

AIDS: Top Level Policy and Decision Makers' Initiative in Turkey Project

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Objective: The Project was carried out between 1994-1997 to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Turkey for the formulation of a National AIDS Policy and the National AIDS Commission. Project Activities: The project was financed by EU and implemented by the FPAT. A Project Advisory Board was established by participation of the representatives of five Ministries, many institutions, UNFPA and WHO .Top level Coordination Meeting was held in the presence of President of Turkey with the participation of top level bureaucrats, technocrats, representatives from universities and the press. After that a "Working Group" was established to ensure collaboration and to start work on formulation of a national policy. Following a series of meetings, the protocol defining the mission and the work of National AIDS Commission was developed. With approval of the Ministry of Health, a "National AIDS Commission" was established, to be coordinated by the Prime Ministry, chaired by the Ministry of Health with secretariat provided by FPAT. Action Plan of the National AIDS Policy was formulated after meetings with sub working groups. Communications were established with many NGOs, and meetings and conferences were arranged to give information on HIV/AIDS. Constant flow of information to 18 newspapers and 10 TV channels was ensured by "Press Releases". STDs and AIDS brochure were printed and distributed. STDs and HIV/AIDS hotlines were established.

Conclusions: FPAT has acted as facilitator of the work done on HIV/AIDS issue in Turkey, by getting support from the other NGOs working in this field throughout the project period and the following years.