PROGRAM SUMMARY

For both social and biological reasons, HIV has become a disease of young and poor women, many of them in monogamous relationships. Available information indicates that HIV is expanding alarmingly due to unprotected sex, with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama being some of the most affected countries. One of the factors associated with the accelerated process of feminization of HIV is violence against women, which is also a problem of epidemic proportions in the region.

In follow-up to the San Salvador Declaration on Gender, Violence and HIV, adopted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in 2007, the CIM initiated a program to examine and address the intersections between HIV and violence against women. Among other findings, the program identified a number of important gaps in guaranteeing and protecting the rights of women living with HIV and / or gender-based violence in the region. In response, on the one hand, to the demands of the community of women living with HIV and on the other hand to resolution 2802 (2013) of the OAS General Assembly on "Promotion and protection of the human rights of persons vulnerable to HIV / AIDS, living with and affected by HIV / AIDS in the Americas," and in order to help close those gaps, the CIM has worked to analyze and strengthen both the legal framework and public policies on HIV and violence against women from a human rights perspective.

OBJECTIVES

From a human rights perspective, this program seeks to contribute to efforts to reduce the prevalence of HIV / AIDS and gender-based violence among women in the region and their negative consequences on the health and human development of women, their families and their communities. Likewise, it seeks to strengthen the legal framework and public policy around the rights of women living with HIV in the region, and improve the state response to the multiple violations of these rights.

RESULTS

The program has produced situation analyses and mapping of key actors in 4 Central American countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama) and 3 English-speaking Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Dominica). A "Comparative analysis of the legal framework from the human rights approach: HIV and violence against women in Central America" was carried out and a guide was developed on "Ethical considerations for an integrated response to human rights, HIV and violence against women." Based on these advances, national models of integrated policies and programs for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV and violence against women in Guatemala and Panama were developed. A Regional Community of Practice on HIV and violence against women has been established which serves as a focal point for the exchange of information, successful experiences and technical cooperation. From the same Network, an identification of promising practices for the integrated management of HIV and violence against women was carried out, which can serve as models for adaptation and replication in other contexts. In follow-up to resolution 2802 of the OAS General Assembly and the collaboration agreement signed with UNAIDS, the report "Human rights of women living with HIV in the Americas" was prepared, as well as a training guide. Strengthen the exercise of the human rights of women living with HIV in Latin America, "which has been used in virtual training on the Community of Practice platform.
Public sector officials, civil society, women


PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women was adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil in 1994, and defines violence against women as a violation of their human rights. The Convention of Belém do Pará establishes for the first time the development of mechanisms for the protection and defense of women's rights in the struggle to eliminate violence against their physical, sexual and psychological integrity in both the public and private spheres.

The effective implementation of the Convention requires a continuous and independent evaluation and support process, for which the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) was created in 2004. It is a systematic and permanent multilateral evaluation methodology, based on a forum for exchange and technical cooperation between the States Parties to the Convention and a Committee of Experts. The MESECVI analyzes progress in the implementation of the Convention by its States Parties as well as the persistent challenges in State responses to violence against women and issues concrete reports and recommendations with a view to strengthening those responses. It operates through evaluation and follow-up rounds which include: (i) Evaluation of reports by States Parties to the Convention on measures taken to address violence against women; And (ii) Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Experts.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the MESECVI is to measure and evaluate the efforts of States to guarantee the right of women to live free from violence and to make recommendations and provide technical assistance to strengthen the State response to all manifestations of violence against women. In this context, it seeks to collect comprehensive information on the nature and extent of violence, to analyze the extent and effectiveness of the State response and to identify good practices that have had a positive impact as well as persistent challenges that require a greater or specialized effort. In addition, the MESECVI identifies areas of special concern to attract attention and issue recommendations adapted to these realities.

