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

## **Responding to HIV risk in prisons**

HIV and AIDS reporter, 19 May 2009

Feature: Responding to HIV risk in prisons

Recommended readings:

- HIV in prison in low-income and middle-income countries
- HIV/AIDS in prison: problems, policies and potential
- Effectiveness of interventions to address HIV in prisons
- HIV and AIDS in places of detention: a toolkit for policymakers, programme managers, prison officers and health care providers in prison settings
- Legislating for health and human rights: model law on drug use and HIV/AIDS – module 5: prisons

Latest additions:

- Doorways I: Student training manual on school-related gender-based violence prevention and response
- HIV in Pakistan: preventing a future epidemic in most-at-risk groups
- Women, HIV and human rights: the crisis of criminalization
- Painful tradeoffs: intimate-partner violence and sexual and reproductive health rights in Kenya
- Rethinking sexuality and policy

Announcements

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## **Feature: Responding to HIV risk in prisons**

In many countries, levels of infection with HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) among prisoners are significantly higher than those found in the population as a whole. Injection drug use, tattooing and unprotected sex (both consensual and non-consensual, including violence) are all factors driving the worsening HIV epidemic in prisons. Accordingly,

numerous countries have implemented, to varying degrees, harm reduction measures aimed at reducing behaviours with a high risk of transmitting HIV or HCV. These include forms of harm reduction which are used in the community at large, such as condom distribution, bleach distribution, opioid substitution therapy and needle and syringe programmes. However, despite the evidence and informed opinion supporting harm reduction measures in prisons to reduce the spread of HIV and HCV, authorities in most jurisdictions have failed to take decisive action.

States have a legal obligation to act. The international community has widely accepted the principle that prisoners retain all human rights that are not taken away expressly or by necessary implication as a result of the loss of liberty flowing from imprisonment. Under international law, the right to the highest attainable standard of health is explicitly retained by people in detention, a right that has been recognised by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to include preventive health services. People in prison are also entitled to have access to a standard of health care equivalent to that available outside of prisons, a right that is reflected in international declarations from the UN General Assembly and in policy recommendations from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNAIDS. Thus, prison authorities must ensure that prisoners living with HIV receive the care, treatment and support (e.g., antiretroviral therapies, medication for pain and adequate nutrition), that is necessary to achieve health outcomes equivalent to those of people living with HIV in the community.

Moreover, numerous international health and human rights bodies support the position that, as a corollary to the right of people in prison to preventive health services, the state has an obligation to prevent the spread of contagious diseases in places of detention. Prison health standards and declarations from the WHO and the World Medical Association, for example, are clear that prisoners must be provided with measures to prevent the transmission of disease. Reinforcing this obligation, UNAIDS and the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) in the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights call on prison authorities to provide prisoners with access to such HIV prevention measures as condoms, bleach and clean injection equipment. Similarly, the WHO in its Guidelines on HIV Infection and AIDS in Prisons recommends the provision of condoms, bleach, clean needles and syringes and methadone maintenance treatment in prison. And, reflecting the principle of equivalence, in HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment, and Support in Prison Settings, the UNODC, WHO and UNAIDS recommend that prison systems “ensure the measures available outside of prisons to prevent transmission of HIV through the exchange of bodily fluids are also available to prisoners,” including access to condoms, sterile needles and syringes, razor blades and sterile tattooing equipment.

*This feature was written by **Sandra Chu** and **Richard Elliott** of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.*

[More information:](#)

- Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
[www.aidslaw.ca/EN/index.htm](http://www.aidslaw.ca/EN/index.htm)
- How the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) deals with HIV  
[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/hiv-aids/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/hiv-aids/index.html)
- International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, 2006 Consolidated Version, UNAIDS  
[data.unaids.org/Publications/IRC-pub07/jc1252-internguidelines\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/Publications/IRC-pub07/jc1252-internguidelines_en.pdf)
- WHO guidelines on HIV infection and AIDS in prisons  
[data.unaids.org/Publications/IRC-pub01/JC277-WHO-Guidel-Prisons\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/Publications/IRC-pub01/JC277-WHO-Guidel-Prisons_en.pdf)
- HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support in Prison Settings, WHO and UNAIDS  
[data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2006/20060701\\_hiv-aids\\_prisons\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2006/20060701_hiv-aids_prisons_en.pdf)
- HIV and AIDS, and vulnerability, Eldis HIV and AIDS Resource Guide  
[www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/vulnerability](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/vulnerability)
- Harm reduction key issues guide, Eldis HIV and AIDS Resource Guide  
[www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/key-issues/harm-reduction](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/key-issues/harm-reduction)

