



MADAGASCAR

60ème Session de l'Assemblée générale

***Réunion de haut niveau et examen d'ensemble des progrès accomplis dans
la réalisation des objectifs fixés dans la Déclaration d'engagement sur le
VIH/sida***
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**Déclaration
de
Monsieur Robinson JEAN-LOUIS
Ministre de la Santé et du Planning Familial**

New York, JUN 02 2006

Vérifier au prononcé

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The President of the Republic of Madagascar, HE Marc Ravalomanana, and his spouse, positioned themselves as role models in the response to HIV/AIDS by going through HIV testing.

"AIDS is here! I'm calling on all Malagasy people to take the HIV test. The Malagasy authorities have deployed significant efforts to fight this disease. By taking the test, we know our HIV status and we can protect ourselves and our peers", said the President.



This was the starting point, on Monday 27 February 2006, of a national mobilization campaign, orchestrated by the National Aids Committee (NAC), aiming to boost HIV voluntary testing in the country.

LOW VISIBILITY OF HIV/AIDS DESPITE STRONG POLITICAL WILL AND COMMITMENT

HIV/AIDS prevalence in Madagascar is still low with an estimated 0.95% of the population being HIV positive. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the HIV prevalence rate has been rising steadily with an increase of over 100% (from 0.01% in 1987 to 0.095% in 2003). This information combined with several socio-economic factors indicates that there is an important risk of a rapid spread of the virus.

Thanks to the constant and vigorous commitment of the President of the Republic, the response to HIV/AIDS has been high on the agenda policy since 2002 and today the Malagasy society begins to acknowledge the reality of HIV/AIDS. But, HIV voluntary testing is still hindered by fear of stigma and discrimination and reluctance to discuss prevention issues.



A STRONG PUSH FOR INCREASED VISIBILITY AND PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCESS

The Government has shown strong political commitment to act against HIV/AIDS and maintain the prevalence rate to less than 1%, developing a National Strategic Plan. Since 2005, 200 PMTCT and 56 VCT sites have been established. In 2006, the number of PMTCT and VCT sites will rise to 367. The voluntary testing campaign will be rolled out around these sites, throughout the 22 Regions. The Bongolava and Sava Regions have already launched their activities and the other 20 Regions are planned to follow suit in the coming 4 months. Each regional team has or will develop micro-plans for rapid results with increased coverage for testing and care when required (the Rapid Results Initiative requires a staged plan with tangible results to be reached in the next 50, 100 and 150 days).

The Government aims at increasing the number of tests from 12,000 in 2005 to 400,000 by the end of 2006. Through the PMTCT and VCT sites network and referral system, all services are to provide counsel, treatment, care and support when required.

