



Photo: UNFPA

HIV, sexuality and youth

Linking HIV with sexual and reproductive health and rights

A young girl might want to prevent a pregnancy and protect herself from HIV. A woman living with HIV might be pregnant and at risk of dying during childbirth, she may have HIV and can't get contraception, and her child may die of HIV or malaria. Where does she get the necessary information on contraception and the prevention of sexually-transmitted infection, counselling, testing and treatment?

The interactions between sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV are widely recognized by international organisations such as UNAIDS, IPPF, WHO and SDC. Sexual and reproductive ill-health and HIV share root causes, including poverty, gender inequality, gender-based violence and the social marginalization of the most vulnerable populations. Human rights are key in the linking approach, in particular the right to health and life for all.

At the local level, many NGOs already work in an integrated manner. Different models are used to support the integration of HIV and SRHR services and show benefits for health. However, in many countries, sexual and reproductive health and HIV programmes still run parallel.

What are the barriers to integration? Is it that different donors prioritize one area as opposed to others? Is it due to the fact that the AIDS epidemic called for an emergency response? Why were HIV departments and units not linked in any way to the corresponding sexual and reproductive units? Is it a question of implementation? How can comprehensive services be made youth friendly and meet the needs of youth? If HIV prevention and care are integrated into reproductive health services and family planning clinics, how will groups most at risk such as young girls and boys, MSM, sex workers etc. be reached?

Based on the experience of the partner organisations of aidsfocus.ch, and following up on discussions held at a global level, the conference will discuss challenges and strategies of linking HIV and reproductive health and rights in policy and practice.

We invite all partners of aidsfocus.ch and representatives of organisations working in international cooperation, HIV and AIDS to attend, as well as of any other person interested in the discussion. The conference will be held in English.

Objectives of the conference:

- To share knowledge, to learn from each other on best practice and on the challenges of linking HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a special focus on youth.
- To discuss and create strategies to strengthen linkages between HIV and SRHR programs that meet the needs and fulfil the rights of young people on a large scale.

Tentative program

9.00	<i>Arrival, coffee and tea</i>
9.15	Welcome and introduction
9.25	Linking HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights: An overview
	Susanne Rohner, Advocacy and Communication, PLANeS - Swiss Foundation for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Bern Dr Kevin Osborne, Senior HIV Advisor, International Planned Parenthood Federation IPPF, London Dr V. Chandra-Mouli, Coordinator of Adolescent Health and Development, World Health Organisation WHO, Geneva
10.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15	Chances and challenges of linking HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights (Case studies)
	Beatrice Savadye, Information and Advocacy Officer, Students and Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT), Zimbabwe Blaise Sedoh, National Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS program, Croix Rouge Togo, Togo
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.15	Chances and challenges of linking HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights (continued)
	Beate Kiefer, Program Coordinator, IAMANEH: Empowering unwed young mothers and girls to protect their sexual and reproductive health, Burkina Faso Film: Für eine bessere Zukunft. Ledige Mütter in Burkina Faso (For a better future) Sybille N'Zebo and Monika Christofori-Khadka, Swiss Red Cross: Join in circuit on AIDS, love and sexuality, Tibet
14.15	Workshops Discussion with the speakers on challenges and strategies of linking HIV and SRHR in policy and practice
15.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.45–17.00	Podium discussion with stakeholders from donor agencies, politics and NGOs: Kevin Osborne (IPPF), V. Chandra-Mouli (WHO), Nathalie Vesco (SDC), Yvonne Gilli (Parliamentarian), Beatrice Savadye (SAYWHAT) and Helena Zweifel (aidsfocus.ch/MMS) Taking the linking HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda forward
17.00	<i>Networking apéro, kornhausforum 1st floor</i>

Further information: www.aidsfocus.ch

Venue: Kornhausforum, Kornhausplatz 18, Bern, www.kornhaus.org

Conference fee: Partners of aidsfocus.ch: CHF 70.-. Others: CHF 150.-

Organisation and coordination: Helena Zweifel (aidsfocus.ch / Medicus Mundi Switzerland)

Facilitation: Kate Molesworth (Swiss TPH). **Advisory Group:** Maya Natarajan (IAMANEH), Gabriele Hansch (Swiss Red Cross), Susanne Rohner (PLANeS) and V. Chandra-Mouli (WHO)

The conference is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss AIDS Federation (Aids-Hilfe Schweiz).

Registration for the aidsfocus.ch conference 2011

Name

Organisation

Address

E-mail

Please send your registration by post or by e-mail by 1 April 2011 to H. Zweifel, Medicus Mundi Switzerland, Murbacherstrasse 34, 4013 Basel, or info@aidfocus.ch, or register on our website www.aidsfocus.ch. Your participation will be confirmed.