## Recommended readings

### 1. HIV in prison in low-income and middle-income countries

Authors: K. Dolan; B. Kite; E. Black

Publisher: The Lancet, 2007

Prisons have the classic characteristics that can increase the risk of HIV transmission. High prevalence of HIV infection and the over-representation of injecting drug users (IDUs) in prisons combined with HIV risk behaviour create a crucial public health issue for correctional institutions and, at a broader level, the communities in which they are situated. This article in The Lancet details how the authors reviewed imprisonment, HIV prevalence, and the proportion of prisoners who are IDUs in 152 low-income and middle-income countries.

Information on HIV prevalence in prisons was found for 75 countries. Prevalence was greater than 10 percent in prisons in 20 countries. Eight countries reported prevalence of IDUs in prison of greater than ten percent. HIV prevalence among IDU prisoners was reported in eight countries and was greater than ten percent in seven of those. Evidence of HIV transmission in prison was found for seven low- and middle-income countries. The authors demonstrate how HIV is a serious problem for many countries, especially where injecting drug use occurs. Because of the paucity of data available, the contribution of HIV within prison settings is difficult to determine in many low- and middle-income countries. The article argues that systematic collection of data to inform HIV prevention strategies in prison is urgently needed. In addition, it is argued that the introduction and evaluation of HIV prevention strategies in prisons are warranted.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-)

## **2. HIV/AIDS in prison: problems, policies and potential**

Authors: K.C. Goyer

Publisher: Institute for Security Studies, South Africa, 2003

This document from the Institute of Security Studies in South Africa examines the situation in prisons and argues that the issue of prevention of HIV transmission in prison has more to do with improving prison conditions in general than with specifically addressing HIV. Overcrowding, corruption, and gangs are the primary culprits behind rape, assault and violence in prisons, all of these contribute towards the spread of HIV and AIDS. The document provides an overview of the situation in South African prisons and explains how official statistics are unreliable when it comes to estimating the number of imprisoned individuals with HIV and AIDS.

The author demonstrates how all but a small percentage of prisoners return to the community. Hundreds of thousands of young men are released from prison each year. Many of these former prisoners are drawn from, and will return to, those communities which are hardest hit by public health issues, including HIV. The impact of this marginalised segment on the rest of the South African population can either be that of positive change or of further hardship. The determining factor will be the appropriate design and implementation of the government's response to the challenge of HIV and AIDS in prison. A number of recommendations are provided within the document. These include the need to address overcrowding, reform prison health care with a focus on sexually transmitted infections, and the option for testing and counselling. The document also recommends that condoms and water based lubricants be made widely available. Education is of primary importance and further research needs to be carried out to improve upon policy further.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43399&type=Document](#)

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## **3. Effectiveness of interventions to address HIV in prisons**

Authors: R. Jürgens; A. Verster; A. Ball; A. Doupe; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; UNAIDS

Publisher: World Health Organization , 2007

The rates of HIV infection among prisoners in many countries are significantly higher than those in the general population. This paper by the World Health Organization reviews the evidence regarding HIV prevalence, risk behaviours and transmission in prisons, as well as other interventions that are part of a comprehensive approach to managing HIV in prisons, including HIV education, testing and counselling, and other

programmes. The authors explain how an increasing number of countries have introduced HIV programmes in prisons since the early 1990s. However, many of them are small in scale, restricted to a few prisons, or exclude necessary interventions for which evidence of effectiveness exists.

