

## **Denmark's contribution to the international fight against HIV and AIDS**

Denmark has identified two health issues that require particular attention: 1) Sexual and reproductive health and rights and 2) HIV/AIDS. Specific strategies guide Danish support towards these areas. While specific Danida strategies exist for these areas, Danida normally relies on evidence-based disease control strategies produced by international organisations such as WHO and UNICEF.

In addition to sector programme support and specific projects, the Danish government is committed to contribute substantially to the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Since 2008 and onwards Denmark provides DKK 1 billion annually. Denmark provides assistance to fill the gaps where other donors are less active, e.g. rights and access of vulnerable groups such as men who have sex with men and drug users. Denmark promotes the use of AIDS funding for strengthening supply chain management and human resource strengthening such as training of nurses and other key health staff. Danish support assists in capacity building and coordination mechanisms to make the large funds work towards achieving broader health outcomes.

The HIV/AIDS and SRHR strategies serve as overall guidance for Danish development assistance and do not reduce the attention to core areas of Danish health sector support such as immunization, child health and provision of essential drugs. The two strategies are used in the policy dialogue with partner countries to support them in ensuring that national strategies and plans incorporate effective measures to improve sexual and reproductive health.

### **The Danish HIV/AIDS strategy in brief**

As part of the support for reaching the internationally set targets for the efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, Danish assistance contributes to:

- Strengthening national planning and implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes, including supporting efforts aimed at improving coordination and harmonisation of the response at country-level.
- Increasing focus on women and strengthening the linkages between gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programmes.
- Increasing focus on the synergies between HIV prevention and treatment.
- Increasing focus on young people and on children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening the involvement of the civil society in the planning and implementation of the HIV/AIDS response.
- Fighting stigma and discrimination.
- Investing in the development of new products that can prevent the spread of HIV such as microbicides and HIV vaccines