

International Child Support, ICS

The objective of the HIV/AIDS programme of ICS is to stabilise/reduce HIV/AIDS transmission in its programme areas and to reduce the effects of HIV/AIDS on children and young people.

To combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic complex and context-specific problems, which are interrelated, need to be addressed. Solutions are therefore sought and considered from the diversity of organisations and institutions that are active in this field at local, national and international level. Only through effective partnerships progress can be made in such complex situations. In this broad specter ICS ensures its added value in different ways:

- 0 Education is seen as point of departure for structural poverty alleviation and educational institutions and their structures as the entry points for all thematic interventions of ICS; improved education, improved health, HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation, income generation, protection and (child) participation;
- 1 ICS's approach is aimed at civic driven development. This means that ICS links with and builds on existing initiatives/structures and so-called social energies of citizens and/or civil society organisations.
- ICS emphasises collaboration and partnerships with a wide range of organisations in the South and the North to.
- Emphasis on the right to protection in lobby and development education. The basic thought is to show the relation between problems, experiences, opportunities and solutions in the South and in the North.

ICS has identified the following priorities for its programmes and its partnerships in the period 2007-10:

1. Improved education opportunities for orphans, children and young people in especially difficult circumstances

- 0 To support schools and communities in identifying and supporting children in especially difficult circumstances and in need of special care;
- 1 Flexible education facilities for out-of-school orphans and children in especially difficult circumstances (flexible modules, distant learning, vocational skills);
- 2 Lobby at (local) authorities for sufficient and adequate education facilities that can meet the needs of the growing number of children in especially difficult circumstances;
- 3 Linking of and with relevant (civil society) organisations and identification and application of lessons learned and where possible the replication of proven concepts.

These interventions are specific components of the comprehensive education programme of ICS, which comprises a number of interventions aiming at improving access to and the quality of formal and non-formal education: The *CRiSIP* programme in Africa (Child Rights in School Improvement Programme) and the Child Friendly Schools concept in Asia are examples of how ICS has translated the abovementioned priority into practice.

For more information check the ICS website and the Annual Report 2008 www.ics.nl

2. Enhanced awareness and behavioural change

Best practices are documented and widely shared, generating a high rate of learning. One example of this strategy is the participation of ICS in **Educaids**, a partnership of Dutch development organisations and their Southern partners. Educaids aims at linking and learning from one another with respect to HIV/AIDS prevention through the strengthening of the education sector. With the support of World Population Foundation a programme facilitating processes with regards to sexuality education is being implemented. <http://www.educaids.nl/>

In Thailand ICS works together with PATH in implementing a project on Youth Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in a semi-urban setting. The aim is to improve the access to and utilisation of comprehensive services for young people. The project entails collaboration and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders – from private sector actors to government authorities – and most importantly the active involvement of young people themselves.

3. Enhanced capacity of organisations

4. Care and mitigation for vulnerable groups of orphans and children in especially difficult circumstances

ICS supports a number of local organisations in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda in providing care and minimising mitigation for specific vulnerable groups. The collaboration entails the focus of enhancing the organisational capacity (see 3.) as well as supporting specific programmatic interventions.

ICS works together with **HEALTH[e]Foundation** in developing and implementing new and innovative methodologies of building capacity of individuals and organisations providing treatment, care and support to children who are HIV positive. Another aspect of the collaboration with HEALTH[e]Foundation is the development of a tool for healthcare workers to reach out to the community to educate on HIV/AIDS and its prevention, and to stimulate discussions with children and adolescents about sex in general and HIV and its transmission in particular. Since different settings often have distinctly different needs, prevention programmes cannot fit a standardised time frame or approach. Therefore the *Community[e]education* programme is developed in such a way that it can easily be adjusted to specific needs. For more information on these two projects please be referred to the website.

<http://www.healthefoundation.eu/engine?app=hiv>