

Educaid

Norwegian co-operation in basic education

Year 4 Issue no. 3 2000

Thematic Issue: HIV/AIDS

LINS is a resource centre for international education and development established in June 1997.

Address: Pilestredet 52,
N-0157 Oslo, Norway
Tel: +47 22 45 21 00
Fax: +47 22 45 21 05
e-mail: lins@lu.hio.no

You can also read Educaid at <http://www.lu.hio.no/lins/educaid>

The purpose of Educaid

The objective of Educaid is to function as an information channel between persons and institutions with interest, capacity, and competence in the field of basic education and development. A special focus and "target" will be Norwegian development assistance. Educaid is distributed to individual and institutional actors within the field of education, development and North/South relations.

LINS Perspective: HIV/AIDS and its impact on education.

This edition of Educaid focuses on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its various impacts on education in the South. The response of education to this huge health and social disaster has been broadly two-fold. First, the **education system has been seen as a vehicle** for disseminating information about HIV/AIDS, its causes and the means of avoiding infection. In fact, it is probably through the school curriculum, including teaching and learning materials that the biggest efforts have been made to sensitize young people and their communities to the threat from HIV/AIDS. However, schools have also been used as a means of organising family and community relief from the pandemic and as focal points for NGO work in combating the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Secondly, **formal education as a system** has developed additional capacities to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis in a number of ways. Ministries have had to develop succession policies, through which the severe losses of trained and competent staff have to be addressed. Training and awareness raising have also become part of the daily task of the Ministry of Education, often in collaboration with Health and Social Services ministries. The education system in many countries has also had to develop new skills and functions. New personnel policies with fast-track promotion for the young and capable and new approaches to staff counselling and welfare have emerged in response to the crisis. Ministries have also had to develop new approaches to the education/NGO/community interface and to implement more rapid decentralisation of control to utilise capacity at district levels.

The costs of these strategies have been considerable. Add to these the enormous human costs, not just in terms of technical expertise lost to the education system, but also in terms of the trauma suffered by a whole generation of children, their parents, relatives and teachers, and it is easy to see that Ministries of Education, already constrained financially, suffer the impact of HIV/AIDS more severely than most other government departments. Yet what is frequently missing from the debate on education and its role in combating AIDS or mitigating its effects is the issue of **values and education**. Schools alone cannot change community norms. Unless what is taught in the schools is reinforced by what is valued in the surrounding environment HIV/AIDS teaching may become just another 'lesson'. It is also worth noting that where values have been passed on successfully, role models have been a significant factor. The challenges to Ministries of

Education lie less in technical and organisational areas than in the fundamental issue of the values their education systems promote and reinforce.

Robert Smith, LINS

HIV/AIDS must be included in all development work and thinking! EDUCAID met with State Secretary Sigrunn Møgedal in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We asked her about the Norwegian policies on HIV/AIDS in general, and the issue related to education in particular.

Educaid: There is today an international acknowledgement of the fact that HIV/AIDS is much wider than only a health issue. How can and will Norwegian development cooperation meet the challenges that HIV/AIDS represent for development – in Africa and elsewhere?

Møgedal: HIV/AIDS has for a long time been a priority in Norwegian development assistance. Visualising the impact of HIV/AIDS has been emphasised, and substantial funds have been allocated to HIV/AIDS related programmes. We are now trying to mobilise on a broader basis. It is very important that HIV/AIDS is coupled with all the issues that we are involved in. The realities of the HIV/AIDS epidemic should influence the way we think and act in all our development cooperation, in trade related issues, in peace-keeping operations etc. The slogans must be broken down to practice. Norway wants to play a role by putting the issue high on the agenda in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in all sectors. We expect the multilateral institutions to include this on their agenda. The World Bank and the IMF should include this in the areas in which they are involved, like economic policies and stability as well as poverty reduction strategies; UNDP should include this in their work with governance and general development issues etc. The Minister of Development Cooperation will also create an AIDS-forum in Norway, where representatives from the private sector, churches, NGOs etc. can discuss and coordinate their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS globally. *How can the education sector contribute on the prevention side and in caring for those who are affected in different ways?*

-The education sector must find out how HIV/AIDS affects the sector itself, in each country and in local contexts, and act according to this knowledge. Strategies on how to manage the situation must be developed; how to maintain the quality of education, in order to be able to give children a platform for their lives. The school could

have a crucial role as a centre for the fight against HIV/AIDS. In the communities the school could be the focal point for networks and support within and between families. I am not too optimistic about the impact of the curriculum and teaching as a direct agent for change of attitudes, if this is the only way schools are involved. -I am quite confident that the Norwegian focus on girls' education is an important contribution also in this regard. Empowering girls is an important measure for protection against HIV/AIDS transfer. In every country the focus must be on how the education sector should handle the epidemic. We must consider the sustainability of what we do, not only economic sustainability, but also in terms of human resources. The education systems are already under heavy pressure, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic adds to this pressure.

