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Harmonisation and Alignment of Aid for HIV and AIDS – Progress in the Southern African Development Community since the Paris Declaration

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Background: Since the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, there have been initiatives to improve the harmonisation and alignment of aid generally. Within the field of aid for HIV and AIDS, this has been even more necessary, due to the large numbers of funders, the increasing amount of funding, and the complexity and fragmentation of activities.

This study sought to assess the progress of SADC countries towards harmonisation and alignment of funds for HIV and AIDS, to review the existing declarations, instruments and funding mechanisms, to identify the blocks and challenges, and to make suggestions for required actions.

Methods: This study used literature review and interviews with key respondents from various countries in the SADC. It also drew data from existing country National AIDS Spending Assessments.

Findings: Much progress has been made in many of the SADC countries with regard to the harmonisation and alignment of aid for HIV and AIDS. These have been facilitated through the implementation of funding mechanisms such as Joint Development Strategies, Common Funds for Health, and basket funding for National AIDS Commissions. Development Partner Forums have been established and most donors have made efforts to align their activities to national priorities, with the exception on a few. The International Health Partnership is the most recent efforts to enhance a coordinated response to health systems strengthening. However, there are still many factors which continue to reduce the effectiveness of these efforts, and ultimately of the effectiveness of the aid. Various recommendations are made, which fed into a SADC Framework for Action.