

Education Division



Breaking the Silence

Teaching and the AIDS Pandemic

A Capacity Building Course for Teacher Educators in Africa

inWent

Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH Capacity Building International, Germany



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A Blended Learning Course for Teacher Educators on the AIDS Pandemic



This course is a joint initiative of InWent and the University of the Western Cape. It was developed specifically for teacher educators throughout Eastern and Southern Africa.

The aim of the course is to use an interactive blended learning approach to enhance the personal and professional capacity of teacher educators to train future teachers about HIV and AIDS. They will attain new knowledge and skills while discovering their own important role in responding to the AIDS pandemic. The use of e-learning tools throughout the course will enable participants to apply them in their own classes.

A Different Approach

HIV and AIDS are about people. This African course for teacher educators represents a significantly different approach to HIV and AIDS, recognizing that the pandemic is a

complex and multi-dimensional challenge facing us all. Reaching beyond bio-medical models, the course explores the various meanings that have been constructed around the virus itself while challenging participants to discover the role of teachers in overcoming the pandemic. The course recognizes that a deeper understanding of human beings and the complex ways in which they understand, interact with and assign meaning to the world around them is central to overcoming the AIDS pandemic. It also recognizes the importance of overcoming the epidemic of silence that accompanies the pandemic, continuously creating fertile ground for the continued spread of the disease.

Why Teacher Educators?

Throughout Eastern and Southern Africa, teachers are increasingly called upon to help individuals, families and communities affected by HIV and AIDS find solutions to the many challenges that face them. Teachers often find themselves having to provide leadership and care around the pandemic without having the necessary skills or knowledge. This course is based on the premise that skilled, caring and committed teachers can make a significant contribution to addressing the AIDS pandemic.



The course strengthens teacher educators' capacity to ensure that all teachers gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to teach and lead in contexts increasingly affected by HIV and AIDS. In addition it aims to develop teachers able to address stigma, become caring and compassionate educators and ultimately contribute towards breaking the silence.

A Practical Approach to Practice

This blended learning course is presented in two modules, 'AIDS in the African context' and 'Building AIDS-competent schools'. Each module is seven weeks in length and comprises 4 units. To derive maximum benefit from the course, participants should plan on spending ten to twelve hours per week over a period of 14 weeks on the course. Module One is preceded by a five-day face-to-face session involving all course participants.

Both modules make use of e-learning tools, creating an opportunity for participants to become well versed with discussion forums, using message boards and document pools and linking to reliable websites. The course is supported by a course tutor who remains in direct contact with participants throughout each module and will direct participants' questions to course facilitators who have developed the content of the course.



Aims of the Course

The course aims to ensure that what is learned leads to practical implementation in teacher training institutions and in schools. In addition, to regular online interaction with other teacher educators, throughout the course each participant will participate in a field study of a local primary or secondary school. These experiences will serve as multi-country case studies for the course.

Participants will be guided on how to apply the course content to their own workplace situation and teaching curricula. In addition throughout the course participants' will critically reflect on how the content impacts on them personally.



Evaluation of the course will be based on written assignments, participation in on-line discussion forums, personal reflection, the school field study and the ability to apply the course content to participants' own practice.

Application

During a pilot phase in 2006, participation in the course is limited to teacher educators from Malawi, Tanzania, Namibia and South Africa.

From 2007 the course is open to all teacher educators in Africa who are committed to responding to the challenges and opportunities the AIDS pandemic brings to teacher education and communities.



Course requirements and application information may be obtained from:

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The two Modules

MODULE 1: AIDS in the African context

Introductory face-to face session	Introducing blended learning and developing computer literacy skills Examining your own values, attitudes and experiences Getting to know each other as a group
Unit 1 HIV and AIDS: The starting point	Exploring the multiple meanings assigned to the pandemic Keeping up to date with information
Unit 2 Education and the AIDS pandemic	Examining what HIV and AIDS mean for the education sector and the opportunities they present for growth, reform and development
Unit 3 The AIDS pandemic in context	An exploration of the social and cultural dimensions of HIV and AIDS through ethnographic case studies
Unit 4 Field study	Building your own case study: critically reflecting on how HIV and AIDS impact on a school of your choice

MODULE 2: Building AIDS-competent schools

Unit 1 Teaching and curriculum	Reflecting on appropriate learner-centred, interactive teaching approaches, curriculum development and assessment
Unit 2 Developing health promoting schools	Exploring an integrated approach to whole school development recognizing the meaningful role schools have to play in HIV prevention and intervention
Unit 3 Developing schools into nodes of care and support for children	Strengthening the culture of caring in schools and building partnerships with service providers, families and surrounding communities to insure the wellbeing of children
Unit 4 Leadership, schools and AIDS	Developing school leadership capacity to address wellness and the AIDS pandemic

InWEnt

InWEnt – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (Capacity Building International, Germany) stands for the development of human resources and organisations within the framework of international cooperation. InWEnt's services cater to skilled and managerial staff as well as to decision makers from business, politics, administration and civil societies worldwide. InWEnt cooperates equally with partners from developing, transition and industrialised countries. Each year some 55,000 persons participate in our measures.

Quality of instruction, sector management, peace education and teacher education on HIV and AIDS are core issues for the Education Division. InWEnt has extensive experience in the capacity building of teacher educators in learner-centred, interactive teaching and learning in Latin America and Africa. In addition to advanced face-to-face training programs, to exchange and policy dialogue, emphasis is also given to networking with the help of e-learning. With Global Campus 21® (www.gc21.org) InWEnt has developed an internet platform for e-learning and cooperation.

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UWC

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) is a South African university very aware of its academic role in helping build equitable and dynamic societies. UWC is committed to its African context as evidenced by its many collaborative projects with other African universities. The university subscribes to the SADC Protocol on Education and Training and to the declaration of the African Association of Universities.

In keeping with its values, UWC has developed an open-source e-learning management system for higher education with partners in other African countries. The system, KEWL Next Generation (KNG), serves as the African platform for this course. UWC is strongly committed to responding to the AIDS pandemic. It has a dedicated HIV and AIDS programme that reports directly to the Vice Chancellor of the university.

UWC's strong commitment to addressing the AIDS pandemic is equally evidenced in the Education Faculty's development of courses in AIDS-related subjects for pre- and in-service teachers. These highly-rated courses are regular components of all teacher education programmes and reflect the work of the faculty's on-going research into the area of HIV and teacher education.

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