Education was the main priority for the previous Norwegian government. Prime Minister Stoltenberg has several times presented vaccination programs as a key priority for this government, and we asked Møgedal what we can expect will happen to educational development in the future.

-Education will still be a priority area, with the same ambition that has been the case in the previous years. The government will however, also increase the focus on the health sector, where we have not reached the 10% goal yet. Vaccination is an effective measure to prevent ill health. It is a good tool for strengthening basic health systems and improving access. We hope that the focus on vaccination will contribute to an understanding in Norwegian society of the importance of supporting the life and survival of children in developing countries. Vaccination programmes are easy to monitor, and results can be presented quite easily. I think this is an increasing challenge: to show the public what results we achieve from the money that is spent in development cooperation. This is a huge challenge also for the education sector. We should give priority to research that will enable us to understand better how we can achieve good results. We must visualise the effects, give them a face and a voice.

Norway's MFA intensifies the efforts to combat HIV/AIDS

Action against HIV/AIDS has for years been high on Norway's development cooperation agenda. This work will now be intensified, and a project, also including NORAD, has been launched by the Minister of Development Cooperation, Anne Kristin Sydnes.

Marit Berggrav is employed by MFA for 6 months to get this process on track. Increased budgets for HIV/AIDS related initiatives will appear in the budgets for different departments in the Ministry and in NORAD. There will be a combination of specific and integrated initiatives. The total amount of money allocated for HIV/AIDS related efforts will double from NOK 65 million in 2000 to NOK 130 million in 2001.

HIV/AIDS will be made an integral part of all the work in the Ministry and in NORAD. Broad partnerships with relevant actors in Norway and abroad will be established. Special emphasis will be given to supporting coordinated donor support for national plans and strategies, as well as supporting an expanded and better coordinated response by the multilateral system.

The empowerment of women and young girls through safeguarding education opportunities and ensuring access to information and means of protection will be high on the agenda. So will protecting and empowering children through provision of life skills needed to cope and protect themselves. Encouraging the active involvement of men as partners in efforts to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS will also be given increased attention.

*For further information:
Marit Berggrav, project leader, MFA
mbe@mfa.no*

ADEA to collect "best practices" on educational responses to HIV/AIDS.

Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) has invited all African Ministers of Education to participate in an exercise to identify effective educational responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The invitation letter was sent out in April this year, as a result of discussions at the ADEA Biennale in Johannesburg in December 1999. Each country is encouraged to take stock of plans, programs and policies in the education system that are designed specifically to address the problems caused by HIV/AIDS. The focus will be on what works, in order to exchange promising approaches to the problem of HIV/AIDS.

In the indicative terms of reference for the studies it is emphasised that HIV/AIDS affects education through several mechanisms, and that the education sector also has an impact on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. HIV/AIDS will in the long run have an impact on the demand for education as well as the supply of education, on the quality of educational services and on resources, management and administration. Education may also have an impact on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, since recent studies show that young people with more general education may have less HIV risk, even more so when they have attended HIV/AIDS prevention programs and received skills based education.

It is part of ADEA's long-term strategy to develop a "culture" amongst ADEA partners (ministries, agencies, professionals and researchers) of finding solutions and policy responses from within the African context to the issues, problems and constraints that are felt at all levels of the education sector throughout the continent.

20 countries have so far given their positive response to the invitation, and will join the exercise.

*For further information: Sissel Volan, NORAD
sissel.volan@norad.no*

Impact assessment of HIV/AIDS on the education sector in Swaziland

In 1999 the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Swaziland commissioned a study on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the education sector in the country. The study has two main approaches. Firstly, the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS on Swaziland in general and the education sector in particular has been modelled, based on available statistical material. Secondly, qualitative methods such as interviews and focus group discussions have been carried out in order to be able to recommend actions to be taken by the Ministry to meet the challenges facing it. Flexibility

should be enhanced in the terms of academic scheduling, in educating out-of-school Ministry's approach, in children, in HIV/AIDS education and in teacher supply.