RESULTS

The Convention has been ratified by 32 States in the region. Of these, 30 States participate in the evaluation rounds of the MESECVI, providing information to the Committee of Experts on the State response to violence against women. With this information, MESECVI has produced 100 national reports, 75 shadow reports from civil society organizations, three hemispheric reports, two follow-up reports to the Experts' recommendations and a thematic report on child pregnancy. The Committee of Experts has issued a total of 151 recommendations to various State actors and others. In 2013, the Mechanism published the first System of Progress Indicators to measure implementation of the Convention from a human rights perspective. States Party and the Committee of Experts have adopted Declarations on political violence, femicide, prevention of violence and sexual and reproductive rights. Awareness-raising and training tools have been developed, including guides on the implementation of the Convention and the use of the System of Indicators, and over 500 people from different sectors of the region have been trained.

The MESECVI also has a "Specialization and International Course on Public Policies and Gender Justice." A wide range of communication tools has been developed, including a virtual data visualization platform, a compendium of best practices, infographics, press releases, social media campaigns and events on specific topics with a view to raising awareness and identifying concrete actions.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

While the governments of the region have recognized gender mainstreaming as an analytical and planning tool to incorporate this approach into the policies of ministries in different sectors, its implementation has encountered barriers. In general, there is no effective audit and few advances in investment and training of specialists to implement gender policies in a coordinated manner. Sectoral advocacy strategies linked to specific projects or programs still predominate.

Aware of the challenge that this task represents for the National Machineries for Women (NMW), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) has developed a methodology and training program for the implementation of "Participatory Gender Assessments" (PGA), which will allow the NMWs to carry out interventions in different public institutions with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of the gender approach in these institutions. Based on the review of available documentation and the use of qualitative and participatory methodologies, the PGA allows reporting on organizational processes regarding the extent to which the gender perspective is incorporated into all policies, at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in the adoption of such policy measures, to finally develop a plan of action. The Action Plan then translates into a planning document that defines in detail how gender mainstreaming will be carried out over a given period of time.

OBJECTIVES

Through this project, the CIM seeks to make available to the NMWs of the States a training program on PGAs for methodological transfer to these Machineries, enabling them to carry out these interventions in public institutions with a view to strengthening their capacities to achieve effective gender mainstreaming in their policies, strategies, programs and their institutional culture. Specifically, the program strengthens the capacities of NMW professionals to perform Participatory Gender Assessments in other sectoral ministries / departments and state agencies.

RESULTS

Based on the use of the Participatory Gender Assessment methodology in the Ministries of Social Development of Barbados, El Salvador and Peru, the program has adapted the methodology to the needs of the National Machineries for Women. To date, the process of methodological transfer has been carried out with the Ministry of Women of Paraguay (2015), and with the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) of Guatemala (2017). Based on these experiences, a "Manual of Methodological Transfer to the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women: Participatory Gender Assessments" has been developed, which is made available to the States as a general resource.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

In the region, a growing concern about violence against women in the field of politics has been identified, as well as the need for a strong and evidence-based effective response. Although this problem is not new, its entry into the regional and international agenda is a recent phenomenon, and instruments have not yet been developed to support countries in responding effectively to this type of violence. To the extent that women occupy more space in the various sectors of the political sphere - from presidencies, parliaments, courts and public corporations, to municipalities - there has been an increase in the many manifestations of discrimination and violence that seek to silence and limit their political protagonism and the fundamental change they represent for the distribution and exercise of power. The Electoral Observation Missions carried out by the OAS have also highlighted this problem.

In recognition of this new reality and the need to adapt our definitions, legal instruments, protocols and other mechanisms to respond more effectively, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) has highlighted the importance of legislation to combat violence against women and impunity. Two key actors for the protection of the political rights of women in democracy - political parties and electoral institutions - have yet to implement measures to address this issue.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the program is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the political authorities (parliaments and political parties) and electoral bodies of the OAS member states to mitigate violence and political harassment against women within the framework of the Belém do Pará Convention.

Specifically, this objective will be achieved through the development of concrete tools for research and adaptation of the legal and public policy framework, as well as face-to-face and virtual materials and events for dialogue, awareness-raising and training.

