



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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UN High Level Meeting on AIDS General Assembly meets to review and renew the global response

New York—World leaders are gathering for a High Level Meeting on AIDS at the UN General Assembly ([8-10 June 2011](#)) to review progress made in the global response to HIV and AIDS over the last ten years. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova will represent UNESCO's role as a leader in education and HIV, highlighting the importance of prevention through sexuality education, gender equality and comprehensive education sector responses. In tandem with the high level meeting, UNESCO reaffirms its commitment to achieving the UNAIDS goals of [zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths](#) in a new UNESCO strategy on HIV and AIDS. The new strategy gives greater emphasis to HIV prevention in

the context of wider health promotion and ensuring that all girls and boys and young women and men, both in and out of formal education, have access to comprehensive HIV education. It also prioritises the implementation and monitoring of education responses, and addresses the gender and human rights issues that hinder effective responses to HIV and AIDS. The three strategic priorities for UNESCO are: building country capacity for effective and sustainable education responses to HIV; strengthening comprehensive HIV and sexuality education; and advancing gender equality and protecting human rights. [More on UNESCO's Strategy for HIV & AIDS](#)



Opportunity in Crisis Report Launch Preventing HIV from early adolescence to early adulthood

Opportunity in Crisis, launched 1 June 2011 by UNICEF with UNAIDS, presents the latest data on [HIV prevalence in young people](#) (15-24 years) and highlights key gaps and opportunities for HIV prevention. The world has seen a 12% reduction in the number of young people living with HIV since the first report in 2002, but this falls short of the 25% target that was set for 2010. 'We must work together to ensure that all young people, especially girls and vulnerable populations, receive the education, support and protection necessary for preventing HIV and promoting their overall well-being,' said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. [More on UNESCO's work with young people](#)

New Data on Cost and Cost-Effectiveness of Sexuality Education

Paris—The results of a six-country study on the cost and cost-effectiveness of school-based sexuality education programmes, released 27 April 2011 in New York at a meeting of the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team on Education, are now available online. Although programmes vary widely in design and scale, it is clear that integrated, compulsory programmes are the most cost-effective, with costs per learner in scaled-up, well established programmes ranging from US\$6.90 in Nigeria to US\$32.80 in the Netherlands. 'We now have the data and analysis to make a stronger and better informed case for investing in school-based sexuality education programmes, particularly in those countries most affected by the epidemic and prioritized for attention in the new UNAIDS Strategy...[This study] gives an economic basis to our belief in sexuality education as a key platform for HIV prevention amongst children and young people in the years to come', said Mark Richmond, UNESCO's Global Coordinator for HIV and AIDS. [Executive Summary of the Study](#)

Eastern European Leaders Sign Landmark Resolution on Education and HIV Prevention for Young People

Almaty—A [resolution](#) on universal access to life skills-based comprehensive HIV prevention and reproductive health information for young people has been adopted by ten Eastern European and Central Asian countries at the first regional conference on the issue. UNESCO offices in Moscow and Almaty, Kazakhstan, hosted the conference to share experiences and identify strategies for improving the effectiveness of HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health education efforts in the region. Three days of intensive work, interactive sessions, multi-media presentations and lively discussions made the country-driven conference a notable event in the field of prevention education. A Conference digest

featuring country reports, as well as other conference materials, information and training manuals is available online in Russian. The resolution was subsequently used as the key background document at the [Istanbul Youth Conference](#) for discussions convened under the slogan, "Ignorance, out; Sexual Health Education, in!" Organised by UNFPA, the Istanbul conference brought together over 100 participants, including young people, experts, and officials from all Eastern European and Central Asian countries. It culminated in the adoption of the Istanbul Framework of Action, which draws on the Almaty Resolution to promote sexuality and reproductive health education in the larger region. [More on the Almaty Resolution and conference](#) and the [Istanbul Framework from the Youth Conference](#)



Teenagers and young people were recognized as a particularly vulnerable group concerning STIs, including HIV...restoring the balance of priorities in HIV prevention.