The main findings of the study are summarised in the following points:

- The AIDS epidemic cannot be prevented in Swaziland; it is a reality.
- Out of the total population of about 1 million people, some 20% of the population aged 15 and older live currently with HIV; by 2016, 300 000 Swazis may have died of AIDS, and there will be 120 000 AIDS orphans
- The aim should be to consider how to crest the epidemic at a lower infection rate than the modelling of the study suggests
- Parents, teachers, students and other groups involved in education feel strongly that they are confused about HIV/AIDS, in terms of prevalence, how to protect oneself, how HIV is transmitted etc.
- The AIDS epidemic will make it increasingly difficult for the MoE to fulfil its mandate, especially because the number of teachers will be reduced dramatically due to the epidemic, even if the decline in the number of school-age children is taken into account.
- The costs to the MoE and its partners in educational development will rise dramatically, due to additional costs for teacher training and sick/death benefits for infected teachers.

After the first draft of the study was finished, a workshop was held with decision-makers from within and outside the MoE. Coupled with a review of the study report, the following general recommendations emerged from the workshop:

- Political will must be demonstrated by actions and pronouncements by political leaders like His Majesty, Ministers and Traditional Leaders.
- Knowledge of the disease among teachers and administrators in the education sector should be improved. This would form an important base for attitudinal change among educators themselves, as well as students, parents/guardians and community leaders.
- A needs assessment should be undertaken to carefully define the problems of AIDS orphans in Swaziland. Orphans should be provided with education prior to their emergent orphan status, and following the death of their mother/parents.

These general recommendations were followed by specific and time bound recommendations for the next year or two.

*For further information: John King, JTK,
jtk@realnet.co.sz*

Operation Day's Work (ODW) 2000: Youth fight HIV and AIDS!

Today 33,4 million people are living with HIV and AIDS. Every day 16000 people are infected. 7000 of them are between the age of 15 and 24. Being the most threatened group, however, youth are also the "force for change". Surveys conclude that young people take responsibility and are willing to change behaviour when they get information and are enabled to participate

directly. That is what they will do through Operation Day's Work 2000.

On the 26th of October more than 115 000 Norwegian students will earn about 25 million NOK for the benefit of projects in Nicaragua, Bolivia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The main objective is, through education and information, to prevent spread of the virus, and increase knowledge of and respect for youth living with HIV and AIDS. The money will be channelled through the Norwegian NGO Student and Academics International Helpfund (SAIH). Partners in the recipient countries are organisations, networks, universities etc., working with and amongst youth on local levels.

All of the 13 projects supported by ODW 2000 will be organised by or directed towards youth. One example is The Arepp Educational Trust in South Africa. Arepp is a dynamic and innovative theatre-group. Through doll-theatre, acting and educative workshops their goal is to teach social life skills to various age groups in various local societies in all of the 11 official languages in the country. The main topics are HIV/AIDS, sexuality and gender. In the ODW-sponsored program "Look before you leap", Arepp will perform 240 shows every year for 5 years in all of the 9 provinces of South Africa.

For further information:

od@od.no or <http://www.od.no>,
saih@saih.no or <http://www.solidariteshuset.org/saih>

Norwegian Church Aid: AIDS is more than a health problem!

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) has worked with HIV/AIDS related problems in different parts of the world for several years. In July this year, right before the XIII International AIDS Conference, they convened a partner consultation in Durban, South Africa, called "Own the AIDS challenge". NCA partners from more than 30 countries in South Asia, East-, West- and Southern Africa and Latin America came together to exchange views and experiences from different cultural and religious perspectives. The consultation resulted in a common understanding of HIV/AIDS as an issue closely related to human rights, poverty and gender relations. This means that to address the HIV/AIDS related problems in a holistic way it is necessary to challenge profound cultural values and comprehensions. Religious as well as political leaders need to be challenged.

In September NCA convened another conference, this time in cooperation with its European sister organisations, with inputs from resource persons from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda and India. This conference held in Oslo, focused particularly on a broader understanding of sexuality and on the gender dimension of HIV/AIDS, and the participants concluded by giving some recommendations to their own organisations, on how to address these issues.

