

# HIV and Health Education e-Newsletter



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## SPOTLIGHT

Marking one year of the ESA Ministerial Commitment on [Young People Today, Time to Act Now](#)

One year after the ministerial commitment in Eastern and Southern Africa, progress in strengthening comprehensive sexuality education and health services for young people has been made as demonstrated in the following report [Eastern and Southern Africa Commitment – One year in Review 2013-2014](#)

For more information see [www.youthactiontoday.net](http://www.youthactiontoday.net)



## International Women's Day 2015

### Director-General's Message



UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova delivered a message on the occasion of the International Women's Day titled *Empower Women, Empower Humanity – Picture it!* She highlighted that: "In moving forward, we must support women's empowerment as a transformational force for human rights, for economic growth, for sustainability – and place gender equality at the heart of all development efforts. Full message available [here](#)

## Rallying to End Gender-based Violence in Schools

– On the occasion of the International Women's Day and the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March, UNESCO along with its partners UNGEI, the EFA Global Monitoring Report, GEFI, UNICEF and Plan International will host a side-event on 10 March titled: ***Rallying to end school-related gender-based violence' in order to highlight the issue of school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV)***. SRGBV is impacting millions of girls worldwide and preventing countries from achieving gender equality in education. SRGBV, which includes sexual violence, corporal punishment and bullying, is defined as acts or threats of sexual, physical or psychological violence occurring in and around schools as a result of gender and unequal power dynamics.

Twenty years have elapsed since the global commitments made on women, equality, development and peace in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which recognises the role of education in achieving gender equality. The Platform for Action also highlights gender-based violence as a critical issue, including sexual harassment in education settings, and calls for integrated measures to eliminate all violence against women and girls.

## ALSO OF INTEREST

UNESCO HIV and Health Education Clearinghouse Thematic Brief #1



The UNESCO HIV and Health Education Clearinghouse will publish a series of thematic briefs to support dissemination of UNESCO useful resources and information on activities for a given subject. The first number of the series will be issued shortly and focus on School-related gender-based violence. The series will be available on the UNESCO HIV and Health Education Clearinghouse [website](#)

**The Role of Education towards Empowerment: Addressing Marginalization and Gender-Based Violence in Schools in Asia and the Pacific region**

Marginalisation and school-related gender-based violence are only two of the many hurdles faced by young people with regard to their ability to be fully empowered in educational institutions that feel safe.

## Changing the prospects for women and girls in Eastern and Southern Africa



A side-event to the Commission on the Status of Women has been organized on girl's education and health in Eastern and Southern Africa. This event titled **'Changing the prospects for women and girls in Eastern and Southern Africa'** will consist of a dialogue between young women, governments and programme experts to reinvigorate the commitment to the health and education of adolescent girls in Eastern and Southern Africa.

### Addressing homophobic and transphobic violence in education settings

Photo: Flickr/spookman01



Further establishing its leadership on the educational response to homophobic bullying, UNESCO conducted a Latin American and Caribbean regional consultation on homophobic and transphobic violence in education institutions. This event gathered together officials from ministries and NGOs from nine countries in the region.

Click [here](#) for further information.

## Rallying to End Gender-based Violence in Schools

Side-event to the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



The elimination of school-related gender-based violence however, is more pressing now than ever before. It is estimated that 246 million girls and boys are still harassed and abused on their way to school and at school every year, with girls being particularly vulnerable. A new policy brief authored by UNESCO, UNESCO GMR and UNICEF will be launched at the event. It highlights gaps in data and the need for strong coordination. The panel discussion will examine the findings of the policy brief and the implications for the Beijing+20 review and the post-2015 goals and indicators framework, as well as promising policies and programmes to address SRGBV. The policy brief and event will close with key recommendations for future action.

## Exploring health literacy in Latin America

With the support of the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, the University of Panama and the University of Concepcion (Chile), the first meeting of the Regional Working Group on Health Literacy was held in November 2014 in Panama City. A multidisciplinary group of academics from various universities in the region, including the University of Puerto Rico, which functions as a WHO/PAHO collaborating centre in the area of health promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean, spent two days exploring conceptual frameworks and identify possibilities for research, advocacy and south to south cooperation.

The group is particularly interested to explore the regional context, to document needs and to identify opportunities that will strengthen synergies between the health and education sectors.

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Since the Panama meeting, several other universities have expressed their interest in participating in collective efforts through the formation of a Regional Consortium on Health Literacy, with clearly defined



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These obstacles were highlighted at a side event organized by UNICEF and UNESCO at the Asia and the Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, otherwise known as Beijing +20, which was recently held in Bangkok. Click [here](#) for further information

### Using World AIDS Day Commemorations as a platform for disseminating ESA commitment



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The UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office working to sustain the political commitment on the provision of comprehensive sexual education and sexual reproductive health services in the country.

As part of the initiative, in December 2014, the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) with support from UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF used World AIDS Day Commemorations as a platform for dissemination of ESA Commitments and inform policy makers, government officials, religious leaders, development partners and general public on the need for providing adolescents and young people with comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health.

## Enhancing UNESCO advocacy for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) among Parents in Kenya

Parents remain instrumental in shaping beliefs and values among children. Their role in enhancing access to information on sexuality among young people cannot therefore be underestimated.

