

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) was created in 1986. UNAIDS brings together governments, private businesses and non-governmental organizations to promote universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. UNAIDS also encourages countries to protect the human rights of vulnerable communities and to eliminate social and legal discrimination that prevents some groups from accessing proper care. It also gathers scientific evidence to help governments develop fact-based policies. UNAIDS focuses on country policies, and does not run local programs. The United States is a major donor.

UNAIDS has for years advocated more comprehensive programs in Lateen. Although the infection rate is quite high (about 10 percent of the adult population), health experts believe it would be even higher without the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs that service providers like PHAN run and the antiretroviral medications they provide. UNAIDS also thinks this situation gives the Government of Lateen new incentives to promote condom use and voluntary medical male circumcision so it can counter the Daymar argument that Lateen migrants are to blame.

UNAIDS experts analyzed the infection data from Daymar health officials, but they could not determine why more cases are being reported in Daymar, a country which previously had a very low HIV/AIDS rate. It is concerned that Daymar is blaming the recent rise on Lateen migrant workers without any evidence. UNAIDS officials do not believe expelling these workers and closing the Daymar-Lateen border will halt the spread of the disease. The only long-term solution for Daymar is to develop an aggressive program of public awareness, preventive measures and treatment.

Opening Position

UNAIDS will argue that classifying people with HIV/AIDS as innocent or guilty is not only wrong, it is unhelpful. UNAIDS will argue that both Lateen and Daymar should embrace all scientifically proven methods of stopping the disease from spreading.

Negotiation Strategy

- UNAIDS focuses on research, advocacy, and policy; it does not operate local programs. It must work together with PHAN to produce treatment and prevention programs.
- As an official United Nations agency, UNAIDS must remain officially neutral. However, the United States is a major donor.



FAST FACTS

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