, including lodging, meals and incidental expenses and airport transfers
±Funds will support the development of a phase II model building on ASCI commissioned LSHTM mathematical model of sexual violence and HIV transmission risk

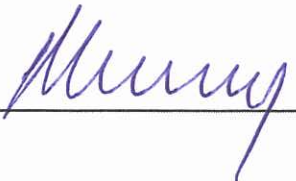

and virological approaches through scientific research support by LSHTM and Universite Cheikh Anta DIOP

** Includes one round trip Acela \$300, \$50 for meals per day and \$200 lodging one night based on US Gov rates for DC

*** \$530 US Gov. per diem for Geneva incl. lodging, meals and incidental expenses

MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND FOR
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
FUND SIGNATURE PAGE

(Note: Please attach to the Project Proposal Submission Form)

Participating UN Organization(s): UNAIDS	Focal Point of Participating UN Organization receiving funds: Name: Leo Kenny Address: 20, Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland Telephone: +41.22.791.3666 Email: kennyl@unaids.org		
Project Number: UNA-019	Project Duration: 9 months Estimated Start Date: March 2011		
Project Title: Scientific Research Planning Meeting on Aligning HIV and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response	Project Location(s): Dakar		
Total Project Cost: US \$212,608 MDTF: US \$69,550 Other: US \$143,058 (UNAIDS and NIH) GRAND TOTAL: US \$212,608			
Total Amount Approved: US \$69,550			
Focal Point of Participating UN Organization receiving funds:	Name/Title LEO KENNY Team Leader Security Assessment Response	Date 21 Feb 2011	Signature 
RMC Chairperson:	P. GARCIA MORENO COORDINATOR.	18 Feb '11	

Project consistent with provisions of the RMC Memorandum of Understanding and the Standard Administrative Arrangements with donors.

Bisrat Aklilu
Executive Coordinator
Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, UNDP

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Signature

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Date