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

## **Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS:** HIV and AIDS reporter, 15th January 2008

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## **Feature: Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS**

As the global HIV/AIDS pandemic has expanded beyond high risk groups of the population, it has become widely recognised that sectors outside of health need to be involved in responding to the disease. Mainstreaming is defined as the process of analysing the impact that HIV/AIDS has, and will have, on all sectors. The aim of mainstreaming is to reduce the unintentional, and sometimes negative, effects of development work on HIV and to ensure that all activities contribute, where possible, to reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS. There are two types of

mainstreaming: external and internal. External mainstreaming refers to adapting humanitarian and development work to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, whilst internal mainstreaming looks to change organisational policy to reduce the impact of the disease.

Mainstreaming is not about starting more AIDS work, it does not mean other sectors taking over the role of the Health Ministry or a change in an organisation's central function, but instead viewing this work from a different perspective and refocusing it. Mainstreaming does not seek to replace core AIDS work but to complement it.

Despite limited practical evidence on mainstreaming, there are sufficient toolkits and guidelines for committed organisations with adequate capacity and human resources to begin. Country specific responses are important, and toolkits need to be specific for the environment that they will be used in. Organisations participating in internal mainstreaming should endeavour to help staff understand the disease and how it relates to them both now and in the future. This should lead to the creation of a workplace policy, backed up by adequate performance management systems; financial planning and human resources/workforce planning that take HIV and AIDS into account. External mainstreaming needs development strategies that build on households' own risk-reduction strategies.

There are significant issues and challenges with mainstreaming including a lack of clarity of meaning, making it difficult to explain and promote, resulting in a lack of supporters and resources. The success of mainstreaming depends on donors, individuals and organisations having more joined up thinking across sectors, thus leading to the development of sustainable approaches. Efforts should be made to continue to develop the evidence base for mainstreaming HIV and AIDS.

### More information:

- UN guide for mainstreaming HIV and AIDS  
[www.undp.org/hiv/docs/alldocs/MainstreamingB.pdf](http://www.undp.org/hiv/docs/alldocs/MainstreamingB.pdf)
- Oxfam's mainstreaming work  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/issues/health/hiv\\_mainstreaming.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/issues/health/hiv_mainstreaming.html)

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## Recommended readings on Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS

### **1. HIV/AIDS mainstreaming: a definition, some experiences and strategies**

Author: H. Elsey; P. Kutengule

Publisher: Health Economics & HIV/AIDS Research Division, University of Natal, 2003

This resource pack brings together experiences, ideas and strategies for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into government sector ministries at all levels, whether national, regional or district. The pack uses experiences and ideas which come mainly from countries currently working through sector-wide approaches (SWAs) and may be of particular use to countries and sectors also using this approach. The pack begins by outlining its development and purpose and providing background information on SWAs. It defines mainstreaming and gives a conceptual framework for mainstreaming HIV. Further chapters outline mainstreaming strategies, both

internally in an organisation, working with staff and so on, and externally, looking specifically at the education and agriculture sectors. Finally the pack discusses and describes indicators and further resources for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=13203&type=Document>

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## **2. Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in practice**

Authors: SDC

Publisher: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, 2004

This toolkit from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation is a collection of resources, checklists and examples to help in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS. The toolkit explains that mainstreaming should happen both in the internal sphere (related to the organisation or workplace) and in the external sphere (related to agency work). Three key questions are outlined that should guide mainstreaming activities in both spheres: how does HIV/AIDS affect your organisation and your work; how can you avoid doing harm; and how can you contribute to fighting HIV/AIDS by limiting the spread and mitigating the impact of the epidemic?

The tool kit offers a five step approach to mainstreaming HIV/AIDS. The first three steps are linked to preparatory analysis of the situation and include: context and organisational analysis, analysing the impact of HIV/AIDS on what you do, and analysing the potential negative implications of what you do on HIV/AIDS. Step four is to develop a comprehensive Workplace Policy and Programme and step five is to plan and implement this policy. The toolkit emphasises the importance of developing monitoring and evaluation instruments from the very beginning. Experience of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS also needs to be shared with others. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=17740&type=Document>

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## **3. Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in development and humanitarian programmes**

Author: S. Holden

Publisher: Oxfam, 2004

This book, produced by Oxfam and in association with Action Aid and Save the Children, is a simplified version of AIDS on the Agenda which explores how to mainstream HIV and AIDS into the work of humanitarian organisations. It presents general lessons learned, mainly from the experiences of non-governmental and community-based organisations working in parts of Africa that are worst affected by HIV and AIDS. Part one presents the reasoning behind the idea of mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in existing development and humanitarian work. Part two presents practical ideas for agencies that are seeking to mainstream HIV and AIDS into their

work.

The book recommends that organisations use internal mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS to reduce and cope with the impacts of AIDS. This means that organisations should continue with their work to tackle inequality and poverty, despite the effects of HIV and AIDS on their employees and functioning. It also recommends that organisations mainstream HIV and AIDS externally in order to ensure that their programmatic work is responsive to the changes created by HIV and AIDS. The author highlights how mainstreaming should be added to organisation work, rather than replacing direct AIDS activities, as both strategies are needed and complement each other. [adapted from author]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=19219&type=Document>

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#### **4. Taking the initiative: HIV/AIDS in the workplace in Ethiopia, Africa**

Authors: Stop AIDS Now!

