In focus: Kenya begins revision of its education sector HIV and AIDS policy

Within the framework of their joint work plan with the Kenyan Ministry of Education, and Kenya UN Joint Programme on AIDS, UNESCO Office Nairobi, together with the Ministry of Education, commissioned the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) to undertake an impact assessment of HIV and AIDS in the education sector in Kenya, and a situational analysis on the implementation of the HIV and AIDS education sector policy developed in 2004.

Many changes have occurred since the policy was developed, including the HIV and AIDS prevention and control Act of 2006, the revision of the Kenya national AIDS strategic plan (KNASP), which recommended revision of public sector support policies on HIV and AIDS in order to align them to the public sector policy on HIV and AIDS, and the Kenya education sector support programme. In addition, the new Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides for a significant shift in terms of rights and responsibilities of various duty bearers and rights holders.

IIEP presented its findings to the Ministry of Education and other key stakeholders in a dissemination meeting held in Nairobi on 24 May. Findings will be used to revise the education sector policy on HIV and AIDS and to develop strategic plans for policy dissemination and implementation. As a first step, a policy revision workshop will be held in Nyeri at the beginning of June.

A copy of the report, HIV and AIDS in Kenya: Its impact on education and an analysis of the implementation of the Kenyan education sector’s HIV and AIDS policy, will be available shortly on the Clearinghouse.

The UNESCO HIV and AIDS Education Clearinghouse is a knowledge-sharing initiative provided by UNESCO, with contributions from external partners. It supports ministries of education, development agencies, civil society, researchers and education professionals by providing a comprehensive knowledge base and information exchange service for the development of effective HIV and AIDS policies, programmes and advocacy within the education sector.

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Selected resources on Kenya

Kenya HIV prevention response and modes of transmission analysis
Kenya National AIDS Control Council; UNAIDS; World Bank 2009

For this study in Kenya, HIV epidemiological data and incidence modelling data (from the UNAIDS Modes of Transmission Model) were analysed together to obtain an epidemiological synthesis (Know Your Epidemic synthesis), while the HIV prevention review and resources data were analysed together to obtain an HIV response synthesis or “Know Your Response” synthesis. The two syntheses were then analysed together to understand the gaps in HIV prevention programming, leading to recommendations as to how the HIV response and its funding can be improved. More information

Kenya National Union of Teachers workplace policy on HIV and AIDS
Kenya National Union of Teachers, 2006

Through this policy document, the Kenya National Union of Teachers seeks to set directions and chart out a roadmap for responding to the HIV and AIDS challenge, in improving the conditions of both the infected and affected members and union employees. More information

Kenya National HIV and AIDS communication strategy for youth 2007

This communication strategy provides a broad framework that will guide communication on youth and HIV and AIDS in Kenya for the next three years. It intends to address needs and gaps in communication programming identified in the areas of knowledge, skills and self-efficacy, capacity, coordination, policy support and utilisation of services. These issues were identified through a situation analysis conducted at the beginning of developing this strategy, and from consultations with stakeholders implementing HIV and AIDS programmes among youth. More information

Ministry of Education guidelines for strengthening HIV and AIDS coordination at the district level
Ministry of Education; UNESCO Office Nairobi, 2010

The purposes of these guidelines are to: 1) define and strengthen the role of district education officers in the implementation of HIV and AIDS interventions; 2) provide mechanisms for establishing district education stakeholders forum on HIV and AIDS as a platform for information sharing as well as joint planning; 3) define roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders within the district coordination mechanism in order to reduce duplication of efforts and conflict of interests; 4) ensure that there is harmonization and alignment of interventions to key National AIDS Control Council and Ministry of Education HIV and AIDS policy documents and guidelines. More information

National reproductive health and HIV and AIDS integration strategy
National AIDS/STD Control Programme; Division of Reproductive Health, 2009

