



United Nations  
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# HIV and AIDS eNewsletter

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## GENDER AND HIV & AIDS:

- Statement at 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report highlights gender and HIV prevention
- Asia: Sexuality education and training of trainers for women's health
- Latin America: Collaborating with international and domestic partners for women's empowerment

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## Gender and HIV & AIDS

International Women's Day and Commission on the Status of Women underscore connections between education and vulnerability of women and girls to HIV

New York—Preceding the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, 8 March 2011, UNAIDS and new partner agency UN Women presented a [joint paper](#) and [statement](#) on 'Women, Girls, Education, HIV and the Workplace' at the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW](#)). Prepared by UNESCO and the International Labour Organization, the lead organisations on quality education and workplace policies and programmes, respectively, the paper highlights how critical intersections of HIV and AIDS, education and work-related issues disproportionately affect women and undermine gender equality.

Calling for increased education levels to enable women and girls to access sexual and reproductive rights for better health, the statement directly addresses this year's CSW focus on education, science and technology, training and work. The statement highlights the finding that women with post-primary education are five times more likely to be educated on HIV and AIDS than illiterate women. Yet, women represent more than two-thirds of the 796 million adults lacking basic literacy, and are disproportionately affected by the epidemic, now accounting for 66 percent of infections among young people.

Further making the case for education as a means to health and empowerment for women and girls,

## 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report highlights maternal education and HIV prevention as key issues in attaining Education for All

PARIS— The annual EFA [Global Monitoring Report](#), published by UNESCO, tracks the world's progress toward achieving the global goal of Education for All, established at the 1990 World Conference on Education. HIV and AIDS prevention and education have been top priorities for achieving EFA since the Dakar Framework for Action was adopted in 2000.

This year's [Report](#), released 1 March 2011, underscores the continued significance of education as a force for HIV prevention and for mitigating the impact of the epidemic on women and girls. Evidence from Malawi has provided a concrete testament to the importance of women's education in preventing



every year of additional schooling increases girls' ability to make decisions affecting their sexual behaviour and increases their earning potential, two correlated factors that have been proven to significantly lower risk of HIV infection. Education is also correlated with key prevention attributes such as delayed sexual debut, increased condom use, and greater HIV awareness.

Moreover, educational empowerment of women and girls leads to economic empowerment, which enables women to negotiate safer sex and relationships, and afford and access healthcare, HIV testing and antiretroviral treatment. In addition to UNESCO's ongoing education and HIV and AIDS related efforts, these priorities are being addressed through the [UNAIDS Agenda](#) for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV ([pdf](#)), which supports country programmes and initiatives.

Click here for new policy briefs on:

- [Globalization and Women's Vulnerability to HIV & AIDS](#)
- [The Implications of HIV and AIDS on Women's Unpaid Labour Burden](#) (both in pdf)

**Knowledge is an indicator of empowerment in its own right... This is especially true for HIV and AIDS.**

-2011 Global Monitoring Report

maternal transmission of HIV. (See Summary Report graphic on the following page.)

The Report cites a 'marked difference in awareness of transmission mechanisms associated with different levels of education' as evidence that increased education, especially for women and girls, could significantly decrease infection rates.

The GMR also calls for meeting the needs of HIV-positive students to achieve EFA. In 2009 alone, 370,000 children under age 15 became infected with HIV and 260,000 died due to AIDS-related illnesses. UNESCO prioritises addressing both the health and educational needs of these [HIV-positive learners](#).

**NEW** In addition to the eNewsletter, watch [www.unesco.org/aids](http://www.unesco.org/aids) for a new design.

**LOOK!**

## Asian Governments Focus on Women's Health

Collaborating with UN partners for HIV prevention and sexuality education



Participants at a regional sexuality education programming workshop and planning session held in October 2010.

BANGKOK— To strengthen national governments' capacity and provide inter-agency leadership, a number of collaborative projects and meetings are under way in Asia and the Pacific.

The **Cambodian** Ministry of Women's Affairs, in partnership with UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNFPA, will lead a [training of trainers workshop](#) on Connections Materials for mothers and adolescent girls. It will cover a framework of comprehensive sexuality and

HIV prevention programmes and introduce innovative methodologies for prevention education for adolescents.

In **Fiji**, UNESCO and UNFPA recently hosted [workshops](#) on sexual and reproductive health education for key education policy-makers and

curriculum developers in Pacific countries.

[UNESCO Bangkok](#) will be bringing these and other projects together to review national education sector programmes on HIV, drugs, and sexuality. This [review workshop](#), to be held on 12-13 April 2011 in **Malaysia**, will provide an assessment of best practices and an opportunity for further planning and refinement of programmes for women, girls, and young people.

## Sexuality Education for Equality

UNESCO introduces Guidance on Sexuality Education at First World Women's Conference in Bangkok



BANGKOK— The World Women's Conference, held on 21-23 January 2011, brought together several UN organisations, including UNESCO, with over 400 representatives from 87 countries' education sectors to discuss gender equality. Central issues were empowering women and girls as leaders to better reflect their contributions in education and promoting the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations.

