



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY READY FOR TOMORROW?

Why now is the time to commit to action on comprehensive sexuality education and health services for adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern Africa

The continuing rates of HIV prevalence and the high number of new infections among young people in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) remain of significant concern in the global HIV response. Whilst HIV prevalence and incidence have declined in some high-burden countries over the past decade, these reductions remain insufficient and significant numbers of young people, predominantly young women, are still becoming newly infected.

UNAIDS, in collaboration with UNESCO and other cosponsors and partners, is leading an initiative focused on mobilizing political support to ensure that all young people in ESA have access to high-quality, comprehensive, life-skills based HIV and sexuality education and to appropriate youth-friendly services. The initiative is led by a High-

Level Group that is facilitating a process aimed at catalyzing urgently needed improvements in education and services to achieve better sexual and reproductive health outcomes. The High-Level Group is composed of regional leaders in education, sexual and reproductive health and rights (including HIV prevention) and development. Assisting the High-Level Group is a Technical Coordinating Group whose key task is to provide technical, administrative and financial support to the High-Level Group.

This initiative is chaired by Prof Sheila Tlou, former Minister of Health of Botswana and Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team, on behalf and with the support of the Technical Coordinating Group.

MEMBERS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP



Dr Sheila D. Tlou is the Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa. She is a former Member of Parliament and Minister of Health of the Republic of Botswana (2004-2009). She is also former Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Development in Primary Health Care for Anglophone Africa. She has been involved in the AIDS response ever since the HIV epidemic started in Botswana in 1985, and is the founder of the Botswana chapter of the Society of Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA). During her term as Minister of Health, Dr. Tlou led a successful HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support program in Botswana whose achievements are still some of the best in Africa. She is the United Nations Eminent Person for Women, Girls, and HIV in Southern Africa.



H.E. Festus Mogae is the Chairman of "Champions for an HIV-Free Generation". Festus Mogae served as the third President of Botswana between 1998 and 2008. His time in office was characterised by programmes to develop education and health infrastructure, and to privatize parts of the economy, notably the airlines and telecommunications industry. As President, Botswana experienced steady economic growth and became recognized as one of the least corrupt countries in Africa. After leaving office, he launched "Champions for an HIV-Free Generation", a group of former African Presidents and other influential personalities which aims to strengthen HIV prevention efforts in Africa. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honours including the 2008 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership and the Légion d'honneur awarded by French President Nicolas Sarkozy for his "exemplary leadership" in making Botswana a model of democracy and good governance.



H.E. Salma Kikwete is the First Lady of the United Republic of Tanzania, founder and Chair of the Wanawake na Maendeleo Foundation (WAMA) a non-profit organization committed to increase the number of economically empowered women, progressive communities and educated healthy children. Mama Salma Kikwete's vision is backed by the invaluable first-hand knowledge and experience she gained in more than 20 years as a teacher. She believes that education and health are essential prerequisites in unlocking the potential of many poor Tanzanians to contribute to the development of their country, Africa and the world at large. As a pioneer of girl-child education and a child-rights advocate, she has received numerous awards. Recently she was crowned the Champion of Anti Stigma campaigns by the Embassy of United States in Dar es Salaam. Currently she is the Vice-President of the Organization of African First Ladies Against AIDS (OAFLLA) – Eastern Region.



David Coltart is a human-rights lawyer by background. He was appointed Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture in Zimbabwe in February 2009. Since his appointment, major strides have been achieved in restoring the education sector in Zimbabwe, particularly the establishment of the Education Transition Fund which seeks to improve the quality of education and reduce the pupil/textbook ratio. He is actively involved in programmes for young people living with HIV and AIDS. Minister Coltart has delivered numerous papers and speeches throughout Zimbabwe and internationally regarding education and the Constitution. He is a strong human-rights advocate.



Dr Fay Chung is an educator who has served in many capacities in the education sector. She headed the Educational Planning unit in Zimbabwe immediately after independence, and participated in the expansion of the education system from a third of children at primary school and 4 per cent at secondary school to primary school for all and secondary school for 65 per cent. She was Minister of Education and Culture in Zimbabwe from 1988 to 1992, and during her tenure as Minister she ensured that HIV and AIDS education was institutionalized into all schools from Grade 3 to 13. This contributed to the high level of consciousness of young Zimbabweans on HIV and AIDS. She left the Zimbabwe Government in 1993 to join UNICEF as the Head of the Education Cluster in New York. In 1998 she was appointed Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa. She is presently the Senior Technical Advisor to the Minister of Education in Namibia.



