ADRESSING HIV AMONG UNIFORMED SERVICE IN PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN DRC

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OVERVIEW OF MONUC

MONUC Mandate

- 1999: MONUC: *a small Observation mission*;
- Currently *the biggest mission*: 22,000 peacekeepers:
  Uniformed personnel: 18,500   Civilian: 3,500
- Over 58 countries contribute police personnel, military observers or contingents (17 countries are contributing troops)

MONUC Mandate and HIV

- MONUC mandate did not include HIV
- 2002 a policy adviser was recruited   -Currently 5 staffs
Core mandate of the HIV unit:

- to reduce the risk contracting or spreading HIV

Mandate expanded to include integrating HIV into mission mandates, such as Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR).

Programme includes:

- Mandatory induction training
- IEC and awareness items distribution (UNAIDS HIV awareness cards).
- male and female Condom distribution
- Community Outreach activities
- Plan of VCCT
- PEP
ACHIEVEMENTS
1 - ACTIONS DEDICATED TO PEACEKEEPERS

- Induction Training
  - 15,000 trained in contingents
  - 1500 military observers and staff officers trained
  - 600 civilian police trained
  - 3000 international and national staff trained

- Awareness cards sending a positive message of care
  w/UNAIDS Basic information: magazines, pamphlets and brochures w/ PID

- VCCT capacity building workshop

- IEC material: Playing Cards and draughts game /UNFPA

- Condom availability w/UNFPA
2 - **Actions dedicated to government structures**: FARDC, Police Nationale Congolaise, Health and Education

- **Training**: 2888 soldiers /1st Integrated Brigade/FARDC w/UNFPA
- 9 tones of **condoms** & **drugs** distributed /UNFPA
- **children’s workbook** - teacher’s guidebook produced by UNESCO

3 - **Outreach programs targeting vulnerable groups**

Youth, victims of sexual violence W/NGOS &UNS

4 – **Actions dedicated to general populations**

- AIDS sensitization Fair in Beni
- Valentine’s Day Sensitization
- WAD observation
CHALLENGES

- **Logistic constraints**
- **Limited staffing - Need 4 NPOs**
- Budgetary & Administrative constraints
- Related to deployed troops: Spread, turnover, level of awareness, cultural and religious barriers
- Death cases related to HIV & sexual misconduct “zero tolerance”

- Lack of capacity
  - Need of VCCT
  - ARTs not always available
  - Need of scaled up counselors training
  - Need scaled up peer educators training
  - Need of Scaling up PEP kits availability
  - Reliable Data Collection
  - Monitoring and Evaluation
LESSONS LEARNT…

- Adaptation, support, partnership is a need
  - support service from MONUC medical section (civilian) & Military medical facilities
  - need to combine static with mobile strategies

- Collaborative support from UN Agencies
  - UNAIDS can help set up dated and harmonized data collection and M&E system

- UNAIDS can help assist in behavioral studies for AIDS peacekeepers programs

- As a partner, UNAIDS can help by providing resource persons for activities like radio programs, counseling, peer education, etc
LESSONS LEARNT

- Peacekeepers can be agents of behavioral change

- The role of MONUC is not fighting just HIV, but also gender-based violence, and not only in its own ranks, but countrywide
Thank You!