Publisher: International NGO Training and Research Centre , 2005

This report gives an overview of an Ethiopia pilot project for mainstreaming and breaking the silence of HIV/AIDS in the workplace within NGOs. The paper defines internal mainstreaming as having to do with the adjustment of policy and practice in recognition of an NGO's susceptibility to the impact of HIV/AIDS and to reduce its vulnerability. Internal mainstreaming not only covers such activities as HIV prevention and treatment for staff, volunteers, and possibly dependents, but also on modifying the way the organisation operates.

The report states that mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in NGOs can be difficult and uncomfortable. Some methods utilised in the Ethiopia pilot project in facilitating open discussion include:

- encouragement from management
- using the *talking stick*
- traditional coffee ceremonies
- providing extra personnel to enable all staff to participate in discussions
- having interpreters present

The report also gives an overview, and attaches an annex, of how organisations could utilise the *12 Boxes HIV/AIDS model* to perform organisational self-assessments. These self-assessments are beneficial in evaluating the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the organisation, as well as assessing the organisation's strengths and weakness in dealing with it. [adapted from authors]

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=13203&type=Document>

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#### **5. Mainstreaming AIDS in development instruments and processes at the national level: a review of experiences**

Author: UNAIDS; UNDP; World Bank

Publisher: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS , 2005

This review, from UNAIDS and UNDP, examines the experiences of mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in national development instruments and the technical support provided to national partners. The review focuses on the HIV and AIDS content of national development instruments, the processes of implementation and progress to date, including gaps in technical support. Key issues highlighted in the report include: strengthening links between PRSPs (poverty reduction strategy papers), NAFs (National Action Frameworks), and sector plans; taking AIDS into account in economic and social policy; linking AIDS with poverty-related diseases and other Millennium Development Goal priorities; continuing technical support for mainstreaming; and limited mainstreaming of AIDS among national partners.

The report recommends that country-level actors and technical support providers need to promote and ensure appropriate coverage of AIDS in PRSP content and other national development instruments. This should include: a more comprehensive analysis of the links between poverty and inequality, gender and AIDS; factoring the implications of AIDS into the design of poverty reduction and growth plans, and economic and social reform programmes; and assessing and planning for the national human and institutional capacities required to achieve the AIDS objectives expressed in PRSPs. The report also recommends focusing on strengthening institutional linkages and accountabilities in national development processes in a range of areas.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=23443&type=Document>

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## Latest additions from the HIV and AIDS resource guide

### **1. HIV, AIDS and Islam: a workshop manual based on compassion, responsibility and justice**

Author: F. Esack; Positive Muslims

Publisher: Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic , 2007

Increasingly, there are initiatives in Muslim communities to raise awareness about the prevalence of HIV and AIDS and address the generally-held belief that it is a disease of promiscuity. This manual aims to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, its manifestations and impact on the community amongst Muslims. In addition, it encourages discussion on gender, sex and sexuality and looks at how to incorporate these and a holistic approach to illness and sexual health from an Islamic perspective.

The manual is based around eleven workshop sessions and uses a variety of participatory methods such as ice-breakers, reflecting on case studies in small groups, plenary discussions and role plays. It makes reference to the Qur'an, Hadith and the Shar'iah in order to give participants a framework in which to understand the Islamic perspective.

Its conclusions include:

- a religious approach to HIV and AIDS limited to scolding, denial, judgement or pity is inadequate. Understanding Islam as a faith of compassion and justice will encourage a sense of community rather than individualism based on fear and self-preservation
- awareness work must also be accompanied by political action that challenges the unjust social conditions which contribute to the spread of the disease or make recovery more difficult, such as chronic poverty and vulnerability

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=34821&type=Document>

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## **2. Committed to caring: older women and HIV & AIDS in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam**

Author: D. Orbach

Publisher: HelpAge International, 2007

In numerous Asian countries, many older people assume multiple responsibilities in caring for relatives living with HIV/AIDS. Despite their burden, older carers remain neglected within the response to HIV and AIDS in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. In this paper, the author outlines a number of recommendations for every level of response. These include:

- at the international level: the UN should ensure that comprehensive reviews in 2008 and 2011 of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and the 2006 Political Declaration, reflect specifically on commitments made in relation to older carers, especially women. The commitment to achieve universal access to HIV treatment, care and prevention services by 2010 must include older people
- at the national level: national governments must include older women and men in HIV prevention, care and treatment policies and responses by fulfilling commitments already made to address the needs of older people. Governments should design cost and implement social protection measures which respond to the needs of older carers, particularly older women carers who are economically disadvantaged. Microfinance institutions need to design credit facilities suitable for older people.