NCA will continue its involvement in HIV/AIDS related programming, and even intensify it, since the organisation has been awarded the 2001 NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation) fundraising campaign. The focus of this campaign will be HIV/AIDS, and NCA is

now in the process of identifying new projects in cooperation with its partners and other organisations. In the rationale behind NCA's application for the campaign

it is emphasised that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a development disaster. HIV/AIDS and poverty are closely related, and while poverty increases the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, the disease also causes increased poverty for individuals, families and communities. NCA wants to take a holistic approach and to build networks by mobilising local churches in the communities and ensuring active participation by people living with HIV/AIDS. A special focus is put on the situation of women and girls. To change men's attitudes and sexual behaviour is seen as a main challenge for the coming years.

For further information: Thora Holter, Norwegian Church Aid, thora.holter@nca.no or <http://www.nca.no>

HIV/AIDS intervention in the educational sector; some lessons from LINS experiences.

The NORAD funded report by LINS staff on the impact of HIV/AIDS on education and other evaluations and assignments regarding the topic, have revealed some valuable lessons from experience.

The education sector represents an already existing infrastructure, and the use of it as a channel for promoting HIV/AIDS education must be cost-effective compared to other innovations – provided that sound planning and administration of such innovations are assured. It is also important to secure the effectiveness and quality of a service that is affected by illness, absenteeism, lack of systems for staff replacement etc. All levels must be considered.

From a managerial and administrative perspective there is a need for

- developing strategies for replacement or succession
- awareness raising in the educational management community, (e.g. through in-service courses).
- -gender sensitivity in recruitment, selection and training
- awareness raising at local level in order to reach out to schools, the pupils and their parents through a gender balanced approach.
- a division of responsibility to determine who takes on the planning, monitoring and implementation of the various activities from national to local level.

There is a need to look into the teaching profession and the role of the schools. HIV/AIDS should be integrated in the curriculum at all levels, linked to life skills training and human rights education.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation techniques have to be considered as important means for training, awareness raising and attitudinal changes. What is needed

is to change sexual behaviour, not just the provision of information and new teaching material. An effective programme for addressing the HIV/AIDS challenge must include:

- Impact assessments so that reliable data are used as the basis of planning
- Project management and planning which uses participatory approaches
- Organisational strengthening or institutional learning so that Ministries internalise fully the lessons and strategies found to be most effective
- Understanding and negotiating stakeholders' perspectives through the participatory approaches mentioned
- Public accountability such that openness in dealing with sensitive issues characterises strategic plans

This methodology highlights the involvement of major stakeholders. It must be borne in mind that the beneficiaries of interventions must be included in the processes, not just the outcomes.

For further information: Ellen Carm, LINS, Ellen.Carm@lu.hio.no

Conferences and seminars BREAKING THE SILENCE

The XIII International AIDS Conference took place in Durban, South-Africa 9 - 14 July 2000. The conference theme "Breaking the silence", refers to the importance of breaking the silence and taboos that are attached to the issue of HIV and AIDS in many cultures. Unless this silence is broken, it will be impossible to come to terms with the epidemic and its consequences.

12 500 participants attended the Conference, more than a third came from African countries

This conference was a milestone in putting the developmental aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the agenda. Some of *the developmental consequences* of the epidemic are:

- Life expectancy is in several countries set back to the 1960-level
- Health and education sectors are impoverished and eroding
- HIV/AIDS puts very heavy economic burdens on households and GNP is being reduced in the most heavily affected countries.

Some *major challenges* for development that came out of the conference were:

- HIV/AIDS is clearly related to poverty. Efforts to reduce poverty must be prioritised, and women and children, including orphans, must be the main target groups.
- The link between the HIV/AIDS epidemic and macro-economic issues has to be addressed. HIV/AIDS perspectives must be included in the designing and implementation of structural adjustment programs and debt relief mechanisms.
- HIV/AIDS should be put on national and international agendas concerning human rights. The right to protection and care need to be ensured, in particular for vulnerable groups
- Other parts of the world must not be forgotten when Africa is prioritised. Asia has the potential of becoming

the "next Africa", and initiatives have to be taken now, in order to avoid this scenario.

-Governments and donors should immediately create adequate strategies and action plans in order to include HIV/AIDS aspects in all development work.

For further information: Janne Lexow DECO/NCG jlexow@os.telia.no

Input and feedback to Educaid are appreciated

In order to be updated with news about ongoing education projects and international conferences, we are dependent upon information from our readers. Please contact:

Educaid
DECO as
Kongens gate 14
0153 Oslo, NORWAY
Tel: + 47 22 42 60 54
Fax: + 47 22 33 66 21
e-mail: wirak@os.telia.no
Editor: Anders Wirak
Editorial staff:
Ragnhild Tungesvik
ragnhild.tungesvik@c2i.net