



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS AFRICAINES
اتحاد الجامعات الأفريقية

HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

(2009 – 2013)

PHASE II OF AAU HIV PROGRAMME
“African Universities Responding to HIV/AIDS”

BACKGROUND

Sub-Saharan Africa (SAA) remains the most affected region where AIDS was reported as the leading cause of death in 2007. However, the scale and trends of the epidemics in the region vary considerably, with southern Africa being most affected (UNAIDS/WHO, 2007). The core drivers of the epidemics in this region has been placed under five broad headings, namely, (a) biological and physiological, (b) sexual factors, (c) socio-cultural, (d) economic and (e) political.

The effect of the HIV and AIDS on the education sector is well documented. While it has been argued that the education sector could be fortified to become a country's strongest weapon against HIV/AIDS, if this failed, the sector would become the worst victim, reversing decades of hard-won gains (The World Bank, 2002).

In the higher education sub-sector, several universities in Africa are generating HIV/AIDS-related research covering all areas — scientific, medical, socio-economic and communication —that has added considerably to the international understanding of the disease. To coordinate these efforts, and scale up the efforts of universities to produce AIDS-competent graduates, the Association of African Universities (AAU), an international non-governmental organization set up by African universities in 1967, developed as a multi-disciplinary HIV/AIDS Core Programme dubbed “*African Universities Responding to HIV/AIDS*” that aimed to ensure that tertiary education institutions in Africa can continue to contribute to the production of qualified, healthy and productive graduates for the world of work in support of the continent's development.

PHASE ONE

Under Phase 1 of the Programme (2002 – 2007), which revolved around 4 major components, a growing number of institutions, particularly those in high HIV prevalence areas, responded positively.

Advocacy, a component of Phase 1 of the Core Programme, revolved around sensitisation of African higher education leaders attending AAU modular courses as well as the funding of 20 higher education institutions to develop workplace HIV policies.

Findings of commissioned studies during Phase 1 were both published and disseminated at AAU statutory meetings, notably the 11th AAU General Conference in Cape Town, South Africa in February, 2005 and the AAU's biannual Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and Rectors of African Universities (COREVIP) in Tripoli, Libya in October 2007.

Training on an AAU developed HIV/AIDS Toolkit was a major activity under Phase 1. Now available in English, French and Portuguese, the toolkit was the main instrument used in organising four sub-regional training workshops as follows:

- East Africa (2006), coordinated by Kenyatta University, Kenya
- Central Africa (2006), coordinated by the National University of Rwanda, Rwanda
- West Africa (2008), coordinated by the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- Southern Africa (2008), coordinated by the University of Limpopo, MEDUNSA Campus, South Africa

Each workshop led to the establishment of a sub-regional network of higher education institutions fighting the HIV pandemic with the aim of sharing of best practices on HIV