RESULTS

In 2015, the Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention adopted the "Declaration on Political Harassment and Violence against Women." Following that Declaration, the CIM organized two Meetings of Experts on the topic of political harassment and violence against women (25 February 2015, Washington DC and 30-31 May 2016, La Paz) with a view to raising awareness of the problem and identifying legislative and political reforms as well as concrete actions to promote prevention, punishment and attention to these crimes. From these meetings and the advisory work of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), the "Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence against Women," was developed as a document that aims to support reform processes and adaptation of the national legal framework. In January 2016 in Saint Lucia, the CIM, in coordination with ParlAmericas, organized "Gender-based political harassment: Building awareness in parliaments," an inter-parliamentary meeting for the English-speaking Caribbean, with a view to gathering information and inputs for addressing the problem in this region. In November 2016, the CIM and the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE) held the Regional Dialogue "The role of electoral institutions in the face of political violence against women," with a view to examining the actions of electoral administrative institutions and the challenges of addressing political violence against women within the framework of their competencies.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

Media reports, coupled with the limited data available, indicate that in recent years women's participation in the international drug problem has increased significantly. However, although this participation is visible in the news, it has been absent from research and other activities carried out by most of the governmental and intergovernmental agencies in the Americas. Similarly, the gender perspective has been absent from the work of the OAS itself on "the world drug problem."

In this context, the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) requested specific information and concrete recommendations on the involvement of women in the commercialization of illicit drugs. This work of collecting information produced alarming results, in the sense that, while women are a minority of people working in the world of drugs, women incarcerated for drug offenses account for between 60 and 80 % of the total female prison population. From there emerged the need to identify concrete recommendations for legislative reform and public policies, particularly in relation to the criminal treatment and social attitude around the participation of women in these activities. In this way, the CIM initiated, in collaboration with the Office in Washington on Latin American Affairs (WOLA) and other partners, sensitization and training activities in this matter.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the program is to strengthen the institutional capacity of relevant authorities (ministries of the interior and justice, national drug offices, national women's machineries, parliamentarians) and civil society to collect data and information on the participation of women in the commercialization of illicit drugs and to formulate and implement public health, human rights-based, and gender-sensitive legislative and public policy reforms in the areas of: more inclusive drug policies, drug policies, alternatives to imprisonment, cultivation or drug processing, social inclusion programs, pregnant or dependent persons.

RESULTS

During the 43rd OAS General Assembly (June 2013, Guatemala), the CIM organized a round table discussion entitled "Women and Drugs in the Americas: A Working Assessment," to raise awareness of the growing number of women involved in the complex subject of drugs. Following the round table, the CIM prepared the study "Women and drugs in the Americas: A Policy Working Paper."

This initial study highlighted the need for greater political agreement on the integration of the gender approach in tackling drugs, and this was incorporated into the Declaration AG / DEC. 73 (XLIII-O / 13) corr. 1 "Declaration of Antigua Guatemala for a comprehensive policy on the world drug problem in the Americas."

In follow-up to this Declaration and in collaboration with WOLA and other partners, the CIM developed "Women, Drug Policy and Imprisonment: A Guide for Policy Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean" and collaborated in the production of a series of Photographic essays on the situation of women incarcerated for drug offenses in Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica. Based
**PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI, for its acronym in Spanish) SICREMI is an initiative of the OAS that aims to contribute to the promotion and development of public policies that lead to improved migration management in the Americas through the facilitation of dialogue, cooperation, institutional strengthening and access to information. SICREMI produces biannual reports. The report collects data from diverse sources (censuses, surveys, administrative records, etc.) in order to process and disseminate information regarding the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of international migration in the participating countries. The methodology of this report is based on the Permanent Observation System on Migration (or SOPEMI) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), adjusted to the needs of the region in accordance with a participatory process involving the countries through a network of national correspondents and the participation of national and international organizations working in the field of migration.

**OBJECTIVES**

SICREMI aims to contribute to the promotion and development of public policies that lead to improved migration management in the Americas through the facilitation of dialogue, cooperation, institutional strengthening and access to information.