The goal of this strategy is to increase access to comprehensive, high-quality, effective, efficient, affordable, and sustainable reproductive health and HIV and AIDS services. The following key strategies are envisaged: strengthening systems to improve the performance and quality of service delivery, with a major focus on institutional capacity building at all levels of service delivery; supporting evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue among the stakeholders and the policy elite; building a knowledge base through an effective monitoring and evaluation system and supporting research for continued learning; sustaining resource mobilisation and accountability; promoting, strengthening, and coordinating partnerships and collaboration with relevant stakeholders through continued information sharing among practitioners. More information
The Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) is a network of 15 Ministries of Education in Southern and Eastern Africa. SACMEQ's main mission is to undertake integrated research and training activities that: (a) provide educational planners with the technical skills required to monitor and evaluate the quality of their own education systems, and (b) generate information that can be used to plan the quality of education. The SACMEQ Consortium has undertaken three large-scale cross-national studies of the quality of education. The SACMEQ III Project (2007-2011) included an additional data collection concerned with a detailed assessment of pupil and teacher knowledge about HIV and AIDS. This policy brief presents the results of pupil and teacher knowledge about HIV and AIDS in Kenya.

Teachers Service Commission sub-sector workplace policy on HIV and AIDS

This sub-sector policy aims at providing guidance to the management of employees who are infected and affected by HIV and AIDS and prevention of further infections. The policy also defines the Teachers Service Commission’s (TSC) position and practices within the multisectoral response to the AIDS pandemic. It provides guidance for those who deal with the day-to-day HIV and AIDS related issues and problems that arise within the TSC workplace and outlines employee’s rights, responsibilities and expected behaviour in the workplace. The policy covers key areas such as legal and regulatory framework, guiding principles, management of human resources, HIV and AIDS programmes in the workplace and their implementation.

Stop violence against girls in school: a cross-country analysis of baseline research from Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique

This report presents findings from baseline studies carried out in three districts in Kenya, Ghana and Mozambique for Stop Violence Against Girls in School, a five year project (2008-2013) led by ActionAid with support from the UK’s Big Lottery Fund. The study aimed to provide a baseline with which to measure and evaluate change over the course of the project, as well as building in depth knowledge of gender, violence and education in the project areas in order to inform decision making about community intervention, advocacy and research priorities in the project, and contributing to the international literature on gender violence in schools.

Injection drug use in Ukraine: the challenges of providing HIV prevention and care

This report provides: - an overview of people who inject drugs and the HIV and AIDS situation in Ukraine; the Ukrainian Government policies and approaches; the role of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; the US role in Ukraine; recommendations to address prevention, care, and treatment needs among people who inject drugs and their sexual contacts.
Women who inject drugs: a review of their risks, experiences and needs
Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use, 2010

This report summarises existing peer reviewed and grey literature describing evidence on the nature and degree of risks and experiences of women who inject drugs and women whose partners inject. The report explores how women enter into drug use, how they use drugs, the relationships that shape and drive their drug use and their experiences in accessing services and treatment.

More information
See all documents on injecting drug use

School health

Can we be more effective? Strengthening linkages between HIV&AIDS and education and school health and nutrition
UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education, 2012

This symposium convened members of the IATT to review, identify and discuss existing practices, opportunities and challenges for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of education sector responses to HIV and AIDS by strengthening linkages with school health and nutrition (SHN). Participants: explored the conceptual and practical synergies between HIV and AIDS and SHN programming; shared experiences of integrating HIV and AIDS-related activities and SHN into education systems; discussed how to measure impacts and outcomes of SHN and HIV and AIDS programming; discussed how existing policy priorities and frameworks support the integration of HIV and AIDS activities and SHN into education systems.

More information
See all documents on school health

Sexuality education

Quality sexual education needed for adolescents in Egyptian schools
Population Reference Bureau, 2012

The lack of knowledge among adolescents regarding sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is a serious concern in Egypt, where half the population is younger than 25. Yet the majority of youth are enrolled in school, presenting a valuable opportunity for the country’s new government to address these issues directly: by ensuring that school curricula include comprehensive and age-appropriate SRH education that is culturally sensitive and responsive to the needs of young Egyptians. This working paper presents key findings and recommendations based on a recent study conducted in three governorates of Egypt: Cairo, Giza, and Gharbia.

More information

Imagined Futures IV Sexualities and Silences: conference report
Centre for the Study of AIDS, 2009

This conference aimed to explore and understand the determinants of student behaviour in order to develop the best prevention programmes. Sessions included: Gender and HIV; Sexual and Reproductive Rights; VCT - an entry point or stumbling block.

