



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

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

Refugees and HIV services:  
HIV and AIDS reporter, October 2008

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### **Feature: Refugees and HIV services**

There are currently 9.9 million refugees worldwide, approximately 30 percent of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa. Refugees are vulnerable as they are no longer protected by their country of origin and often do not receive assistance from the host country in which they find themselves. Many host countries are already overburdened by HIV/AIDS and other demands on their health services, and are often unwilling to provide HIV-related services to refugees. Refugees frequently face stigma and discrimination, due to both their refugee status and the common misconception that HIV prevalence is higher among refugees than host communities.

Refugees are one of the most difficult populations to reach, and are often without access to HIV prevention, treatment or care services despite an increased risk of HIV infection. Many factors influence this increased risk. Their physical, financial and social insecurity increases, eroding normal coping mechanisms, and weakening the community cohesion and social norms that regulate behaviour. Health and education services are interrupted, exposure to mass trauma can increase alcohol and drug use which influence risk behaviour, while conflict and displacement increase vulnerability to rape, sexual violence and exploitation.

Current humanitarian standards include a Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) of reproductive health activities to be provided in emergencies. It is important that HIV services for refugees also promote non discrimination and respect for confidentiality, and include HIV-related protection needs of women and children, and access to HIV education. Provision of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care to refugees requires both recognition of human rights and a coordinated multi-sectoral approach. The provision of a comprehensive and integrated national response that addresses the HIV-related needs of refugees and host communities is the most effective method of addressing HIV in refugees. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) recommends the incorporation of refugees into host countries' HIV policies and programmes, and the creation of programmes that fulfil the rights of refugees.

### Relevant documents:

UNHCR Antiretroviral Medication Policy for Refugees

[http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2007/20070326\\_unhcr\\_art\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2007/20070326_unhcr_art_en.pdf)

Special Focus: Refugees and HIV/AIDS

[http://www.rho.org/html/hiv\\_aids\\_special\\_focus-refugees.htm](http://www.rho.org/html/hiv_aids_special_focus-refugees.htm)

UNHCR, HIV/AIDS and refugees: lessons learned

<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR19/FMR1909.pdf>

HIV and refugees: Policy brief

[http://data.unaids.org/pub/BriefingNote/2007/policy\\_brief\\_refugees.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/BriefingNote/2007/policy_brief_refugees.pdf)

10 Key Points on HIV/AIDS and the Protection of Refugees, IDPs and Other Persons of Concern

[http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/pht/Summary\\_of\\_HIV\\_and\\_Prot\\_Note\\_ENG\\_FINAL\\_12April2006.pdf](http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/pht/Summary_of_HIV_and_Prot_Note_ENG_FINAL_12April2006.pdf)

### Relevant links:

UNHCR: HIV and refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/401915744.html>

UNAIDS: HIV and refugees

[http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2007/20070223\\_HIV\\_and\\_Refugees.asp](http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2007/20070223_HIV_and_Refugees.asp)

UNAIDS: Refugees and internally displaced people

<http://www.unaids.org/en/PolicyAndPractice/KeyPopulations/RefugeesIDP/default.asp>

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## Recommended readings

### **1. HIV/AIDS and humanitarian action**

Authors: P. Harvey

Publisher: Humanitarian Policy Group, ODI, 2004

Whether you label HIV/AIDS as an emergency or as a long-term crisis, it clearly requires both a humanitarian response to suffering and a long-term perspective. This research report, produced by the Humanitarian Policy Group at the Overseas Development Institute, examines the implications of HIV/AIDS in emergencies and of the role of humanitarian aid. Traditionally, literature on HIV/AIDS and emergencies focused on conflict and refugee situations. This paper aims to provide broadly applicable lessons by focusing on the humanitarian response in southern Africa in 2002 and 2003.

