



A Learning Package for HIV/AIDS in Emergency Settings

HIV/AIDS is a complex problem with impacts that extend far beyond the issue of health, into all areas of socio-economic development. Recent humanitarian crisis reveal a complex interaction between the HIV/AIDS epidemic, food insecurity and weakened governance. The epidemic has had profound humanitarian consequences both by directly causing illness and death and in terms of the wider impact it is having on societies. It is now commonly understood that HIV/AIDS in and of itself can be seen as an emergency issue worthy of an emergency response due to its devastating impact on mortality, morbidity and livelihoods. In addition emergencies such as armed conflict increase susceptibilities to HIV/AIDS as a result of impoverishment, displacement, loss of assets and disruption of support networks.

Due to this complex relationship between HIV/AIDS and emergencies it is now commonly recognized that HIV/AIDS prevention and care should be an integral part of any humanitarian response and/or recovery programme. One initiative taken by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force (IASC) of the United Nations is the development of *Guidelines for HIV/AIDS Interventions in Emergency Settings*. These guidelines provide valuable support to governments and cooperating agencies, including UN agencies and NGOs, on how to deliver the minimum required multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS during the early phase of an emergency. The guidelines have been published, in print and CD-Rom versions, and widely disseminated.

To promote and further support the utilization of the guidelines the IASC Task Force (TF), in collaboration with the UN Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) and UNAIDS has developed an **integrated learning package** comprised of three inter-related sets of materials including:

- A briefing session and presenters' notes to be used with policy and senior level personnel,

- including UN agency heads and government personnel.

- A one day workshop design and trainers' guide that can be offered as a stand-alone training or integrated into a pre- or in-service training for individuals who have a role to play in emergency response, current or potential.

- A self-study CD-Rom, designed to assist programme level staff and officers, who are not necessarily HIV/AIDS experts, apply the information in the guidelines.

The completed learning package will be available in the first quarter of 2005.

Development Process

The conceptualization and development of the three materials has been an inter-agency endeavor in every way. The IASC TF has been responsible for ensuring that the learning package develops according to agreed principles in the HIV/AIDS Guidelines, and that its contents are in line with the latest thinking on HIV/AIDS. In addition a smaller Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of six TF members was responsible for defining the purpose, scope and target audiences for each of the materials and for defining the context in which the materials will be used. The TAC and the DMTP are responsible for the review and approval of all interim and final materials developed.

The DMTP Secretariat has provided management oversight for the project, including the consultant, workplan, timeline, record keeping, accounting and administration. DMTP's contribution also included the instructional design and development element of the project to ensure that the learning package is performance oriented and is consistent with adult learning principles and standards.

A training specialist, with an HIV/AIDS background, is responsible for the actual production of the materials, based on the guidance provided by the IASC TF and DMTP. This work has included the production of the presentation materials for the briefing session and notes for the presenter, a trainers' guide and outline for a one-day workshop, including adaptation guidance, and the production of a CD-ROM for self-study.

The IASC TF, DMTP and UNAIDS have agreed that once the learning package is tested and completed, UNAIDS will take responsibility for the promotion and dissemination of the learning package and the different materials. This will ensure that the materials receive the widest possible distribution, and that they are integrated into ongoing work in HIV/AIDS within the UN system and other international humanitarian assistance actors.

Lessons learned

Promote the active participation of multiple parties in the development of the materials to develop ownership and to increase the likelihood that they will be integrated into the learning strategies of respective agencies and institutions. The conceptualization and development process of these materials has been collaborative from its inception. This collaboration has included the exchange of information between UN agencies, both at HQs and the field, the review of draft materials, and the decision making process regarding the final products.

Ensure a close working partnership between the relevant technical experts and training resource personnel so there is good integration between the technical and instructional design elements.

Factor consideration for the dissemination and future revisions and updating of the training material needs into the initial planning process.

Ensure there is a mix of learning and training delivery methods to tailor and adapt the materials to the needs of different target audiences and to ensure that they are participatory and interactive. The learning package includes electronic self-

study, face to face presentations, case studies and group discussions.

Estimate realistic costs and identify cost-sharing arrangements. Funding for the development and production of the learning materials is being provided by UNICEF, UNFPA/WHO, and UNDP/DMTP which reflects the fact that the learning package meets a common inter-agency need and that there is support for its utilization and promotion.

Maintain consistency in terminology and appearance between the IASC Guidelines and the Learning Package materials for reinforcement and integration purposes.

The learning package is based upon the information contained in the IASC guidelines and presents this information in a user-friendly format. This will enable even those users who are not familiar with HIV/AIDS prevention and care terminology and practices, to learn how to deliver the minimum required multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS in emergency situations.

Next steps

In order to complete the development of the learning package, the IASC TF, DMTP and UNAIDS propose to field test all of the materials. The testing will serve to identify changes and revisions in order to finalize the materials. The testing will also serve to develop guidance for tailoring and adapting the materials to different regional and cultural contexts. Once the testing has been completed the materials will be transferred to the UNAIDS e-workspace. DMTP is currently working with UNAIDS and other member agencies of the Task Force to facilitate the incorporation of the learning package into respective agencies ongoing activities.

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