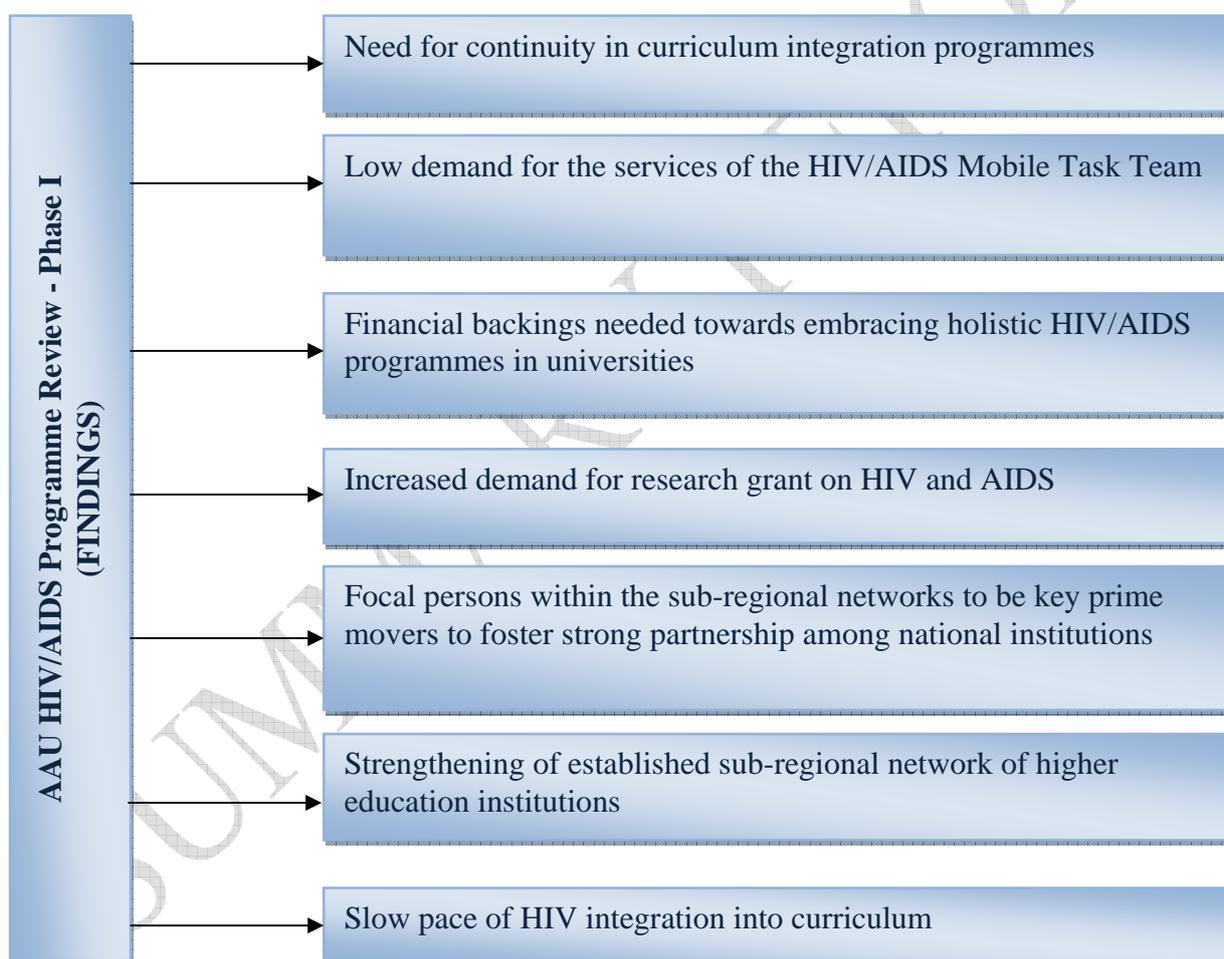
management and, invariably, the marketing of the Association and its programmes in the sub-regions.

Relatedly, whereas 90 academics from 22 institutions selected from diverse fields of expertise benefited from a UNDP HIV/AIDS mainstreaming training programme in 2003, 18 more higher education institutions were funded to train their academics to integrate HIV and AIDS into their curriculum during Phase 1 of the AAU Core Programme.

Lessons from Phase One of the HIV/AIDS Programme

A mid-term evaluation of Phase I of the AAU's HIV/AIDS Core Programme showed that despite progress made by the AAU towards promoting HIV and AIDS prevention and management in African HEIs, a number of key issues needed further action. These are summarized in Figure 1 below.

Fig. 1: Findings of Phase I AAU HIV/AIDS Programme



Briefly, Phase I of the AAU HIV/AIDS Core Programme was resolved to ensure that the African higher education community uses all available means within the institutions and through partnerships with the international community to prevent the spread, mitigate the impact and manage the HIV epidemic through proactive, sustainable programmes of action.

However, doing more of the same should not imply the scaling up of the prevention, policy development, curriculum integration and outreach as the sum total of the response. Furthermore, increasing the supply of services will not by itself overcome the built-in

weaknesses of existing services and programmes. There is need for *a rethink or re-conceptualisation* of existing practices, which form the basis for development and implementation of Phase II (2009 – 2013).