It is argued that based on the data available and extrapolating from the literature on community-based programmes, education programmes in prisons are more likely to be effective if developed and delivered by peers. The document therefore recommends that where possible, education delivered for prisoners by the prison system should be supplemented by peer education programmes. Informational and educational programmes are but one component of an effective programme to manage HIV in prisons and must be supplemented by other programmes. In particular, prisoners must be provided with the prevention measures that enable them to act upon the information they receive, such as condoms and clean injecting equipment. The document highlights that prison systems should provide easy access to HIV testing and counselling, and condoms should be made easily and discreetly accessible to prisoners so that they can pick them up at various locations in the prison, without having to ask for them and without being seen by others. An extensive list of recommendations also highlights the need for prison systems to develop and implement multi-prong strategies for enhancing the detection, prevention, and reduction of all forms of sexual violence in prisons and for the prosecution of offenders. The document covers drug use and tattooing as activities which facilitate the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43396&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43396&type=Document)

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#### **4. HIV and AIDS in places of detention: a toolkit for policymakers, programme managers, prison officers and health care providers in prison settings**

Authors: ; World Health Organization; UNAIDS

Publisher: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime , 2008

In many countries, the groups most vulnerable to HIV are also groups at increased risk of criminalisation and incarceration, as many of the same social and economic conditions that increase vulnerability to HIV also increase vulnerability to imprisonment. This toolkit produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime focuses on HIV in prisons and aims to provide information and guidance primarily to individuals and institutions with responsibilities for prisons and prisoners, and to people who work in and with prisons. This toolkit is designed to assist countries in their efforts to mount an effective national response to HIV in prisons and to improve and, if necessary, reform their prison systems. It offers practical guidance on what measures countries need to take in the short term to prevent the spread of HIV (and other infections) among prisoners and to provide them with treatment, care and support. It also provides guidance on the reforms necessary in the medium and longer term to facilitate such measures.

The first module provides essential background information about HIV and explains why and how addressing HIV in prisons is linked to the wider questions of prison reform and to human rights. The document then considers the issues for policymakers, how they can make a difference and priorities for action in module 2. Issues for prison authorities and prison managers are examined in module 3, and the factors which make prisons high risk environments are highlighted. Module 4 looks at the issues for prison staff, HIV prevention in prison, and the important role staff play in this. The final module examines the role of health care staff in prisons; it outlines the international norms and standards guiding health care provision in prison and provides advice on what health care staff can do to help prevent infection.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43402&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43402&type=Document)

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## **5. Legislating for health and human rights: model law on drug use and HIV/AIDS – module 5: prisons**

Authors: R. Pearshouse

Publisher: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, 2006

UNAIDS suggests that approximately 30 percent of new HIV infections outside sub-Saharan Africa are due to contaminated injection equipment. This model-law resource by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is the fifth module of a larger eight module law resource. It is designed to inform and assist policymakers and advocates as they approach the task of reforming or making laws to meet the legal challenges posed by the HIV epidemic among people who use drugs.

This module on prisons contains a prefatory note which discusses the rationale for reforming laws and policies in prisons in order to implement a comprehensive harm reduction approach. The prefatory note describes relevant international laws and policies, including human rights obligations. This is followed by a section on model statutory provisions designed to assist with implementing policy that is sound from the perspective of both public health and human rights. The module discusses how a safe and healthy environment can be achieved in prisons, the human rights aspects governing imprisonment and prisoners rights whilst arrested or detained. The module then considers the right to adequate and equal health for prisoners, voluntary counselling and testing, and issues around informed consent. Confidentiality of prisoners' health data is then discussed, and issues of discrimination, compassionate release, prison policies and condoms. Finally a list of recommended resources are provided.

[adapted from the author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-)

## Latest additions from the HIV and AIDS resource guide

### **1. Doorways I: Student training manual on school-related gender-based violence prevention and response**

Publisher: US Agency for International Development , 2009

Violence in and around schools is a worldwide problem with serious implications for the educational attainment, health and well-being of all children. This Doorways training programme was designed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Safe Schools Program to enable teachers, community members and students to prevent and respond to school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV). This manual is the first in a series of three from the Doorways programme (the other two are targeted at teachers, and community members). It is designed to help students learn how to prevent violence and increase their self-efficacy through enhanced knowledge, attitudes and skills regarding healthy relationships, reproductive health issues, HIV prevention and children's rights and responsibilities.