The author argues that disentangling the relative importance of HIV/AIDS from other contributory factors in a crisis is not what is important. More important is the way additional vulnerability relating to HIV/AIDS leaves people less able to cope with, and recover from, additional shocks. Existing literature is reviewed in order to examine the relationship between HIV/AIDS and livelihoods. The report goes on to consider whether HIV/AIDS should be an emergency in its own right; how it interacts with other emergencies including conflict; and what this means for humanitarian response. Finally, it reviews how humanitarian programming may need to be altered.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-and-aids-reporter&id=15445&type=Document>

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### **2. Educational responses to HIV and AIDS for refugees and internally displaced persons: discussion paper for decision makers**

Publisher: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2007

This discussion paper, prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), is intended for policy-makers and implementers in ministries of education, civil society organisations, and donor and development agencies involved in emergency, reconstruction and development responses. It examines the current situation with regard to conflict, displacement and HIV, and notes the protection risks faced by refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The paper then focuses on the key components of education sector responses to HIV and AIDS, and considers the policy and programmatic measures required to address the prevention, treatment, care and support needs of refugees and IDPs as well as the HIV-related stigma and discrimination that they often face. The paper concludes with a number of recommendations.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-and-aids-reporter&id=33239&type=Document>

### **3. Reproductive health for displaced people: investing in the future**

Authors: Forced Migration Review

Publisher: Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford, 2004

Since the mid-1990s, reproductive health services for refugees and displaced people have greatly improved and expanded. This edition of the journal Forced Migration Review is devoted to the issues of sexual and reproductive healthcare in conflict and post-conflict situations. Many of the articles it contains are based on presentations to a major international conference held in Brussels in October 2003, organised by the Reproductive Health Response in Conflict Consortium.

The issue contains articles from a variety of authors and draws on experience from a number of countries. It reflects the progress that has been made during the past ten years in research and programming for reproductive health (RH) as a humanitarian issue. Topics covered include: the reproductive health needs of adolescents and young people; maternal mortality reduction; the logistics of health supplies in conflict-affected situations; reproductive health rights; HIV/AIDS; gender-based violence; pastoral care; and fertility and abortion. Important issues and initiatives are highlighted and policy lessons listed.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-and-aids-reporter&id=16497&type=Document>

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### **4. Refugees and AIDS: what should the humanitarian community do?**

Authors: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

Publisher: Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium, 2002

Sexually transmitted infections and HIV spread fastest where there is poverty, powerlessness and social instability characteristic of refugee and internally displaced populations. This document provides an introduction for humanitarian programme workers to issues of HIV and AIDS. It describes the status of the epidemic, means of transmission and factors that make refugee communities especially vulnerable.

This is a basic introduction to transmission, prevention and care of HIV and is backed up by a list of key resources. It discusses the establishment of HIV interventions in emergency and post-emergency settings as well as refugee-specific advice for prevention of transmission by sexual means, through health care, drug use and from mother to child.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-and-aids-reporter&id=12371&type=Document>

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## **5. Guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings**

Authors: Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

Publisher: IASC, 2002

At the end of 2001, over 70 different countries experienced an emergency situation, resulting in over 50 million persons being affected worldwide. Conditions that define a complex emergency (conflict, social instability, poverty and powerlessness) are also the conditions that favour the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. However, the long-term consequences of HIV/AIDS are often more devastating than the conflicts themselves: mortality from HIV/AIDS each year exceeds mortality from conflicts.

These guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings provide valuable information for organisations and individuals involved in developing responses to HIV/AIDS during crises. There is also a matrix, designed to present response information in a simplified chart, which can be photocopied for use in emergency situations. The topics covered include: prevention and preparedness; responding to sexual violence and exploitation; food aid and distribution; IDU care; safe blood supply; condom supply and usage; women and children, orphans, uniformed services; personnel, refugees; and safe deliveries. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-and-aids-reporter&id=15520&type=Document>

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## **Latest additions from the HIV and AIDS resource guide**

### **1. Network Capacity Analysis. A toolkit for assessing and building capacities for high quality responses to HIV: workshop facilitation guide**

Author: Davies and Lee: AIDS and Development Consulting

Publisher: International HIV/AIDS Alliance, 2007

Civil society networks play a vital role in supporting and developing key services required to respond to the HIV epidemic. The networks that represent communities key to the dynamics of HIV transmission are particularly important, specifically in their involvement with decision making and programming around HIV. This toolkit aims to increase the skills of civil society networks in order to develop and strengthen their capacity. It can be used by networks to help identify their capacity building needs, plan technical support interventions, and monitor and evaluate the impact of capacity building.

