



Providing high quality accessible information to policy makers and practitioners working in health and development

Produced by the [IDS Health and Development Information](#) team in collaboration with [Eldis](#) and the [DFID Health Resource Centre](#)

Community-based organisations delivering HIV and AIDS services: HIV and AIDS reporter, January 2009

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Feature: Community-based organisations delivering HIV and AIDS services

In many countries, community-based organisations (CBOs) often provide a significant proportion of HIV and AIDS related services and have specific expertise in supporting the needs of affected communities. In this context community-based organisations

include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs) and community groups. Recognising the role of communities in the provision of health services is critical to ensuring adequate support and resources to non-public health service providers that are particularly important for reaching key populations.

The role of community based organisations in HIV and AIDS related services include:

- providing information and services
- acting as the voice of the vulnerable
- putting a human face to HIV and AIDS
- campaigning for a rights-based approach
- supporting community reliance to deal with the epidemic
- prevention, treatment and care.

CBOs have increasingly proven their ability to complement government efforts in reaching all groups in need. In the context of these trends and results, there is an urgent need to strengthen capacity building of civil society organisations (CSOs), address issues related to partnership building, and to integrate support for these efforts into funding approaches and mechanisms.

Lack of capacity is seen to be one of the main factors affecting effective community-based services. This is preventing CBOs from delivering on their potential impact on achieving the universal access goals. With capacity challenges persisting among CBOs, including inadequate human resources, systems and structural difficulties, inadequate and short term funding, and weak planning and management capacities, support to strengthen the civil society response needs to match these needs and evolve to enable scale-up.

Despite international commitments to civil society, CBOs face a range of challenges in building partnerships. Poor government capacity to coordinate and plan with multiple stakeholders, as well as resistance among donors and governments to engage with local organisations, include some of the barriers at national level. The lack of clear frameworks and guidelines that define responsibilities and guide the development of processes for engagement are preventing meaningful interaction with CBOs.

In addition, CBOs still only receive a small proportion of financial support from the Global Fund. Funding is often concentrated among large international NGOs and local organisations are less likely to be direct recipients.

Monitoring and evaluation is seen to be integral to better partnerships and involvement of CBOs in national and international programmes. Participatory approaches involving CBOs will encourage ownership, sustainable partnerships, and effective responses if those primarily concerned are involved throughout all stages of design, implementation, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting.

[More information:](#)

- Manuals, Eldis HIV and AIDS Resource Guide
www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/manuals
- NGO support toolkit, International HIV/AIDS Alliance
www.aidsalliance.org/sw5748.asp

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Recommended readings

1. Engaging faith-based organisations in HIV prevention: a training manual for programme managers

Authors: A. Toure

Publisher: United Nations Population Fund, 2007

This manual is a capacity-building tool to help policy makers and programmers identify, design and follow up on HIV prevention programmes undertaken by faith-based organisations (FBOs). It is also relevant for development practitioners partnering with FBOs to increase their understanding of the role of FBOs in HIV prevention, and to design plans for partnering with FBOs to halt the spread of the virus.

The manual explores how religious values and the power of religious leaders to mobilise communities can be used to design effective and sustainable community programmes to address HIV. It explains how to involve religious leaders in programmes to eliminate the stigma and discrimination often directed to people living with HIV and how to encourage community support and solidarity using the compassionate spirit of religion. It also outlines the key HIV prevention messages that religious leaders can promote and the skills they need to deliver them effectively.

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33349&type=Document

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2. Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of community and faith based programs

Authors: R. Degnan Kambou; M.K Adams; M. Kaul Shah; X. M.V Mahlalela

Publisher: Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, 2006

While monitoring and evaluation (M&E) can appear overwhelming and confusing, it should not be assumed that it can only be carried out by professional M&E experts. Organisations should be able, and be enabled, to carry out M&E themselves. This manual aims to help community and faith-based organisations carry out their own M&E,

providing tips on how this can help improve HIV/AIDS interventions.

The manual describes what is considered to be good practice in project design M&E, with examples from a number of organisations in a variety of contexts. Step by step guidelines are provided, including:

- an explanation of monitoring and evaluation as a process
- understanding and planning participatory appraisal
- looking at participatory planning and design
- how to select indicators for participatory monitoring and evaluation
- identifying participatory baselines
- participatory monitoring and reporting monitoring data
- participatory evaluation
- using other data sources.