This manual has nine modules. There is a glossary for clarification of terms and resources are listed throughout the manual in the 'How Can You Learn More?' section at the beginning of each module. Each module begins with an introduction that includes a brief explanation as to why this module or content was included as part of the SRGBV prevention and response manual. Also included in each module are a number of sections including learning objectives, activities and discussion questions. Modules in this handbook include school-related gender-based violence in our community, human rights, healthy friendships, life skills and healthy bodies

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43373&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43373&type=Document)

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### **2. HIV in Pakistan: preventing a future epidemic in most-at-risk groups**

Authors: Programme for Research and Capacity Building in Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV in Developing Countries

Publisher: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine , 2009

Very low levels of HIV and AIDS awareness and condom use, together with high-risk sexual behaviours in vulnerable groups such as injecting drug-users and sex workers, make Pakistan a potentially high-risk country for HIV spread. Current HIV prevalence is generally low but STI levels are high in some at-risk groups. This research briefing, from the Programme for Research & Capacity Building in Sexual and Reproductive Health &

HIV in Developing Countries, outlines the findings of a study to investigate the extent of sexually transmitted infections and HIV epidemics among populations at risk through selling sex or through injecting drugs. The study also looks at associated behaviours including risk taking and protection from risk in these groups. The document shows how violence, abuse and discrimination are commonly experienced by sex workers and injecting drug users, and can increase the likelihood of infection. A future HIV epidemic is likely to be concentrated in those with highest levels of STIs and the highest levels of abuse – transgender sex workers.

Five key interventions are recommended to stem the transmission of HIV/STIs in Pakistan. These include needle and syringe exchange programmes for injecting drug users and sexual and reproductive health care for female sex workers. The authors argue that interventions targeted at transgender sex workers will have little support among society, and it will be difficult for the government and public sector to implement, but they could be implemented successfully by NGOs, with donor funding and support. For interventions to be successful and sustainable, the underlying vulnerabilities and environment faced by all of the most-at-risk groups must be addressed. Interventions must recognise, protect and promote the human rights of all individuals.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43394&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43394&type=Document)

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### **3. Women, HIV and human rights: the crisis of criminalization**

Authors: A. Welbourn; The Salamander Trust

Publisher: All Party Parliamentary Group on AIDS, UK, 2009

This document outlines a presentation given by the Salamander Trust at a meeting on women and AIDS at the House of Commons in Westminster. The presenter details how, because of global attitudes, women with HIV/AIDS have seen their reproductive health rights and rights to liberty systematically and institutionally eroded. The document shows how some countries are now sterilising young positive women, coercing them to sign consent forms when in labour, so that after delivery when they go for contraception, they learn that this is no longer needed. The author argues that it is possible government doctors should face criminal charges. The presentation contains a list of facts and figures and examines what the UN and other organisations have been doing to safe guard HIV positive women.

The UN agencies have promoted global guidance, and campaigns such as ‘Know your epidemic’ and ‘Save the Unborn Child’ to promote an ‘AIDS-free generation’. The document argues that these guidelines were supposed to promote voluntary and confidential testing of pregnant women, with pre- and post-test counselling. But they have resulted in compulsory mass testing of pregnant women – and unless tested, many women are refused access to further ante-natal services. For those who test positive, this becomes public knowledge. The author outlines how as states were becoming

increasingly desperate to curb the spread of HIV, a US backed initiative launched the Model AIDS Law in West Africa. Thus, in Sierra Leone now, for example, if a woman transmits HIV to her child, she can be fined or jailed up to 7 years or both. The author warns how the spread of criminalisation legislation means that many years of careful, committed and compassionate HIV prevention work in many countries are being blown apart overnight by people's fears that testing positive will mean that they could then be branded as disease vectors and as criminals. The presentation ends with some areas where positive action is taking place but highlights the importance of keeping up the pressure to roll out universal sex and relationships education, for young people especially, in order to support them to stay HIV negative.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43376&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43376&type=Document)

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#### **4. Painful tradeoffs: intimate-partner violence and sexual and reproductive health rights in Kenya**

Authors: J. Crichton; C. N. Musembi; A. Ngugi

Publisher: Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK, 2008

Intimate-partner violence involves multiple violations of sexual and reproductive rights, with devastating impacts on the health and wellbeing of those affected. This paper from the Institute of Development Studies details the results of an action-research collaboration between a Kenyan gender-based violence rehabilitation NGO and a research programme. The authors contextualise rights in the lives of women affected by intimate-partner violence, to understand how they are articulated and constrained in each of these dimensions. The research finds that physical and sexual abuse within relationships often leads to repeated exposure to sexual and reproductive health risks, and abused women lack knowledge about these impacts, experience feelings of hopelessness about their health, and are unable to access the health services they need.

