



VIA LIBRE: Building Capacities in a National Program to Provide Free Access to HIV-related Healthcare and Treatment in Peru



THE PROJECT

- Before 2003, only 2000 persons (with Social or Armed Forces Insurance) had access to Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) in Peru.
- In 2003, project “Strengthen HIV and tuberculosis prevention and control in Peru” was approved by The Global Fund (II Round).
- This project was an initiative of Ministry of Health and Civil Organizations. One of its main objectives was to “GUARANTEE QUALITY INTEGRAL HEALTHCARE TO PEOPLE WITH HIV, INCLUDING FREE ACCESS TO ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY”.
- The consortium in charge of accomplishing this objective was led by “Via Libre” (organization of civil society) and included “Peruanos Positivos” (national organization of people with HIV) and the Institute of Tropical Medicine from “Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University”.



DATES OF FUNDING

- 2004-2008 (conducted at national level).

TYPES OF CAPACITY BUILDING PROVIDED

- Training to healthcare personnel in charge of providing HIV care, using Information Technology tools.
- Training on sexual health and emotional support to people with HIV, their relatives and close friends.
- Training persons with HIV as peer educators, making them part of the multidisciplinary HIV healthcare team.



Training on sexual health and emotional support.



Training of HIV peer educators.

RESULTS OF PROJECT

- On the first three years, this project provided free HAART to more than 5000 persons. In capacity building:
 - **Training to multidisciplinary healthcare teams:**
 - 54 healthcare teams with a total of 300 healthcare professionals trained in integral healthcare of people with HIV.
 - 53 interns were integrated to telemedicine workshops.
 - **Training of people with HIV, relatives and close friends:**
 - 5050 people with HIV, relatives and close friends were trained.
 - **Training as HIV peer counselors:**
 - 251 people with HIV trained as peer educators.



Training of HIV healthcare personnel.



Training on sexual health and emotional support.

WHAT MADE THIS A SUCCESS STORY

- A very enriching collaboration between an organization from civil society, a national organization of people with HIV and an academic organization.
- A strong link between national government and NGOs to rapidly expand the free-access ARV program.
- Incidence strategies performed by a committed civil society for achieving sustainability of a HIV public program.
- Significant efforts and increase in commitment of healthcare professionals in charge of HIV healthcare.
- Inclusion of new methodologies such as Telemedicine.

HOW COULD IT BE REPLICATED ELSEWHERE

- Developing integrated work initiatives between civil organizations, community-based organizations and academic institutions, to take advantages of their specific expertises to achieve overall project objectives.
- Establishing mechanisms to involve Ministries of Health in early stages of HIV programs to strengthen the projects and give them public recognition, particularly from healthcare professionals.
- Training essential staff in using Information Technology tools, which facilitate execution of greater number of long-distance trainings and teleconference meetings.

For more information contact:
Dr. Jimmy Carreazo at
jcarreazo@vialibre.org.pe

