

## UNESCO'S ROLE AS A CO-FOUNDER OF UNAIDS AND UNESCO'S EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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### Abstract

The article explores activities and the definition of the role of UNESCO in the area of eliminating AIDS as a threat to public health by 2030.

This objective has been specified as one of the goals of UNO Sustainable Development Goal 3 that urges to ensure a healthy lifestyle and promote well-being for all at any age.

The goal of the research is to analyse the activities that are undertaken by the UNESCO in order to implement the task of eliminating AIDS.

The above goal is reached through a number of activities. They include the following steps: -considering activities of States in the framework of the United Nations Program on HIV / AIDS (UNAIDS), in which the UNESCO is one of the founding stakeholders; -analysing the UNESCO's key strategies against AIDS; - identifying key UNAIDS challenges; - setting fourth possible solutions.

The research results pave the way for drafting recommendations to States with regard to their activities that are aimed to achieve the elimination of AIDS as a threat to public health by 2030.

The relevance of the research topic derives from the urgent need to eliminate AIDS as a threat to public health in the context of the Sustainable Development Goal 3. The theoretical significance of the study is that the author's analysis of UNESCO's activities in the field of AIDS elimination is useful for states in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, namely, Goal 3.

**Keywords:** international law, human rights, the right to health, sustainable development goals.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The basic principle of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the AIDS response is that no one is left behind. The AIDS epidemic cannot be eliminated if you do not take care of the needs of people living with and affected by HIV, as well as the factors that determine health and vulnerability. HIV-infected people often live in dysfunctional communities, they are often discriminated against and marginalized, and also face inequality and instability - therefore, resolving their difficulties should be a priority for achieving sustainable development.

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development.

The fight against AIDS has brought to the fore the right to health, gender equality, human rights, employment and social protection. She gave an experience of confronting deep-rooted social habits, social exclusion, and legal barriers to health and sustainable development. The approach to the investment of labor and funds, adopted within the framework of this structure, is aimed at accelerating the results in the global development and health care system.

The UN system, including UNAIDS, is working to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals, 10 of which are directly related to the fight against AIDS.

### **1.1 Theoretical Framework**

The article develops a new theoretical conceptual framework for legal research: it examines the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter UNESCO) to achieve one of the Sustainable Development Goals, which provides for the elimination of AIDS as a threat to public health by 2030.

### **1.2. Research Goal**

The purpose of the document is to analyze the documents adopted by UNAIDS to end the AIDS epidemic.

### **1.3. Research Methods and Materials**

The methodological basis of the study rested on qualitative approach to analysis. It incorporated dialectic, historical, inductive, deductive, analytical methods, as well as f

ormal legal, comparative legal, statistical methods to process the data obtained.

## **2. RESEARCH FINDINGS**

UNESCO's response to HIV and AIDS is based on the Millennium Development Goals (hereinafter the SDGs), the Education for All movement and the 2001 United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV / AIDS.

One of the SDGs provides for the elimination of AIDS as a threat to public health by 2030, which is why this goal was enshrined in documents such as the UNAIDS Strategy "Accelerating Measures to End the AIDS Epidemic" for 2016-2021. and the political declaration of the UN General Assembly on HIV / AIDS, adopted in 2016. UNESCO also plays a leading role in the Global Initiative on Education and HIV / AIDS (EDUCAIDS) and in the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Force (IATT) on Education (last meeting of this group took place in May 2017.

This section discusses the main activities of UNESCO in the fight against HIV / AIDS, as well as documents adopted as part of this activity.

### **2.1. UNESCO's Key Focuses on HIV / AIDS**

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UNESCO, in order to achieve this goal, is adopting a new strategy, consistent with the SDGs, UNAIDS strategy and its UNESCO strategy, "Education for health and well-being: contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals" for 2016-2021. UNESCO focuses on three goals: SDG 3 (health), SDG 4 (education) and SDG 5 (gender equality). This strategy contains two key priorities of UNESCO: - all children and adolescents receive quality and comprehensive sexuality education, including HIV prevention; - all youth have access to a safe, inclusive and wellness environment.

All UNESCO's activities in the fight against HIV / AIDS are divided into three key areas:

1. Developing countries' capacities to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of education responses to HIV-related problems.
2. Improving the effectiveness of comprehensive HIV education and sexuality education.
3. Promoting gender equality and protecting human rights.