The authors show how economic factors lead many women to subordinate their sexual and reproductive rights to their material needs and those of their children. There are limitations to the recognition of rights in both social attitudes and in the national legal framework. Social networks and justice institutions sometimes support individuals in exercising their rights and sometimes obstruct them. Legal reform, and strengthened services and referral systems are needed if the barriers to women's rights are to be overcome. Measures to facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health services and to address forms of vulnerability in ongoing abusive relationships are needed to help those affected to end the violence and mitigate its impacts. The authors offer various recommendations to the government of Kenya including that relevant ministries should take action to strengthen standards and improve coordination between services for women affected by violence. They also recommend that there is need for violence prevention interventions that work with men by using a gender perspective to change

attitudes and behaviour.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43375&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43375&type=Document)

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## **5. Rethinking sexuality and policy**

Publisher: id21 Development Research Reporting Service, 2008

What do sexuality and policy have to do with each other? This issue of id21 insights considers the policies and politics that surround sexuality asking what enables sexual contact? What sets up the dynamics of relationships? And what will the consequences be? A number of articles written by various authors are included in the issue covering sexual rights in Muslim countries, US trade policy and HIV treatment, sexual pleasure and safer sex. The authors also address China's policies on sexuality, the World Bank's failure to address sexuality, and bodily integrity in Argentine law.

The issue summarises that policies and politics in society, the state, and international relations have a huge and often harmful impact on sexual practices and sexual rights. Sexuality needs to be clearly recognised as a policy issue. It is necessary to leave behind the World Bank's medical technical perspective in order to recognise and challenge the power dynamics, whether at the level of society, the nation or internationally. The document argues that a new political outlook is needed which promotes sexual rights: rights to seek the relationships of our choosing, based on consent and respect of those involved, rights to enjoy our bodies whatever our gender expression, rights to sexual health free from obstruction by global pharmaceuticals and the US trade regime. Forging alliances between people working on a range of different sexuality issues, and between activists working for sexual rights, economic justice and other progressive politics will help move towards that goal.

[adapted from the author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43374&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=43374&type=Document)

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

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## **Announcements**

**New! Eldis dossier: health and fragile states**

With some of the worst health indicators and the least adequate health services in the world, providing health services and rebuilding health systems in fragile states is a complex undertaking. The [Health and Fragile States Dossier](#) highlights the challenges and approaches to delivering health services in fragile states. The Dossier has been developed by the [Health and Fragile States Network](#), [IDS Health and Development Information Team](#), and [Eldis](#).

More details available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/dossiers/health-and-fragile-states](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/dossiers/health-and-fragile-states)

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### **E-Forum: Teachers and HIV & AIDS: Reviewing achievements, identifying challenges**

Dates: 18-29 May 2009

This e-Forum, organised by UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education, aims to promote the exchange of views and experiences on the contribution of teachers to HIV prevention and mitigation efforts and the impact of the epidemic on teachers.

The outcomes of the Forum will also directly feed into the Spring meeting of the UNAIDS IATT on Education, hosted by Irish Aid in Limerick, Ireland in June 2009, which has 'Teachers and HIV & AIDS: Reviewing achievements, identifying challenges' as its Symposium theme. A report on the outcomes of the discussion will also be available more widely on the IIEP's HIV and AIDS Education Clearinghouse following the Forum.

More details available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=43336&type=Item](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=43336&type=Item)

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### **Short course: Integrated HIV/AIDS prevention care and treatment course**

Dates: 31 August – 18 September 2009

Location: AMREF's International Training Centre, Nairobi

This three week course, organised by the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), aims to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes of health care service providers needed for the provision of comprehensive care of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs).

#### **Target audience**

The course is designed for a multi-disciplinary team of healthcare workers who play an important role in the comprehensive care of HIV infected person(s). These include doctors, nurses, counsellors, pharmacists, clinical officers, laboratory technicians,

community health workers etc.

More details available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=43200&type=Item](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=43200&type=Item)

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

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The HIV and AIDS Reporter is produced by the IDS Health and Development Information team in collaboration with the DFID Health Resource Centre (HRC) and Eldis.

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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Contact details:

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

Email: [hdi@ids.ac.uk](mailto:hdi@ids.ac.uk)

Tel: 44 1273 915 791