Diagrams, pictures and tables are provided to help illustrate the various steps of the process. [adapted from author]

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=38345&type=Document

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3. CBO/FBO capacity analysis: a toolkit for assessing and building capacities for high quality responses to HIV/AIDS

Authors: Core Initiative

Publisher: Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, 2005

This tool, developed by the CORE Initiative, enables community and faith-based organisations to analyse levels of capacity in different areas of organisational and technical work. The tool is designed to facilitate group discussions between members of community organisations (CBO) and external facilitators providing capacity-building support. It can also be self-administered by the CBO. The document outlines: how to organise a visit with a CBO; how to facilitate a discussion; how to start the discussion; how to conduct the analysis; how to document the discussion; and how to follow up the assessment.

The document identifies seven areas relating to specific areas of capacity: leadership, governance and strategy; finances; administration and human resources; project design and management; technical capacity; networking and advocacy; and community ownership and accountability. The document outlines a method of how participants can assess their own strengths, weaknesses and capacity building needs, and also develop an understanding of how they might strengthen their capacity or improve the way they work. The document recommends that questions and suggested responses be adapted to suit the

local context before using the tool, and that the CBO should participate in this process.
[adapted from author]

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=22607&type=Document

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4. Project Cycle management : CBO training toolkit

Authors: CARE; International AIDS Alliance

Publisher: Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, 2006

This training toolkit aims to build the confidence and skills required by community-based organisations (CBOs) to develop and manage their HIV/AIDS projects more systematically through project cycle management. While the toolkit was developed for use by facilitators involved in the training of these CBOs, it can also be used by NGOs/CBOs themselves to implement training within their organisations.

Ideally, people using this toolkit should already have some basic facilitation skills and some previous experience of designing and managing community level HIV/AIDS projects.

The toolkit describes a workshop scenario providing a range of participatory activities which can be carried out to build skills. The participatory activities outlined for each topic include instructions for the activity, facilitators notes, suggestions for time allocation and room layout; and a list of materials required.

Topic covered include:

- Introducing the project cycle
 - Stage 1: Assessing needs
 - Stage 2: Planning the project
 - Stage 3: Implementing and monitoring the project
 - Stage 4: Evaluating the project
 - Stage 5: Learning from the project and evolving
- Management of the project
- Workshop wrap-up

In addition, the toolkit contains an example workshop schedule, handouts for specific activities, and participatory community assessment tools.

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=38452&type=Document

5. AIDS Councils as Catalysts for Unlocking Citizen Power

Publisher: Institute for Democracy in South Africa, 2005

This manual, published by Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), aims to provide information for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to develop and mobilise civil society's engagement with AIDS councils and build effective governance of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The guide contains a step by step approach to organising a one and a half day workshop. This workshop enables participants to understand the role of AIDS councils in building multi-sectoral partnerships to tackling HIV/AIDS, identify potential collaborative partners and promote community ownership of HIV and AIDS issues.

Operational details include information on the optimal number of participants and venue selection through to trainer's notes and workshop outcomes. There is a detailed programme with sessions such as facts about AIDS councils and tapping into diversity. Also included are thorough instructions for each session outlining the aims, learning outcomes and materials needed. There are handouts of the workshops timetable and several background documents on the composition, structure and functions of AIDS councils, as well as roles of AIDS council members and other stakeholders. The manual also stresses the importance of taking local context into consideration when the workshops are given. The authors aim is for this manual not only to be used by civil society but also by the AIDS councils themselves. [adapted from author]

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33869&type=Document

Latest additions from the HIV and AIDS resource guide

1. HIV/AIDS terminology for use in the MENA region

Author: W. El Beih; UNAIDS

Publisher: United Nations [UN] Children's Fund, 2006

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is experiencing one of the fastest growing AIDS epidemic rates in the world, yet stigma, denial and ignorance of HIV remain rampant. Language can shape public opinion, perception, attitudes and may influence behaviours. Thus, language should be constructive, dispel myths and stereotypes, and not contribute to prejudice. Given the intrinsic link between HIV and AIDS and moral and taboo issues, it is pertinent that terminology used is scientifically

correct and non-judgmental to strengthen the response to AIDS. This guide provides a glossary of appropriate HIV/AIDS terminology in both English and Arabic for use in the Middle East and North Africa.

