



SNAPSHOT ON... CSO capacity development

Integrating CSOs into the national disease response in **Cuba**

Cuba's HIV programme will transition to national funding with the closure of the Global Fund grant, expected to take place in December 2023. Since the outset of its implementation support as interim Principal Recipient, UNDP has prioritized activities to strengthen national institutions in preparation for the transition. Beyond national system strengthening, a major focus of transition activities has been on capacity development for CSOs comprised of people living with HIV and key populations, which play a key role as service providers, advocates, and human rights defenders in the disease response.

Economic hardship and the intensification of the U.S. embargo on Cuba have affected the domestic finance landscape for health, with particular challenges for CSO funding. While the government had reaffirmed its commitments to the national disease response and equitable access to health through the strategic focus of its 2030 National Development Plan and new 2019-2023 STI/HIV/Hepatitis Strategic Plan, there was a need to align the strategies, capacities, and funding for CSOs with these national plans and targets.

In coordination with national representatives of CSOs, UNDP supported a process to strengthen the organizational capacity of CSO members, define 2019-2023 Strategic Plans for CSOs, support the formal recognition of CSOs through their registration as Associations, and assess financial options to guarantee the sustainability of prevention programmes led by CSOs.

As a result of these processes, CSOs involved in the HIV response are now recognized as key stakeholders by the national programme and receive support from health institutions to provide services. As Associations, the CSOs have also gained improved access to domestic and international funding. Further to ensuring streamlined community-led prevention efforts, the new CSO Strategic Plans have also supported CSOs to identify synergies with other local and national development initiatives and strengthen links between HIV prevention and efforts to address social and economic inequalities.

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-  [UNDP's approach to CSO capacity development](#)