

# Tanzania: Technical support that works – an evidence-based approach to improving teacher training

# EDUCAIDS Country Snapshot



Tutors at Morogoro Teacher Training college during practical training on how to use drama to deliver SRH/HIV/AIDS and Life Skills content, 2009.

## How the education sector response to HIV and AIDS has been supported

UNESCO provides technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) in Tanzania to strengthen the capacities of teacher training colleges to deliver and monitor sexual reproductive health, HIV & AIDS and life skills education (SRH/HIV/LSE) for student teachers. This is being done in partnership with UNICEF, the Tanzania Commission of AIDS, the Tanzania Institute of Education and the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ).

In 2008-09, the MoEVT conducted an assessment to determine teaching skills acquisition on SRH/HIV/LSE among tutors and student teachers and to identify areas requiring improvement in the teacher training curriculum. The findings of the assessment revealed that the quality of teaching of SRH/HIV/LSE was still low and that some tutors and student teachers admitted to having no confidence or competence to teach HIV and AIDS components.

Following dissemination of the assessment findings, UNESCO and other partners supported a revision of the tutor teaching manual in 2009 to ensure that HIV and SRH contents were comprehensively mainstreamed in the manual. Related monitoring tools were developed by the MoEVT in collaboration with principals from selected teacher training colleges in order to put in place a participatory monitoring system to measure the quality of teaching skills acquisition related to SRH/HIV/LSE during pre-service training. Training workshops were held for principals, tutors, school inspectors and in-service teachers on the use of the new manual and the monitoring tools.

Activities in Tanzania are funded by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), amongst others.

## Information about HIV and education in Tanzania

Mainland Tanzania has a generalised HIV epidemic and the primary mechanism for HIV transmission is unprotected heterosexual sex, constituting approximately 80% of all new infections. The HIV prevalence in the general population of Tanzania has declined to 5.6% in 2009 from around 7% in 2004. Seven percent of 15-24 year olds are infected with HIV. Just under 45% of young people aged 15-24 correctly identify ways of preventing HIV and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission. Eighty percent of secondary schools and 62.5% of primary schools were providing life skills-based HIV education in the 2008 academic year. UNAIDS country profile for Tanzania can be found at <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/unitedrepublicoftanzania/>

## What was achieved

- SRH/HIV/LSE-related interventions were integrated into the Teacher Training Strategies and Plans.
- There is an increased number of teacher training colleges with the capacity to provide SRH/HIV/LSE (34 principals and 102 tutors from 34 colleges were trained on how to deliver SRH/HIV/LSE).
- Due to the use of the monitoring tools, plans are now underway to mainstream monitoring of pre-service teachers' training on HIV into the existing Education Management Information System (EMIS).

## What we learned

- It is important to not only provide tutors with training on SRH/HIV/LSE but to also measure the quality of learning and teaching skills acquisition through a proper monitoring and supervision system.
- Strategies should be developed for retaining tutors in training colleges to ensure that the knowledge investment is sustained.
- The shortage of teaching and learning materials can hamper the quality of training.
- Involving principals from teacher training colleges in the programme planning, implementation and monitoring processes ensured their buy-in which promoted a sense of ownership and increased the effectiveness of the programme.
- A systematic approach of programme/curriculum development followed by implementation, assessment, review and revision has ensured the successful mainstreaming of SRH/HIV/LSE in teacher education programmes.

EDUCAIDS is a UNAIDS multi-country initiative – led by UNESCO – to support the implementation of comprehensive education sector responses to HIV and AIDS