UNESCO maintains its regular and active representation in the governing bodies of UNAIDS (the Director-General of UNESCO participates twice a year in the meetings of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations together with the Executive Director of UNAIDS and the heads of other co-sponsoring agencies, as well as UNESCO is represented at biennial meetings UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board) (1).

UNESCO's activities are primarily aimed at assisting countries in taking effective and rational educational measures on HIV, early and unwanted pregnancy, gender-based violence in the school environment, substance abuse, homophobic and transphobic violence, as well as harassment (for this 2 years extra-budgetary funds in the amount of more than \$ 30 million were allocated). The positive results of UNESCO's activities since 2014 include assisting more than 80 countries in enhancing the implementation of their national HIV strategies in the school environment and building up quality, age-oriented and comprehensive sexuality education. UNESCO is continuing to work actively and is leading a joint effort to revise the United Nations International Sexual Education Guidelines to include factual material and lessons learned regarding the important role of comprehensive sexuality education in promoting gender equality.

## **2.2. UNESCO's Strategy "Education for Health and Well-Being: Promoting the Sustainable Development Goals" for 2016–2021**

It is the organization's new strategy and reflects UNESCO's commitment to improving the health and well-being of all children and youth, and UNESCO's support in the fight against AIDS and to eradicate this public health threat by 2030. It reflects the international commitments set out in the 1986 Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, the framework of the 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar, and the Incheon Declaration Education 2030: ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning.

The strategy covers a wider range of issues, including the SDGs on health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4) and gender equality (SDG 5). This strategy reflects the growing international recognition of the sustainable relationship between education and health, and also prioritizes UNESCO's efforts to strengthen efforts to combat HIV / AIDS. The strategy builds on UNESCO's many years of experience in supporting the national education sector in HIV and sexuality education (2). It also reflects UNESCO's work in promoting a safe and inclusive learning environment, the organization's commitment to strengthening the links between education and health, and the use of an integrated approach to school health. The strategy identifies two key priorities:

1. Providing all children and youth with high-quality, comprehensive sexuality education, which also includes HIV education.
2. Ensuring that all children and young people have access to comprehensive means that promote health, including health care.

The first priority "Providing all children and youth with high-quality, comprehensive sexuality education, which also includes HIV education" includes: prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; promoting information on HIV testing awareness, awareness of one's status and treatment for HIV; strengthening sex education; prevention of early and unplanned pregnancy; developing relationships, values and skills for a healthy and respectful relationship and comprehensive sexuality education.

The second priority, "Ensuring that all children and young people have access to comprehensive health promotion tools, including health care," includes: - eliminating school violence and bullying, including gender-based violence; - prevention of discrimination in relation to health and gender for students and teachers; - raising awareness of the importance of good nutrition and the quality of physical education; - prevention of the use of harmful substances.

The strategy proclaims UNESCO's desire to provide opportunities for the development of knowledge and skills for all young people who are needed to protect themselves from HIV and establish healthy relationships. UNESCO is committed to supporting countries in strengthening the role of national education sectors in detecting and treating HIV (3) and preventing early and unplanned pregnancies. UNESCO will make every effort to eliminate violence in schools, including gender-based violence, as well as to prevent discrimination and support schools in promoting a healthy lifestyle (4). The presented strategy provides a

comprehensive basis for concerted action by UNESCO and its partners at the global, regional and country levels during 2016–2021.

UNESCO's new strategy: updates UNESCO's previous strategies and provides a comprehensive framework for concerted action by UNESCO and its partners at global, regional and country levels during 2016–2021; builds on UNESCO's work on HIV and the promotion of comprehensive sexuality education, a safe and inclusive learning environment, and focuses more on the role of schools in promoting health (5); reflects recent developments in the context of the adoption of global education, HIV and health programs and the new UNAIDS 2016–2021 strategy. and SDGs (in particular SDG 3, SDG 4 and SDG 5).

In implementing the strategy, UNESCO will be guided by its Guidelines, many years of experience in the field of sexuality education, safe and inclusive schools and the promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools.

UNESCO will also draw on its experience in the field of HIV as the leading UN agency to support countries in the development of their national education sectors, including HIV prevention among young people in educational institutions.