This workshop facilitation guide is part of a set of two toolkits (the second of which is a rapid assessment guide) that have been developed in order to respond to different needs and situations. Together they provide a structured approach to generating both quantitative and qualitative information about the organisation, and will be of particular use to these networks of key populations.

This guide can be used, where resources and aspiration allow, to structure, deliver and report on a two to three day workshop. It provides step by step guidance to aid in the analysis of a network's capacity. The group exercises, how to facilitate the workshop and how to conduct the external interviews are provided to aid the facilitator. [Adapted from the authors]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=40091&type=Document>

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## **2. Uncovering the effect of the HIV epidemic on fertility in sub-Saharan Africa: the case of Malawi**

Author: D. Durevall and A. Lindskog, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenberg

Publisher: Swedish Working Papers in Economics, 2008

This paper evaluates the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the reproductive behaviour of women in Malawi. The study used retrospective birth information for the years 1980 to 2004 from the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, and analysed fertility data according to age of the mother and prior number of births.

The results show that the probability of a young woman giving birth to her first child increases as the HIV-prevalence rate of the district increases, whereas the probability of older women giving birth decreases. This suggest that in areas of higher HIV prevalence, young women may seek to give birth earlier when there is a lower risk of being HIV infected, or that women give birth earlier as a consequence of marrying and establishing supposedly monogamous relationships earlier as both women and men attempt to reduce the risk of becoming infected.

The results reflect a change in behaviour resulting from the HIV epidemic, and do not conflict with the data suggesting that HIV reduces fertility among HIV positive women for physiological reasons. The HIV epidemic is thus likely to change the timing of births, while effects on a woman's total number of children may be very small.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/home&id=39953&type=Document>

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## **3. Toolkit for mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the education sector: guidelines for development cooperation agencies**

Author: M.V. Valfrey

Publisher: United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, 2008

HIV and AIDS mainstreaming in the education sector ensures that addressing HIV and AIDS is not an add-on or a separate activity but an integral part of education sector policies, strategies and actions. While the main responsibility for mainstreaming lies with ministries of education in each

country, development cooperation agencies, including both development- and humanitarian-oriented multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other civil society organisations, can play a supportive role. Experience has shown, however, that education-staff in these agencies face a variety of challenges in supporting the mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS. These include difficulties in starting and sustaining dialogue, deciding on key entry points, priorities and strategies for moving the mainstreaming process along, and in deciding how to involve key stakeholders.

This toolkit aims to help education staff from development cooperation agencies to support the process of mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into education sector planning and implementation. It provides resources and support to assess the progress countries have made with respect to HIV and AIDS mainstreaming; to identify entry points and opportunities; and to establish priorities for advocacy and action. It should also help staff to engage with other colleagues in the sector, such as ministry of education staff and partners working for NGOs.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=39881&type=Document>

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#### **4. Our home is where the heart is: a young homemaker's guide**

Authors: A.N. Hoab; A.S. Iiyambula; L.Y. Steinitz; IBIS; Hivos; People in Need; Legal Assistance Centre

Publisher: Yelula/U-Khai, 2008

It has become increasingly common in Namibian society for children to head their own households and take care of other relatives, due to the death or illness of their parents and guardians, or because their parents live far away. This handbook provides guidance on how to run a child headed household. It is intended for children and youth who shoulder the responsibility of managing a home and caring for others as well as community caregivers, volunteers and relatives who provide some form of support to these households.

This guide contains both theoretical and practical information about how to run a household and where to go for help. Useful tips and step –by-step instructions are also provided. Sections include:

- you are in charge now
- caring for the basics
- caring for younger siblings (and yourself)
- caring for your house and land
- being smart about money-matters
- caring for the family treasures
- health and illness
- community relationships.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=40651&type=Document>

See the complete list of latest additions at: [www.eldis.org/hiv aids](http://www.eldis.org/hiv aids)

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## Announcements

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

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Health Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/health/index.htm>

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HIV and AIDS Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids>

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Eldis is funded by DFID, Sida, SDC and NORAD, and hosted by the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK.

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Contact details:

Emily Robinson  
IDS Health Development Information Team  
Institute of Development Studies, Sussex  
Brighton BN1 9RE, UK

Email: [e.robinson@ids.ac.uk](mailto:e.robinson@ids.ac.uk)  
Tel: 44 1273 391 5789