It is intended for all professionals who need to communicate on HIV and AIDS accurately between English and Arabic. The four sections include:

- definitions of terms in English alphabetical order covering most commonly used terminologies related to HIV and AIDS and its Arabic translation
- a reference to common mistakes and appropriate alternatives in tabular form
- a reference guide for translators of terms in English and their appropriate equivalent in Arabic
- a reference to English acronyms and their equivalents in Arabic.

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=41583&type=Document

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2. Monitoring and evaluation systems strengthening tool

Author: R. Tran Ba Huy; K. Hardee; J. Win Brown

Publisher: MEASURE Evaluation, 2007

National governments and donors are working to fight many diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and to make improvements in a number of health areas. As national programmes and associated projects to support these programmes grow, accountability for funding and results reported is becoming increasingly important. This publication provides an monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems strengthening tool which can help all reporting entities under government programmes and donor projects to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their M&E systems, including data collection and reporting, and highlighting areas for improvement that might require additional focus, funds and/or technical assistance.

This tool comprises three complementary checklists designed to comprehensively assess both the programme and projects' abilities to collect, analyze, use and report accurate, valuable and high-quality M&E data. Each checklist contains a list of questions to perform the diagnosis, and a template for developing a costed action plan for strengthening M&E systems. They are contained in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, which include instructions on how to complete them and which stakeholders should be involved. The following checklists are provided:

- **assessing the M&E plan:** This Checklist looks at the goals and objectives of Programs and projects and how they relate to a country's national strategy and

- M&E Plan, if they exist.
- **assessing data management capacities of the program/projects' management units:** This Checklist assesses the data management systems of the management units of national Programs or donor funded projects.
 - **assessing data reporting systems per program area:** This Checklist assesses the strengths of Programs' and projects' data-collection and reporting systems per Program area, including the ability to report valid, accurate, and high-quality data related to implementation.

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=41582&type=Document

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3. Responding to HIV/AIDS in agriculture and related activities

Author: R. Slater; S. Wiggins

Publisher: Overseas Development Institute, London, 2005

This article explores the challenges posed for agriculture by HIV and AIDS and considers a range of policy options. The impact of HIV and AIDS is first considered at a household level. HIV and AIDS has a high human cost and undermines household economies resulting in poverty and vulnerability. Specifically, HIV and AIDS results in labour and asset shortages for agriculture due to illness, caretaking, deaths and additional costs of treatment. This reduction in labour and working capital results in change in agricultural activities and strategies which often reduces agricultural productivity and output. HIV and AIDS affect the farming community by weakening of the social support system and loss of prominent community members. Moreover, the wider economy and agriculture also suffers as it is deprived of capital with weakened supply chains and fewer government services and is faced by lower demand for market surplus.

This paper, when considering policies, suggests that the focus of policies is now shifting from urban to rural and from the sectors of health and education to agriculture, using the concept of social protection to enable synergies between protecting and promoting people's livelihoods. It is suggested that the intensification of current development efforts can in aggregate outweigh the damage of the epidemic. In particular, it is recommended to:

- make best use of savings and ensure innovation in rural finance to respond to reduction in household financial capital due to diversion because of the disease
- enhance labour saving technologies-especially for women to cope with reduction in labour
- improve education and training to compensate for loss of labour and skills
- strengthen the rights of women and orphans to land worked by them to ensure retention of key assets

- reduce threats to the supply chains from the disease.

Moreover, it is suggested to devise effective and affordable social protection schemes while avoiding dangers of stigmatising the beneficiaries. Such social protection measures can include food and cash transfers, public works programmes as well safeguarding the rights of those directly affected by the disease. The protection of future young orphans by providing nutrition, education and care as well protecting property rights in case of deaths of household heads should also be provided.

Besides intensification of general development strategies the article highlights that the policy conclusions particularly relevant to HIV and AIDS-affected households, such as modifications to modalities of migration and strengthening land rights of women and minors, should also be implemented while avoiding AIDS-exceptionalism. Finally, the paper highlights the evidence of impact of HIV and AIDS on productive sectors is still limited and recommends collection of further evidence.

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=41501&type=Document

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4. Marriage behavior response to prime-age adult mortality: evidence from Malawi

Authors: M. Ueyama; F. Yamauchi

Publisher: International Food Policy Research Institute, 2008

This paper examines the effect of AIDS-related mortality of the prime-age adult population on marriage behaviour among women in Malawi. A rise in prime-age adult mortality increases risks associated with the search for a marriage partner in the marriage market. A possible behavioural change in the marriage market in response to an increase in prime-age adult mortality is for marriage to occur earlier to avoid women's exposure to HIV/AIDS risks under the condition that the risks are higher during singlehood.