Fr Michael J. Kelly is a Jesuit priest and retired Professor of Education at the University of Zambia, Lusaka. He is a Zambian citizen who has worked in education in Zambia since 1955. In the early 1990s, in response to the devastating impact of HIV and AIDS on human well-being and educational provision in Africa and elsewhere, he became increasingly involved in analysing and documenting the epidemic's potential to destabilize education and undermine development. His specialist AIDS-related areas include issues of orphans and vulnerable children, youth, higher education, teacher preparation, the planning and management of education, policy dimensions, and ethical, justice and human-rights challenges. His work has been acknowledged by awards from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Forum for African Women Educationists (Zambia Chapter) and the Irish and Zambian Governments, and by honorary doctorates from the University of the West Indies and the National University of Ireland.



Remmy Shawa is a young leader who has been working in the HIV response and in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights since 2004. In 2007, Remmy co-founded a project called Men n' Gender funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Zambia. This was a project that challenged the negative perceptions of masculinity among young male students in Lusaka. In 2009, he won a competitive special youth fellowship with UNAIDS at the secretariat in Geneva. At UNAIDS, Remmy organized the first ever Global Youth Consultation on Masculinities, HIV and Violence against Women in November 2009 after attending and being inspired by the MenEngage Africa Symposium in October the same year. Remmy later joined UNAIDS in Lusaka as a consultant for youth programme and then left to join the World AIDS Campaign in Cape Town as a Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator.



Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, a human rights lawyer, has been the World YWCA General Secretary since 2007. She provides leadership for the YWCA movement's priorities in women's inter-generational leadership, women's rights and movement building; with a special focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV and AIDS, violence against women, peace with justice, and economic empowerment. Prior to that she served as Regional Director for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), now UN Women, and as a human rights officer with UNICEF in Liberia and Zimbabwe. She is the current President of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva. Gumbonzvanda recently served as Commissioner for the UN Commission on Information and Accountability on Women and Children's Health. In the past two decades her rights-based work has taken her around the globe as a leader and public speaker.



Dr Harriet Birungi is a medical anthropologist and country Director of the Population Council's Nairobi office, Senior Associate with the Council's Reproductive Health program, and co-director of the multi-country project on Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy (STEP UP). Previously, Dr. Birungi served as director of a three-year operations research project in Kenya that supported USAID's AIDS, Population, and Health Integrated Assistance Program, which sought to find innovative ways to improve service delivery through research. She was a long-term grantee of the Ford Foundation, facilitating a series of activities to promote more open and informed discussions around sexuality and chronic illness in East Africa. She also pioneered research on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents perinatally infected with HIV in Eastern Africa, and continue to advocate for their rights.



Lucien Kouassi Kouakou is the Regional Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Africa Region. He has more than twenty years of experience in sexual and reproductive health and rights in Africa. He is a pure product of the IPPF, having worked with the Member Association of Cote d'Ivoire (Association Ivoirienne pour le Bien-Etre Familial) in different positions: Operational Research Coordinator; Welfare Project Coordinator; Chief of Community Based Distribution and Service Provisions Divisions; Programme Director and finally as Executive Director for five years. During his time with the Association he provided peer-to-peer technical assistance to many other Member Associations within IPPFAR and achieved significant results such as increased confidence and trust from donors and partners.



Jemima Nindo currently works at the Teachers' Service Commission-AIDs Control Unit in Nairobi, Kenya as an administrator. She has 15 years' teaching experience. She is a member of Kenya Association of Professional Counsellors, the Kenya Network of HIV Positive Teachers (KENEPOTE) where she serves as the national treasurer, Network for Empowerment of People Living with HIV in Kenya (NEPHAK). She participated in the Documentary **Courage and Hope** about African Teachers Living with HIV. This tool has been adapted to raise awareness of HIV stigma and discrimination in Kenyan schools and beyond.



Hon. Proscovia Alengot Oromait is Uganda's youngest legislator representing Usuk County in Katakwi District. She is also the youngest MP in Africa and the second youngest in the world. She took up her parliamentary position at the age of 19 in September 2012 after the death of her father who had been the previous MP for the area. She was nominated and elected after beating 08 opponents in a landslide victory. Since the age of 12 she has been interested in serving her people and fighting for the rights of the young people in her community. She is currently a student at one of the Universities in Uganda studying Journalism while at the same time attending to her parliamentary duties.

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For more information see:

www.unesco.org/sexuality-education

