

The Right to Know and the Will to Act

Young People and HIV/AIDS Prevention

Evaluation of the Conference, April 21, 2006*

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|----|---|---------------------|
| Overall impression: | Yes | | | no |
| | ++ | + | - | -- |
| 1. Were you satisfied with the content of the conference? | 12 | 13 | | |
| 2. Did you gain new insights? | 9 | 14 | 2 | |
| 3. Was the conference useful? | 13 | 11 | | |
| Inputs in the morning: How do you evaluate the presentations? | Good | | | insufficient |
| | ++ | + | - | -- |
| 4. Momo O'Mais | 11 | 13 | 1 | |
| 5. Farai Mahaso | 9 | 14 | 2 | |
| 6. Marie-Françoise Sprungli | 10 | 13 | 2 | |
| 7. Edna Engelbrecht | 11 | 12 | 2 | |
| 8. Alfred Merkle | 18 | 7 | | |
| Working Groups: | Yes | | | no |
| 9. I appreciated the lively discussions and sharing | 12 | 7 | | |
| 10. I could identify options of improving HIV prevention in our work | 4 | 10 | 4 | |
| 11. I support the Declaration of Commitment "Young People have the Right to Know" by aidsfocus.ch | Yes | | | no |
| | 16 | 6 | | |
| Comments by the participants: | | | | |
| 12. Commitments | | | | |
| <p>There is a common understanding that the participants intend to share within one's organisation the importance of prevention in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in programs and projects and the need for special attention on youth.</p> <p>Some participants expressed their commitment to respect the content of the Declaration of Commitment „The Right of Youth to knowledge and services“, to share it within the organisation and network and to support NGOs in its implementation. One participant intends to seek consensus in regard to prevention in his/her organisation and another will dialogue with partner churches.</p> <p>Because commitment to promote comprehensive prevention, care and support of youth embraces many aspects and calls for a large number of committed people and organisations, a participant wrote he/she would contribute to the promotion of networks.</p> | | | | |

13. Take home messages

“No prevention without participation of youth” is one of the key messages the participants took home. This means to give a voice to youth, to empower them through holistic information and access to youth friendly services and to “work on the lack of choice of the young”. The importance of peer groups and social communication was expressed.

The messages should focus more on sexual health than on the dangers of HIV and AIDS. The participants also affirm the need to look at HIV and AIDS in the wider context of sexual transmitted disease and health systems.

The question on the limits between doing prevention and respecting cultural difference is a question which needs for further reflection and discussion.

14. What else...

Three participants questioned why there were no young people invited as speakers and/or participants to a conference with a focus on youth.

There were quite a few general remarks on the good organisation and the importance of the content of the conference as well as the importance of the conference for exchange and networking. The mix of speakers – sharing experiences from different angles and giving the big picture - was appreciated.

However, there was also some critique on the length of the presentation, the seating and the lack of an overview over the various approaches and other aspects, and suggestions raised on giving more space for questions and discussions as well as to people affected or living with HIV and AIDS and their perspectives.

* 25 participants filled in the evaluation form