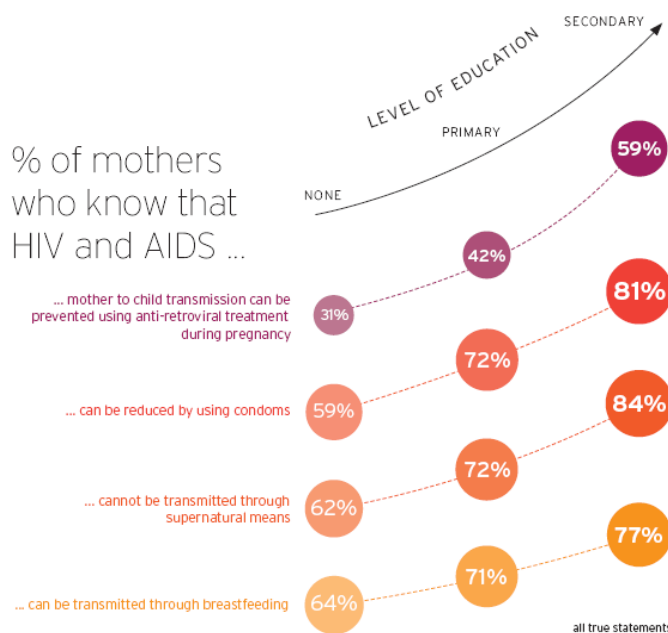
In line with a coordinated response to common challenges prioritized by participants, UNESCO's Bangkok team introduced the [International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education](#). The Technical Guidance offers an adaptable resource of best practices for sexuality education programmes that can be tailored to local contexts. For the World Women's Conference, UNESCO presented the positive outcomes of comprehensive sexuality education programmes, including: preventing HIV infection; empowering women, girls, and young people in recognizing and building safe and healthy relationships; and recognizing and limiting risky behaviours.



## 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report

An amazing new treatment can reduce transmission of HIV from mother to unborn baby, which currently infects 370,000 children a year.

It's called maternal education.



Source: See Figure 1.9 in the 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report.

## Good Policy and Practice: Pre-service Teacher Training

Sixth booklet in the series released in English and French

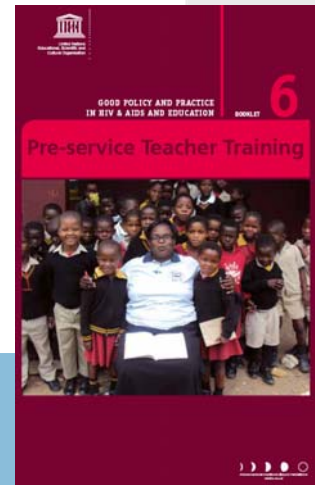
PARIS— The [Good Policy and Practice Series](#) addresses key themes in UNESCO’s work on HIV and AIDS in the Education sector. Booklet six, on Pre-service Teacher Training, is the latest installment and highlights the key role that pre-service training plays in preparing teachers for HIV prevention and sexuality education when they take up their posts in the classroom.

In addition to improving teaching quality and efficacy, pre-service training increases teachers’ own knowledge base, enabling them to better protect themselves and their colleagues and families, thereby minimizing the impact of the epidemic on human capital in the education sector. Booklet 6 introduces:

- Key issues, opportunities, and challenges in pre-service teacher training on HIV & AIDS;

- An overview of institutional and programmatic responses to these issues;
- Key factors that support effective responses at the national and international level;
- Key issues to consider for developing or strengthening pre-service teacher training for HIV education;
- Useful resources.

Previous booklets in the series addressed (1) why HIV and AIDS are critical issues for the education sector; (2) issues affecting learners; (3) issues affecting educators; (4) the role of strategic partnerships; and (5) effective learning using illustrative examples.



sneak peek...

Good Policy and Practice no. 7 will focus on gender issues in HIV and AIDS Education.

## Consulting Young People with HIV on Their Needs



**This document will give us guidelines on how to help our fellow HIV-positive learners.**

—Elizabeth Atieno  
MaxFacta Founder, Kenya

PARIS— The needs of [young people](#) are often determined by parents, educators, and government officials, with minimal involvement of the young people directly affected by programmes and policies that target them.

In December 2010, UNESCO sponsored a consultative meeting to bring young people together with adult stakeholders, ensuring that the voices of people aged 10 to 24 living with HIV and AIDS are represented in identifying key needs and priorities in education.

Key issues raised by young people

included the dilemma of disclosure, dealing with discrimination and stigma, challenges meeting their health needs in a school setting, and some of the failures of the education sector that prevent them achieving their academic aspirations.

The meeting and forthcoming report on recommendations for action derive from UNESCO’s partnership with the Global Network of People Living with HIV and International Planned Parenthood Federation.

45 percent of new HIV infections occur among 15-24 year olds.

45%

8 In Sub-Saharan Africa, young women are eight times more likely to be living with HIV than their male peers.

5 Over 5 million young people are living with HIV today.

4 Four million live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## On the Web: Museum of Sexuality website launches

BANGKOK— Thailand’s [UNESCO-supported](#) Museum of Sexuality has launched a new website in English and Thai. Dynamic and interactive, the [site](#) provides engaging and visually appealing sexuality education for young people.