To ensure that parents support inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) through the formal curriculum, the UNESCO Nairobi Office works in partnership with the Kenya National Parents Association (KNPA). It is on this premise that UNESCO was invited to make a presentation on the role of parents in addressing sexuality education and HIV prevention in schools during the 7th Annual KNPA Delegates' Conference that brought together over 2,000 parents representatives.



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The conference was held on 30 January 2015 at the University of Nairobi. Moreover, UNESCO's efforts on CSE received a boost from the Cabinet Secretary for Education; Prof Kaimenyi who endorsed the provision of sexuality education by indicating that culture is dynamic and we have to be in tandem with emerging trends. At the end of the one day conference, the delegates passed a resolution in advocacy on CSE in partnership with UNESCO and other key stakeholders at all levels, to ensure that CSE is provided through the curriculum.

## UNFPA- UNESCO partnership for teacher training on development skills in sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and young people in Cameroon

Through the project "Revitalisation of Education in

roles, joint projects and resource mobilization plans. UNESCO Santiago will continue to support disseminating research projects and the formulation of specific recommendations for public policy for health and education partners, especially as they relate to health promotion and education among children adolescents and also teacher involvement, curricular development for sexuality education, nutrition, physical activity and diabetes/obesity.

## "No youth left behind" in Asia and the Pacific region

As part of the campaign "#noyouthleftbehind", UNESCO, UNFPA, ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and the regional youth networks [Youth LEAD](#) and [Youth Voices Count](#) organized a side event on Wednesday 28 January entitled "**How Old Are You? Engaging young people to create an enabling legal environment for access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health services.**" It was a dynamic youth-led session that highlighted how policies and laws such as parental and spousal consent to access HIV testing and other sexual and reproductive health services, and age restrictions to harm reduction are impacting on young people's health and well-being. It highlighted good policies, laws and practice in the region and how young people themselves are demanding and contributing to changes in law and policy.



UNESCO also released, with UNAIDS and UNFPA, an infographic profiling countries that have established enabling environments to expand HIV testing among young people.

Click [here](#) for more information

## UNESCO's Response to Ebola

While numbers of new cases of Ebola have been dramatically reduced since the height of the epidemic in 2014, the current outbreak has had a devastating effect on communities in West Africa, exposing the vulnerabilities of their services and systems. Its impact has affected every part of society, impeding the delivery of basic services, such as health and education, crippling the economy, and jeopardizing social cohesion. Community coping mechanisms have been stretched and broken not only by the duration of this epidemic and its socio and economic impact, but also by the stigma and discrimination experienced by survivors and family members of the dead.

As a technical agency working for peace and sustainable development, UNESCO has a role to play in

## Technical consultation of healthy lifestyle education in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

On 16-18 February, 2015 the UNESCO Moscow Office in collaboration with the:  
- UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia;  
- WHO Regional Office for Europe;  
- German Federal Center for Health Education (BZgA);  
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF);  
- European Network, organized a technical consultation for 18 European and Central Asian countries to review the progress made in providing adolescents and young people with health education, including comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health, and to identify opportunities to improve the quality and effectiveness of such education at national scale.



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The consultation brought together over 60 participants, who after intensive and productive discussions about good practices and strategies, outlined key action points and capacity-building needs for further cooperation with UN agencies and other partners to strengthen Sexual and Reproductive Health education in the region.

## Introducing standardized indicators to assess HIV response in West and Central Africa

The UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar organized a regional training workshop that took place from 3-5 December 2014 to train 30 senior technicians from West and Central Africa in charge of the Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) to strengthen their capacity to use core indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the education sector's response to the HIV epidemic.



Reproductive Health, Family Planning in education setting”, the UNESCO Yaoundé Office and UNFPA partnered with Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in order to produce a teacher self-training tutorial in Education for Family Life, in terms of population and HIV & AIDS.

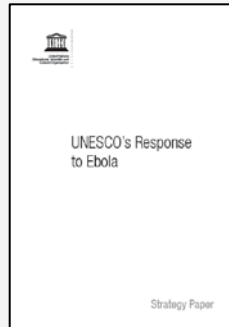
An instructional guide on adolescents' reproductive health has also been developed for teacher's skills development in collaboration with UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE).



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Following the development of those curricula and educational tools, a series of capacity-building workshops are taking place in 86 training centers in the region of Adamawa and in the East part of the country. Those workshops combine one-to-one courses for inspectors and heads of school, with grouped self-study tutorial for teachers.

supporting countries in their reconstruction and development post-Ebola. By utilizing its expertise in different fields of its mandate areas (culture, education, communication and natural and social human sciences) and working through a cohesive collaboration with line ministries, civil society, sister UN agencies, and other development partners, UNESCO is in a position to assist affected governments and civil society in their post-Ebola recovery phase.



To that end, UNESCO has developed a strategy, [UNESCO's Response to Ebola - Strategy Paper](#) to guide its in-country support. In addition, UNESCO has, thanks to the kind support of the Norwegian Refugee Council, appointed a Regional Coordinator for the UNESCO Ebola Response based in Accra,

and will be boosting its human resource capacity with two other secondments to the region.

Click [here](#) to access the French version.

The technicians from Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Mali and Nigeria, successfully strengthened their capacities to use the core indicators and planned for the production of quality data on education and HIV & AIDS.



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The indicators were developed, tested and promoted by UNESCO, the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education, a number of governments and development partners. This current cohort from West and Central Africa joins countries from East and Southern Africa to integrate these indicators into EMIS.

ED/PSD/HIV/NEWS/21

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