



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Eastern and Southern Africa High Level Group on HIV prevention and sexual health for young people

The continuing rates of HIV prevalence and the high numbers of new infections among young people in East 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, GIZ and other cosponsors 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 catalysing 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 (RST), on behalf and with the support of the Technical Coordinating Group. The first major task for the HLG is to oversee the production of a regional diagnostic report with findings designed to galvanise high-level political support and the eventual goal of a 'commitment' to good quality comprehensive HIV and sexuality education agreed by ESA countries' ministries of education and health.



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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 from the time 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 for 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 privatise 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 2008 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership and the Légion d'honneur 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 increased 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 she spent as a teacher. She believes that education and health are essential prerequisites in unlocking the potential of many poor Tanzanians to contribute to their country's development, Africa and the world at large. As a pioneer of girl child education and a child rights advocate who 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 (OAFLA) – Eastern Region.



David Coltart, is a human rights lawyer by background. He was appointed the 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 reduced the pupil / textbook ratio. He is actively involved in programs for young people living with HIV and AIDS. Senator Coltart has delivered numerous papers and speeches throughout Zimbabwe and internationally regarding education, constitution and 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 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% at secondary school to primary school for all and secondary school for 65%. She was Minister of Education and Culture in Zimbabwe 1988 – 1992, and during her tenure as Minister she ensured that HIV/AIDS education was institutionalized into all schools from Grade 3 up to 6th Form (Grade 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 joined UNESCO as the 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 analyzing and documenting the epidemic's potential to destabilize education and to 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 carried her across the globe as a leader and public speaker.



Dr. Harriet Birungi, is a medical anthropologist, country director of the Population Council's Nairobi office, Senior Associate with the Council's Reproductive Health program, and currently serves as co-director on 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.



Oley Dibba-Wadda is an expert on gender equality in international policy and programming in multicultural and multidisciplinary environments. Oley is currently the Executive Director and heads the Pan-African Non-Governmental Organisation, known as the Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE) an organisation lead and managed by African women for the promotion of gender and education in Africa, for African Women and Girls. Before joining FAWE, Ms Dibba-Wadda worked with Oxfam GB as Global Advisor for Gender Equality Prior to that, she managed a multi-country gender equality initiative for the Commonwealth Education Fund in the UK; a £10 million education programme funded by the Department for International Development (DfID) to strengthen gender equality through mentoring in 16 low-income Commonwealth countries in Africa and Asia.



Jemima Nindo currently works at the Teachers Service Commission- AIDS Control Unit in Nairobi-Kenya as an administrator from 2007 in addition to 15 years teaching experience. She is a member of Kenya Association of Professional Counsellors, 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). Participated in the Documentary 'Courage and Hope' of African Teachers Living with HIV. This tool has been adapted as tool to teach HIV stigma and discrimination in Kenyan schools and beyond



Mr Lucien Kouassi Kouakou is the Regional Director for 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. Starting in 1992 as the Operational Research Coordinator, then Welfare Project Coordinator, followed by Chief of Community Based Distribution and Service Provisions Divisions, then Programme Director and; finally he served 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.