Videos, questions, quizzes and pictures are organized along the same themes and topics as the exhibit: love and romance; relationships and communication; sexuality; sexually transmitted infections; and ‘My Choice,’ which

addresses both the social and personal dimensions of having a ‘safe and happy sexual life.’

The physical exhibit opened in August 2010 and is scheduled to run one year. The website enables people outside of Bangkok to virtually visit the exhibit now and in the future, and provides an avenue for young people to ask and answer questions about sex and sexuality.



## Key Resources

Now on the Web and in Multiple Languages

### Sexuality Education CD-ROM

This CD-ROM contains the key resources developed by UNESCO's programme on sexuality education and the resulting International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education. This evidence-based approach for education and health professionals, was published in December 2009 in partnership with UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO in: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Russian](#).



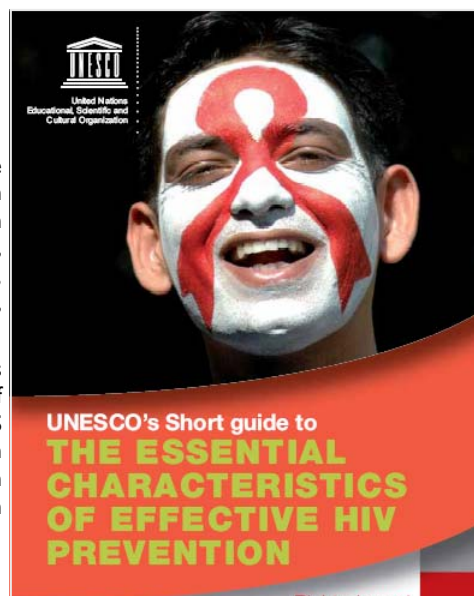
The programme on sexuality education is designed to support the implementation of the UNESCO strategy on HIV and AIDS and fulfill UNESCO's lead technical role on HIV prevention with young people and in the area of education, in accordance with the updated UNAIDS division of labour.

### HIV and AIDS Digital Library

This CD-ROM contains 240 recent resources on HIV and AIDS produced by UNESCO's sectors, country and regional offices, and institutes. Included on the CD-ROM are policy documents, case studies, reports, tools, curricula and other materials from a range of settings and in several languages.



These resources are one part of UNESCO's support to countries so they can reduce people's risk and vulnerability, improve care for the infected and affected, and build individual and institutional capacity for more effective responses to HIV and AIDS. Email [aids@unesco.org](mailto:aids@unesco.org) to request a copy.



### UNESCO's Short guide to THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE HIV PREVENTION

**Short Guide to the Essential Characteristics of Effective HIV Prevention** is now available online in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), and [Chinese](#)!

- Rights-based
- Scientifically accurate grounded in evidence
- Culturally appropriate
- Gender responsive
- Age-specific
- Participatory and inclusive

## Update on EDUCAIDS

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A two-year project with the Virginio Bruni Tedeschi Foundation has recently come to a close with results that far exceeded the targeted impact. In four countries—Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland—curriculum and learning materials on HIV and AIDS were improved, teachers trained in pre- and in-service settings were supported with improved policy and programme guidance, and over 100 schools in each country mobilised for HIV awareness and prevention.

Framed around the comprehensive education sector response outlined by [EDUCAIDS](#), the project was designed to reinforce the work ongoing in each country's Ministry of Education. In Angola, for example, the project supported the creation of a National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS featuring sexuality education and teacher training to ensure delivery of the forthcoming sector policy objectives. In all

four countries, the Education Sector plays an increasingly key role in the HIV and AIDS response.

In addition to institutional reforms, a number of initiatives were undertaken to support teachers in both their teaching and their personal health and professional empowerment to better respond to HIV and AIDS. For students, activities incorporated prevention, advocacy and support. Highlights included school competitions, young people's support groups, awareness-raising activities, and 'Positive Speaking,' which brings young people living with HIV to the front of the classroom as peer educators and facilitators.



**Nkuebe Peete, 23, of Lesotho discusses his participation in Positive Speaking and PhotoVoice at the Paris launch of the exhibition.**

[PhotoVoice](#), an exhibit of photographs and testimonies from people living with HIV in the four project countries, was organised at the country-level and at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, providing a central avenue for advocacy. [\[Virtual Exhibit\]](#)

## Identifying Vulnerabilities for Women in Chile

New gender project utilizes partnerships to promote equality

SANTIAGO— A new initiative on gender equality is underway in Arica and Parinacota, Chile, following on a successful collaboration between UNESCO and the regional Ministries of Health and Education. Local partners on this UNAIDS and PAF supported project will be working with [UNESCO](#) and other organisations, to identify the principal needs and vulnerabilities of women in the region. Promoting gender equality and related issues, the project will be led by the National Women's Service to strengthen local networks and government agencies, and identify opportunities for the inclusion of HIV and AIDS along existing lines of action.

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