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TUPE1015 - An accountability framework to measure progress in implementing the Canadian Microbicides Action Plan

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Issues: Canada is the first country in the world to develop a multi-sector microbicides action plan and framework of action outlining domestic and global contributions and could serve as a model in the field. A multisectoral group of national stakeholders collaborated to develop a shared and agreed upon operational plan and accountability framework to measure progress in the implementation of the Canadian Microbicides Action Plan (CMAP).

Description: Four symposia on microbicides were held in Canada - 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2008 - and included representatives of government, industry, community and researchers interested in HIV prevention. Participants developed a multi-sectoral action plan as a result of these symposia. The purpose of the CMAP is to articulate the vision for Canada's contributions in microbicides discovery, trials and testing, production, distribution, community engagement, and leadership. However, in order to be useful, the CMAP required a framework with measurable and results-focused indicators for each action area outlined in the plan.

Lessons learned: Specific short-term activities were identified within the CMAP, and then prioritized by 3 criteria: sequencing, importance and achievability. A framework for short-term activities and their corresponding success indicators was developed through a series of interviews with stakeholders and validated during a one-day multi-sectoral summit. The framework also discusses sector-specific roles and responsibilities as well as areas of cross-sectoral collaboration. The 11 point framework will be used as the accountability tool to measure progress by multiple stakeholders in the CMAP.

Next steps: To ensure the success of a long-term and multi-sectoral initiative such as the CMAP, it is necessary for stakeholders to agree upon an accountability framework to ensure tangible progress and good collaborative working relationships between researchers, government, civil society, and the private sector. The framework will provide a set of indicators of success by which to measure progress on achieving the actions outlined in CMAP.

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