PHASE TWO (2009 – 2013)

The Phase II programme sets strategic priorities to be achieved in terms of HIV and AIDS mitigation, tackling prevention, treatment, care and support in Higher Education Institutions in Africa.

Overall Goal

The overall goal is to improve the quality of life in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Expected Result

Reduced incidence of HIV infection among the African productive age sector

Objectively Verifiable Indicator

1. Reduction in the number of new infections in African Higher Education Institutions
2. Increased collaboration between AAU and regional and sub-regional networks
3. Increased participation of AAU member institutions in HIV intervention programmes
4. Research outputs, publications and information sharing on HIV management in African higher education institutions.

Strategic Objectives

Five strategic objectives (SO) have been developed to achieve this as follows:

SO 1: Strengthened top leadership of AAU member institutions through advocacy and capacity building to ensure their greater commitment to develop and enforce policies that ensures that students undertake HIV and AIDS education.

Activities

1. Organise advocacy sessions on HIV and AIDS during statutory meetings [AAU General Conference (2009, 2013) and one AAU COREVIP (2011)]
2. Intensify HIV advocacy through support for participation of and modular presentations at AAU LEDEV and MADEV workshops.
3. Support the development and implementation of member institutions' HIV and AIDS and anti-sexual harassment policies
4. Identify and support two (2) COREVIP representatives as AAU (continental level) "Champions of Change" for participation/speaking engagements at continental/global level HIV&AIDS-related events.

SO 2: Strengthened leadership and coordination of AAU Sub-Regional Networks (AAU-SRNs) to deliver to their constituencies in terms of extending information, particularly on best practices, in the management of the disease to all types of higher education institutions.

Activities

1. Promote the partnering of SRNs with national and sub-regional bodies and other civil service organisations engaged with the fight against the HIV pandemic
2. Provide support for information-exchange through workshops (within and between AAU networks), an SRN newsletter, and training.
3. Publicise/Advertise, screen and recommend student/faculty research proposals to the AAU HIV/AIDS Research Advisory Panel (RAP).
4. Logistical support for SRN Coordinators and administrative costs of networks.

SO 3: Strengthened and improved university training and research on HIV and AIDS as a means of contributing to the advancement of knowledge and scholarship, particularly in providing students with important knowledge and skills as well as experience in putting these to practical use in the “real-world”.

Activities

1. Support to Universities to integrate HIV/AIDS into curricula through staff training and course content development.
2. Develop an online certificated module on HIV/AIDS.
3. Establish and provide support for meetings of AAU HIV/AIDS Research Advisory Panel (RAP) for the development of a Research Agenda.
4. Support sub-regional networks to organise HIV research methodology workshops
5. Conduct baseline sero-prevalence, sero-incidence and behavioural study in 3 institutions in each sub-region.
6. Support student and faculty research in specific areas on HIV and AIDS identified by the Research Advisory Panel.
7. Provide sponsorship to AAU member institutions to attend international and regional conferences/workshops.
8. Provide support for publication and dissemination of research results.
9. Support annual awards for best student and faculty HIV & AIDS-related research, as proposed by the Research Advisory Panel

SO 4: Strengthened HIV and AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care among AAU members to guide, monitor and ensure a supportive environment, and to provide visibility and importance to the HIV pandemic.

Activities

1. Strengthen ACUs capacity to (a) develop, manage, and implement HIV-related programmes, and (b) collect and analyse data both for (i) use by the ACU within the institution, and (ii) transmission to the SRN Coordinator.
2. Resource ACUs with behavioural risk reduction tools (provision of condoms, etc) and reading materials (books, journals, etc).

SO 5: Strengthened AAU Secretariat for Improved Coordination to ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

This will require:

- a) Human Resources:
- b) Travels.
- c) Administration costs.

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SUMMARY REPORT