More information

Comprehensive sexuality education: advancing human rights, gender equality and improved sexual and reproductive health
UNFPA, 2011

In December 2010, UNFPA organized a Consultation on Sexuality Education to discuss effective approaches to sexuality education that promote human rights, advance gender equality and improve sexual and reproductive health. The purpose of the consultation was to gain a common understanding of the state of the art in comprehensive sexuality education programmes, both in and out of school, and to identify strategies for investing in, implementing, scaling up, monitoring and evaluating effective and sustainable programmes. This report aims to capture the presentations and discussions, as well as the rich experiences shared, at the consultation.

More information
See all documents on sexuality education
Tertiary education

Enabling journalism educators to support comprehensive governance responses to HIV/AIDS and other development challenges through journalism education: assessment of the current status of HIV/AIDS teaching in four journalism schools in South Africa
UNESCO; IDASA, 2011

This report provides: analysis and reflection of current approaches to include HIV and AIDS and other development issues in journalism education at participating institutions; teaching approaches at the participating institutions with potential to prepare journalism students for their roles in democratic processes; recommendations on how HIV and AIDS can form part of curricula; an outline of a proposed curriculum that uses HIV and AIDS issues as a basis for exploring civic-minded approaches to journalistic practice based on the assessment findings. More information

See all documents on tertiary education

Literature reviews

Review of homophobic bullying in educational institutions
UNESCO, 2012

This review was designed to provide background information for participants in the first global UN consultation on homophobic bullying in educational institutions, which was organized by UNESCO in December 2011. The review explores good practice in addressing homophobic bullying in educational institutions in terms of interventions in the following key areas: policies; curriculum and materials; staff training and support; support services for learners; community involvement. More information

Situation assessment of the HIV response among young people in Zambia
UNAIDS, 2011

The main objective of this assessment is to compile and synthesize existing recent information on HIV and young people together with the current AIDS response for young people in Zambia, including programmes, policies, and key partners, and to document gaps and challenges in the response. In this document young people refers to individuals aged 10 to 24 years. More information

See all literature reviews

Policy and strategy documents

National life skills education framework [Tanzania]
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, 2010

This report provides: overview of the global context and theoretical underpinning for life skills education; a review of the situation in Tanzania; main areas of contention for developing the National Life Skills Education Framework (NLSEF); a narrative overview of the key results and strategies, as well as those risks and assumptions that will have to be addressed if the NLSEF is to guide the effective implementation of life skills education; overview of institutional arrangements required for the effective co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of the NLSEF. More information

Education sector strategic plan on HIV and AIDS (ESSP-HA-II) 2008-2012 [Tanzania]
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, 2010

The purpose of this plan is to provide strategic focus, accelerate the response of the education sector, protect learners and education service providers, enhance effective implementation of programmes to reduce new HIV and AIDS cases, and mitigate its impact in the sector. Section one presents an overview of the process of developing the plan. Section two presents an overview of the impact of the pandemic and the sector’s response. Section three describes the development of the new ESSP-HA II for 2008-2012. Section four presents the institutional and management framework and structures that will oversee implementation of the plan. More information

See all policy and strategy documents
Journal watch
A selection of recent peer reviewed articles from scientific journals


De Weggheleire, Anja; Bortolotti, Veronique; Zolfo, Maria; Crowley, Siobhan; Colebunders, Robert; Riedner, Gabriele; Lynen, Lutgarde. 2011. “Challenges in developing national HIV guidelines: experience from the eastern Mediterranean.” Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 89(6), 442-450. More information


Upcoming events
HIV & AIDS and education related events, conferences and workshops

May
23-25 May, Marseille, France
International Symposium on HIV and Emerging Infectious Diseases, ISHEID 2012
More information

June
6-8 June, Lilongwe, Malawi
Southern and Eastern Africa Youth on HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health Rights for Sustainable Development (SEYCOHAIDS)
More information

July
11-13 July, Canberra, Australia
Sexualities, sexual rights and HIV in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific
More information

21-27 July, Kolkata, India
Sex worker freedom festival
More information

July
19-20 July, Washington DC, USA
LIVING 2012 - 13th International Conference of People Living with HIV
More information

22-27 July, Washington DC, USA
XIX International AIDS Conference
More information

September
19-22 September, Windhoek, Namibia
Sexual Health & Culture in Africa - 5th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights
More information

November
11-15 November, Glasgow, UK
11th international congress on drug therapy and HIV infection (HIV11)
More information

21-22 November, Melbourne, Australia
First National Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference
More information

2013
7-11 December, Durban, South Africa
International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA)
More information