This hypothesis is tested using micro data from Malawi, where prime-age adult mortality has drastically increased. In the analysis, the authors estimate prime-age adult mortality that sample women have observed during the adolescent period by utilising retrospective information on the death of their siblings. Empirical analysis shows that excess prime-age adult mortality observed in the local marriage market (district) lowers the marriage age for females and reduces their premarital sexual activities. Since a lower age for first marriage implies less schooling completed, we expect that the average schooling achievement among women would decline.

This such behavioral change also implies a longer reproduction period during their marriage, which may lead to a higher fertility rate. However, the second implication should be discounted if the reduction of sexual activities also applies to the married

population. Lower schooling attainment among women has further implications on human capital formation in the next generation. [Adapted from author]

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=41441&type=Document

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5. World population highlights: key findings from PRB's 2008 world population data sheet

Publisher: Population Reference Bureau, 2008

During the 20th Century, nearly 90 percent of population growth took place in countries classified as less developed countries (LDCs). This remarkable development resulted from an unprecedented decline in death rates in LDCs brought about by the spread of public health measures, health care, and disease prevention. This Population Bulletin produced by the Population Reference Bureau provides data on the key issues affecting population growth. Regional comparisons are made between Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia, a continent which is projected to add the largest amount of growth by mid-century, with an increase of 1.4 billion over its 2008 population of 4 billion.

North America, Oceania and Europe are also discussed and the contrast between western European countries such as Italy and developing countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo are highlighted to illustrate the demographic divide. On one side of this divide are mostly poor countries with relatively high birth rates and low life expectancies. On the other side are mostly wealthy countries with birth rates so low that population decline and rapid aging are likely. The bulletin then continues to consider the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the effect it has had on population growth. Nutrition, migration and the environment are additionally examined and the effect of an increasingly urbanised society on population and health is highlighted as being detrimental.

Available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=41310&type=Document

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[Announcements](#)

Conference: 5th European Conference on Clinical and Social Research on AIDS and Drugs

Dates: 28-30 April 2009

Location: Vilnius, Lithuania

This conference serves to strengthen European networking on HIV/AIDS and related issues. It's scientific programme will focus on recent developments in the field of HIV medicine on the methods and results of social and behavioural research on AIDS and related issues. Registration will start on 1 September, 2008. More information will be posted on the conference website nearer the time.

More details available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=38403&type=Item

Meeting: 2009 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting 'Optimising the Response: Partnerships for Sustainability'

Dates: 10-14 June 2009

Location: Windhoek, Namibia

The HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting gathers together programme implementers to share best practices and lessons learned in the fight against global AIDS. This year's HIV/AIDS Implementers' meeting is on the theme of 'Optimizing the Response: Partnerships for Sustainability'. The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Widely disseminate best practices and lessons learned during the implementation of multi-sectoral HIV and AIDS programmes with a focus on:
 - optimising the impact of prevention, care and treatment programmes
 - enhancing programme quality
 - promoting coordination among partners
 - encouraging innovative responses.
- Catalyse an open dialogue about future directions of HIV and AIDS programmes with a strong emphasis on implementation.
- Directly impact HIV and AIDS programme implementation in the upcoming year with the goal of building a sustainable response.

To submit an application through open enrollment to attend the meeting please revisit the HIV Implementer's website in early March. Open enrollment application opens on 17 March 2009, and closes on 31 March 2009.

More details available online at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=41738&type=Item

See the complete list of announcements at: www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities

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The IDS Health and Development Information team promotes health and equity in developing countries through the provision of high quality, accessible information to policymakers and practitioners. IDS Health and Development Information currently has three flagship products:

- Health Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/health/index.htm>
- Health Systems Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/healthsystems/index.htm>
- HIV and AIDS Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids>

The HRC provides access to technical assistance and information for the Department for International Development (DFID UK), and its partners, in support of pro-poor health policies as well as health systems, service delivery and public health topics and programmes.

Eldis currently includes descriptions and links to over 4,500 organisations and over 22,000 full-text online documents covering development and environmental issues. It can be searched or browsed free over the Internet.

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