The implementation of the strategy is entrusted to the UNESCO Health and Education Section, which works closely with other UNESCO sectors, institutes, regional offices and offices. To implement this strategy, UNESCO intends to continue to mobilize resources, both through its budget and by seeking funds from extrabudgetary sources, including UNAIDS and the private sector, as well as working in partnership with national governments, other UN agencies, donors, civil society organizations, professional associations, educational institutions, youth organizations, religious communities and parent organizations.

UNESCO institutes, including the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and the International Bureau of Education (IBE) will continue to make important contributions by providing technical assistance to build capacity and support curriculum development for students, pre-service education, teacher training and continuing education. They will also analyze best practices and make recommendations. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics will also play an important role in strengthening national education, monitoring and evaluation data collection. UNESCO HIV Education and Health Information Center, IIEP, IBE, regional offices and offices will support ministries of education, researchers and practitioners through an extensive database, website and information service. UNESCO will continue to support countries through its network of regional consultants in Asia and the Pacific, West and Central Africa, East and South Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as national and professional office staff. UNESCO in the field.

### **2.3. UNAIDS Funding Challenge**

As for UNAIDS itself, despite the widespread support of UNAIDS from the international community, UNAIDS is currently experiencing serious funding problems in terms of unprecedented budgetary constraints. They consist in the annual decrease in recent years of voluntary contributions to the UNAIDS budget in the amount of \$ 242.5 million and a sharp decrease in donor funding for the program in 2016 by 25%. Due to such a sharp reduction in funding, the UNAIDS secretariat was forced to cut by 50% the co-sponsors' subsidies, which had previously transferred 30-35% of the UNAIDS budget to support their HIV activities. In particular, UNESCO received about \$ 6.2 million each year (representing 2.5% of the total UNAIDS budget). In 2016, UNESCO received only \$ 3.1 million and \$ 1.55 million in 2017.

Aware of the seriousness of the funding problem, the governing bodies and the Executive Director of UNAIDS decided to radically revise the operational model of this Joint Program, for which a Global Review Team was created and an Action Plan was presented. In accordance with this plan, the Director-General of UNESCO and the heads of the co-sponsoring agencies committed themselves to intensify efforts to formulate a more robust, effective and accountable Joint Program. To implement the UNAIDS strategy, it is necessary to use the capabilities of the mandate and the capacity to attract the resources of the organizations concerned. The plan includes the following actions: an annual allocation of \$ 2 million to each co-founder to support his continued participation in the activities of the Joint Program; creation of a financing mechanism to support country activities in 33 countries with a high level of HIV spread (the so-called "accelerated financing" countries).

As a result of the reductions, an adjustment was also made to the UNESCO program on health and education. A 40% reduction in the number of UNESCO staff involved in HIV and health education. But despite these reductions, UNESCO is mobilizing active efforts to find resources to fulfil its tasks. UNESCO has good support from major donors who maintain or increase extra budgetary contributions, and UNESCO is also seeking new donors through increased collaboration with the private sector.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it should be noted that UNESCO has entered into several successful partnerships with the Agency for Cooperation for International Development of Sweden (hereinafter SIDA), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, GABS (Germany) and the Netherlands, which allowed UNESCO to mitigate the impact of reduced funding for UNAIDS and to maintain the momentum expected result. SIDA is actively involved in the implementation of a high-quality program for the sexual education of young people, starting in 2012, UNESCO received from Sida a regional grant for East and South Africa (SJA), and in 2014 they entered into an agreement on a project to enhance progress in Zambia in the amount of 15 million. This program turned out to be so effective that negotiations are underway on the second phase of the project with a budget of \$ 9 million for the period 2018-2020, the purpose of which will be to maintain positive dynamics in the SUA region and spread good practice and experience to the West South and Central Africa.

And in May 2017, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Minister of Education of Sweden signed an agreement to increase their contribution to \$ 3.4 million, which is undoubtedly a positive contribution by UNESCO in solving the problems of the lack of funding for the Joint Program.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that UNESCO, as one of the co-founders of UNAIDS, makes an indisputable contribution to the fight against HIV / AIDS, and its strategy "Education for Health and Well-Being: Promoting the Sustainable Development Goals for 2016–2021" has all the chances to become an effective means to achieve the SDG 2030 (6).

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