—Dr. Vladimir Ponomarenko,
Ukrainian Teachers and Trainers
Association Chairman

Landmark Declaration to End Stigma in Jamaica Leaders commit to ending discrimination, strengthening AIDS response

Kingston—UNESCO provided technical input to the drafting of an historic Declaration of Commitment to Eliminate Stigma, Discrimination and Gender Inequality affecting Jamaica's HIV and AIDS Response alongside other members of the Joint Team on HIV and AIDS in Jamaica. The Declaration was signed by the Prime

Minister, Hon. Bruce Golding, and Opposition Leader, Ms. Portia Simpson Miller, on 29 April 2011 in preparation for the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS in New York. It has been described by the UNAIDS regional director as a 'true first for the region and a breakthrough for Jamaica.' [Full declaration text](#)

Ending discrimination in the Caribbean through sexuality education teacher training and [Positive Partnerships](#)

Kingston—A number of programmes and activities are underway in the Caribbean to support and reinforce Jamaica's recent declaration to end stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS. A top priority for UNESCO has been establishing meaningful partnerships between people living with HIV and the education sector. Recent projects culminated in the 2010 publication of the capacity-building toolkit [Positive Partnerships](#), and [Challenging HIV and AIDS](#), which looks at the role of the Education Sector in the Caribbean. *Positive Partnerships* provides a guide for implementing the GIPA Principles—the greater involvement of people living with HIV—in the Caribbean to make the HIV response more effective and reduce stigma and discrimination.

To apply these lessons in the classroom, UNESCO has been working with the International Bureau of Education and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat to assess and improve the

efficacy of pre- and in-service teacher training. Preliminary findings were presented at a technical meeting organized in St. Lucia, 11-12 April 2011. National coordinators, experts and teachers focusing on health and family life education from nine countries participated in the meeting, during which a strategy for teacher training in health and family life education (HFLE) was elaborated. Recommendations for strengthening teacher preparation in sexuality education through HFLE were also forwarded for endorsement by Caribbean Ministers of Education through the CARICOM Council of Human and Social Development. [UNESCO's Strategy in the Caribbean](#)



Creating Connections between girls and their mothers in Asia

Siem Reap—A training-of-trainers workshop on the *Creating Connections* programme, sponsored by UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF, was held in Cambodia on 14-18 March 2011. *Creating Connections* is an adolescent and parent programme that helps girls and their mothers become more comfortable talking about gender, relationships and sexuality. Originally developed by the Viet Nam Women's Union with support from WHO and UNAIDS, the programme seeks to improve dialogue on sexuality and HIV prevention for adolescent girls in today's changing social environment. A [video documenting the workshop process and outcomes](#) is available online, as is the [pdf of the report](#).

Forthcoming Publications

An updated version of [UNESCO's Strategy for HIV and AIDS](#) is being developed and will be available shortly. It aligns with the guiding [Programme and Budget \(C/5 pdf\)](#) for UNESCO, as well as reflects the UNAIDS 2011-2015 strategy [Getting to Zero](#), which was approved in December 2010 and reflects the progress and ongoing challenges in the AIDS epidemic and global response. The updated UNESCO strategy sets out an evidence-based approach and keys priorities and areas of work for the Organization.

Upcoming Events

[UN High Level Meeting on AIDS](#) in New York on 8-10 June 2011

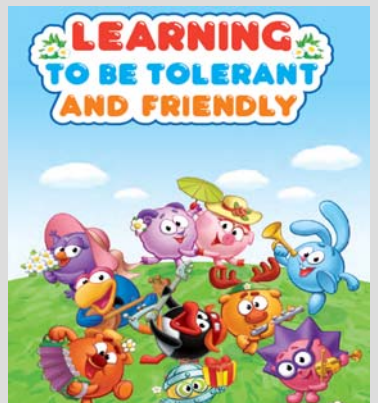
[UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team on Young People](#) in Paris on 27-30 June 2011

Cartoon characters teach children to 'be tolerant and friendly'

Moscow—A new partnership between UNESCO's Moscow office, the National Children Fund and Smeshariki, the leading Russian media project for children and young adolescents, has given life to important educational messages through entertainment. A brochure with cartoon-based stories and an animated DVD are now available for teachers and parents to help teach children aged three to ten important interpersonal and communication skills through cartoons, stories and exercises.

The ten heroes of Smeshariki – 'GoGoRiki' in English— have diverse backgrounds, occupations, preferences, interests and hobbies. They have fun, cooperate and solve different problems together and in this brochure, introduce children to basic concepts of social interaction and mutual respect. The new brochure develops children's sense of tolerance, love for peace

and rejection of cruelty, violence and discrimination on any basis, including gender. Brochure in [English](#) and [Russian](#)



...a true first for the region and a breakthrough for Jamaica.

—Dr. Ernest Massiah
UNAIDS Caribbean
Regional Support Team
Director



HIV & AIDS eNewsletter 9 will be available in French and Spanish on www.unesco.org/aids 13 June 2011.

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