Specific country recommendations include:

Cambodia:

- the National AIDS Authority should ensure that the current revision and extension of the National Strategic Plan (2006-2010) specifies the need to support older people in their role as carers
- national guidelines on HIV and AIDS programming, orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) and home-based care (HBC) should incorporate strategies for increasing support for all carers, especially older women

Thailand

- the government should ensure adequate resources are allocated to implement the commitment in the National AIDS Plan (2007-2011) to support and raise awareness about affected older people, with specific attention given to older women
- the government must improve the implementation and monitoring of the Old Age Cash Allowance to ensure that poor older people, particularly those providing care to an adult child or grandchild, receive this benefit

Vietnam:

- the government should ensure that the role and contribution of older carers, particularly women, is acknowledged and addressed in any revisions/additions to the National Strategy and/or Law on HIV/AIDS
- the government should allocate sufficient funding in the national HIV response to ensure that family members, including older people, involved in providing care and support to adult children or grandchildren, are provided with adequate and appropriate training

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=34719&type=Document>

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### **3. Living and eating well**

Publisher: Children in Distress Network , 2004

A healthy diet helps children affected by HIV and AIDS. This illustrated and accessible manual addresses several nutritional concerns that may affect children infected with AIDS. These include:

- the effects of eating badly
- what happens to your body when you get sick
- how can we eat well to live well
- advice on eating well when you are sick
- good foods to keep you healthy
- eating well for energy, gain weight and increased appetite
- foods that prevent infections, improve digestion and ease mouth problems

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=34725&type=Document>

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### **4. Violence, vengeance and gender: a preliminary investigation into the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS in South Africa**

Publisher: Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, South Africa, 2001

This report from the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) details recent research into the activities of civil society bodies and government departments focusing on the

links between violence against women (VAW) and HIV/AIDS in South Africa. The report finds that many institutions and organisations are contributing towards women's vulnerability by failing to take into account the personal and social factors that put women at greater risk of HIV infection. Most government and NGO responses to HIV/AIDS and VAW have been shaped and driven by concerns about rape, excluding other forms of violence against women, and work on the two issues has not been sufficiently integrated. In addition, the circumstances of women in abusive relationships have yet to feature on the policy, programme and legislation agenda.

The authors make a range of recommendations on how current gaps could be addressed. These include: developing a shared understanding of violence, integrating work around VAW and HIV/AIDS, making shelters for abused women accessible to those who are HIV positive, resolving controversies surrounding HIV PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), and developing microbicides. Further recommendations cover the criminal justice system and HIV-positive women, VCT (voluntary counselling and testing) and violence, creating information and education messages for men and women, and future areas for research.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=34608&type=Document>

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## **5. The macroeconomic framework and the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa: the cases of Ghana and Malawi**

Publisher: African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), 2007

Have traditional restrictive macroeconomic policies and budget ceilings limited some governments from giving HIV/AIDS the attention it deserves? This paper analyses the links between macroeconomic frameworks provided by the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and HIV/AIDS social spending in Ghana and Malawi.

It reviews major channels through which fiscal and monetary policies impact on public expenditure frameworks and how this, in turn, affects the ability of the countries to design and implement public programmes for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The authors stress the need for a fundamental shift in the design and execution of the macroeconomic framework. The following policy recommendations are proposed:

- the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank must recognise that HIV/AIDS is not just a health crisis, but that it cuts through all sectors and ministries
- it is necessary to offer alternative and sustainable financing solutions to governments
- establish mechanisms for front loading debt relief, as the need for resources to address HIV/AIDS is immediate
- the IMF should drop conditionalities associated with its loans, coordinate and harmonise with other donors to reduce the transaction costs of developing countries.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=34558&type=Document>

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## Announcements

### **Conference: Second Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference - Accelerating Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for All, 3-5 May 2008, Moscow, Russia**

The second Eastern European and Central Asian AIDS Conference (EECAAC) will meet in Moscow, Russia, in May 2008. The conference will provide an opportunity for dialogue and interaction among political and community leaders, scientists and other researchers, people living with HIV and representatives of civil society from across the region in response to the challenges of the AIDS crisis.

The 2008 Conference will be grounded in the global commitment towards achievement of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment care and support by 2010. This will allow for all aspects of an expanded and improved response to the epidemic to be addressed and examined during plenary sessions, satellite sessions and workshops complemented by a wide range of information materials. These include efficient systems to provide quality treatment balanced with the robust prevention programs, especially those targeting vulnerable populations such as injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, commercial sex workers, women and young people.

Registration for the conference will close on 1 March, 2008. Please follow the full details link for further information.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=34516&type=Item>

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### **Training: Various training courses on International Health, Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, Heidelberg University, 2008**

Short courses on international health issues. The training courses on International Health are organised by the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health at Heidelberg University. Some courses are organised in cooperation with other institutions or organisations like GTZ, WHO, CRED, South Asia Institute, etc. Most of the courses are organised as two weeks intensive courses, requiring full time attendance from Mondays to Fridays.

Topics include:

- Disease Control: Policies and Strategies
- Consultancy Skills in International Cooperation in Health
- Consultancy Skills in International Cooperation in Health (Part 2): Proposal

- Development targeting International Donors
- Using Research for Better Practice in International Health
  - Improving the Quality of Healthcare Services
  - Leadership and Change Management
  - Medical Anthropology as a Tool for Public Health

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=33997&type=Item>

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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.

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