

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Policy/strategy development or revision

This year more attention will be given to the link of HIV and AIDS, Education and women's rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The focus on HIV and AIDS will be more imbedded in this broader agenda of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Preparation of a thematic paper outlining the strategic priorities for enhancing the integration between HIV & AIDS in education with the key dimension of SRHR. The paper will need reflect on education priorities in these two areas globally and at country level and provide guidelines for implementation. It should be seen as a guideline for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its further work around HIV&AIDS and SRHR and could also serve as a discussion paper for the IATT on Education to place these issues higher on the agenda.

Workshops, seminars, technical consultations

In collaboration with Dutch NGOs ("Knowledge Platform on HIV&AIDS and Education") a session for partner organisation has been organized on work place policies. The sessions aimed to exchange information and to explore the complementarities between Dutch NGOs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Technical products and materials

Since the launching of the Mainstreaming Toolkit during the IAT Meeting in Nairobi support has been given to the dissemination strategy for the Toolkit through a collaboration with the IATT secretariat on the production of supplementary tools (powerpoint, etc.). The toolkit has been distributed in electronic and hard copy to education sector specialists in 16 partner countries. In collaboration with the IATT secretariat a proposal for disseminating the toolkit at the Mexico Aids Conference through a skills building session has been developed.

A Progress Report (2005-2007) on the Dutch strategies for mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in Education Plans has been produced, highlighting some continued challenges in mainstreaming and coordination around HIV & AIDS and SRHR. It serves as input for continued Dutch support through global and country level mechanisms to donor agencies and to Ministries of Education to address capacity constraints in HIV & AIDS mainstreaming and some more attention on integrating SRHR in education priorities and practice.

Strategic partnerships and collaborations

The strategic partnership with Education International, EDC and WHO through the EFAIDS Programme is ongoing. The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to fund this initiative.

Technical and financial assistance/relevant resource mobilisation

On-going monitoring of country level activities with a view to ensuring support to the use of the toolkit. In principle technical and financial support is given through the Netherlands Embassies in our partner countries to strengthen capacity for supporting coordination, to integrate HIV & AIDA and SRH&R responses in Education Sector Plans and to monitor implementation.

Challenges

Main challenges remains to put and keep HIV & AIDS as a real high priority on the agenda of Education Ministers and high on the agenda of the policy dialogue between Ministries of Education and the donor group at country level. The link between the various global and "vertical" interventions/support to Ministries of Education and the sector policy dialogue (and

discussions about –sector- budget support), in the context of harmonisation and alignment remains a huge challenge.

Another challenge remains on the integration of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR). There is increasing understanding about the importance of a holistic approach which addresses HIV&AIDS as development challenges that are closely linked to the feminization of the epidemic, issues of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equity and human rights more generally.