

# Strengthening the national programme for the control and prevention of STI/HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Cuba



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Cuba

**Duration:** January 2003 to December 2005

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP

**Other Implementing Partners:** National Center for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STI

**Budget:** \$1,030,000

**Key Words:** HIV/AIDS; health; capacity building; youth

## BACKGROUND

HIV is a threat to human security that can devastate and strip a country of its most important resource. In 2002, levels of HIV/AIDS infection in Cuba were relatively low and cases tended to be confined to sexually active youth and men. The spread of the infection however was changing with the virus moving into the general population at an alarming

speed. To help slow the spread of the virus, an intensive public education campaign targeted at both the general population and at vulnerable groups was urgently needed. At the same time, in order to deal with new cases and to work to prevent viral transmission, the capacity of the Cuban healthcare system had to be strengthened.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project was to promote the adoption of safe sexual behaviours among the sexually active population between 15 and 39 years of age in the three provinces of Cuba most severely affected by

the virus. This was to be achieved through building institutional capacity for planning and implementing strategies towards limiting HIV/AIDS expansion and mitigating its socio-economic impact.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project directly engaged health workers, community leaders and policymakers through a series of workshops, seminars and training sessions on HIV/AIDS issues such as sexuality, epidemiology and prevention. As a result, the sexually active population between 15 and 39 years of age in the Cities of

Havana, Villa Clara and Santiago de Cuba benefitted from increased awareness of HIV/AIDS through educational materials, including posters, pamphlets, videos and websites, as well as counseling programs provided at counseling centers, via a telephone helpline and through home visits.