**RESULTS**

Haiti is one of the countries included in the analysis of the Regional Report on Irregular Migration Flows to the Americas from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean," launched on March 09, 2017, a study whose main conclusion is that recent increases in migratory flows and their very nature require a hemispheric approach.
The project was aimed to give OAS’ technical and political accompaniment to support the Government of Haiti (GOH) in passing the law on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities in March 2012. This support which began in previous USAID funded projects to the OAS was critical in laying the foundation for the successful work the Organization performed in this project by strengthening institutional capacity and raising awareness on the thematic issue. In addition, the OAS leveraged its regional network CEDDIS to support the program and its activities.

The published application of the law on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) has been central for the implementation of all activities. The project led and supported the drafting of four bills; two new policies and guides completed in collaboration with the MSPP, MENFP and the BSEIPH. Over 13,000 copies of the new law were printed and distributed. A children friendly version of the law was produced in coordination with local civil society organizations and with the support of youth and distributed throughout the country; 1,000 copies of the audio version of the law were produced and distributed and the law was transcribed into Braille. The project worked closely with the MSPP to draft and validate The National Mental Health policies, of which 500 copies were produced for the Ministry. In addition to the aforementioned achievements, the project successfully drafted and passed a bill through the Senate on the harmonization of the Haitian Labor Code with the law on PwDs.

OBJECTIVES

The Strengthening of the Legal Framework for Persons with Disabilities in Haiti project had the objective of providing technical assistance to the Government of Haiti (GoH), working in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST), the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (BSEIPH), the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFP), the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) and the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation Communications and Energies, to draft laws and ensure advocacy and promotion before Parliament to pass laws seeking to ensure that Persons with Disabilities are able to exercise their rights and be included in society.

Also, the project sought to support to the above mentioned ministries to work with civil society to draft and validate a range of guidelines and policies permitting the formulation and application of the law on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities in Haiti.

BUDGET

The project has spent a total of USD 1,697,572.35 in federal funds and USD 734,280.00 in cost share for the life of the project. The project expenses strictly followed the approved budget and USAID and OAS Financial procedures. Remaining funds will be returned as stipulated in the Cooperative Agreement.

Direct costs were allocated to supplies, office furniture support services, and direct core program costs, international travels from DC to Haiti and from Haiti to DC and in country travel; expenses also covered staff salaries for the program implementation.
OAS contributed and spent an additional Cost Share from a combination of in-kind goods and services and professional services mobilized from the OAS team and various specialists and experts. The project experienced a low burn rate in expending USG funds which was reflected in the cost share amount too.

RESULTS

The Law on Integration of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) was passed by Parliament – March 2012. Besides of that, several other bills were passed: one Bill to regulate the “Fonds de Solidarité Nationale pour les Personnes Handicapées”, the harmonized Haitian Labor Code with the law on PwDs in the Senate, One Bill on Accessibility drafted and submitted to the government, and Executive Order of the Haitian Building Code issued by the Haitian Executive branch. Also, technical assistance and advocacy were provided to the Prime Minister to create the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Disability (CISH). It was developed a Special Education Training Module, which was also validated by the Ministry of Education and Professional Training (MENFP). Mental Health National Policies were validated by the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP). A Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Guide was drafted to be validated by the MSPP. OAS also provided technical and financial assistance to the GoH to organize the First Caribbean Conference on Social Inclusion of PwDs, and for the Re-development of the BSEIPH strategic plan. We also designed, printed and distributed an adapted version for Youth – created by youth - of the Law for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, as well as 250 copies reproduced in Braille. There was also a media campaign: 750 T-Shirts printed and distributed nationally to promote the law, and 25 banners printed and installed nationally to promote the law. We trained 225,000 people on protection and rights of Persons with Disabilities. The project also provided technical support and guidance to the BSEIPH/MAST to reactivate the CONARHAN multi-sectorial consultative group by releasing the decree. Also, 60 public servants/government officials were trained in the fundamentals of inclusion and non-discrimination. Training module on Disability integrated the Haitian State University (UEH). We developed Haitian Sign Language (HSL) research with grammatical sketch aimed to officially recognize it in public policies.