

# Progress towards Universal Access Namibia

**Universal access implies that all people should be able to have access to information and services that are:**

*Equitable – accessible – affordable – comprehensive – sustainable*

In 2006, countries worldwide committed to setting ambitious national targets for scaling up towards Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The targets focus on what could be achieved if the following obstacles can be addressed:

- **Predictable and sustainable financing**
- **Strengthening human resources and health systems**
- **Access to affordable commodities**
- **Stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights**

Review of National reports in 2008 demonstrated that Universal Access has catalyzed an accelerated and strengthened national HIV response with more results-based planning and a general overall increase in access to services. National political leadership and coordination were found to be critical to scale up. However more emphasis was needed on addressing the obstacles to scale up which would not support reaching universal access but also the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, there is a need to accelerate progress on HIV-prevention efforts, and to better utilise the resources available within civil society and people living with HIV.

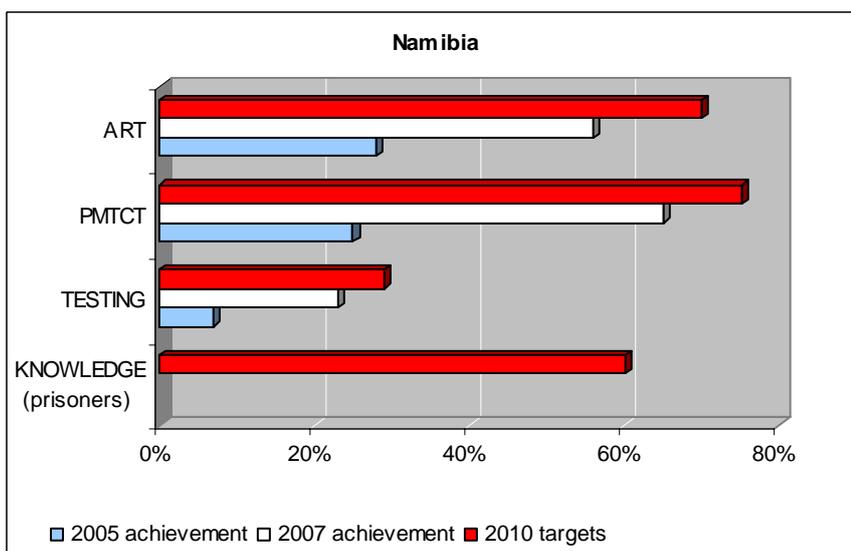
Universal access has generated a continuing engagement with national partners to monitor and review progress towards universal access. This has resulted in a number of countries revising their national targets to ensure a sharper focus on areas in need of additional support.

## Progress in Namibia

The Universal Access initiative, through the umbrella commitment to the Brazzaville Declaration on Universal Access, has come to the forefront of the national response, bringing increased attention and awareness to the major obstacles in the Namibian response to AIDS. The development of universal access targets has helped guide the development of Namibia's proposal to the Global Fund Round 8.

The country has made very good progress on antiretroviral treatment with significant achievements with roll-out of ARV treatment and on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, partly due to the decentralization of the health system in Namibia. However, despite a considerable investment in HIV prevention, incidence remains high. To address this, the government and partners plan to develop a prevention strategy, key elements of which will include a stronger focus on the drivers of the epidemic in

Namibia as well as behavior change interventions for youth and the general population.



**Figure 1.** The graph presents a snapshot of progress towards universal access based on 2005 and 2007 reported UNGASS achievements and 2010 reported targets, as per data available.

Please note that ARV and PMTCT targets may be subject to change based on revised numbers in need of ART.

*"(We) commit ourselves to pursuing all necessary efforts to scale up nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive responses... towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010."*

2006 Political Declaration, (UN General Assembly, 15 June 2006)