



Education International

World AIDS Day 2008

## *Report of Activities by Teacher Unions*



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación  
Bildungsinternationale





## Teachers Taking the Lead on AIDS

Through the EI EFAIDS Programme, teachers and their unions are committed to educating about HIV and AIDS issues and supporting those living with HIV. World AIDS Day provides an occasion to celebrate achievements and reinforce their work. With this in mind, Education International invited and encouraged teachers and their unions to celebrate World AIDS Day (WAD) within their schools and communities to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS and show solidarity with people affected by the virus.

In 2008 Education International produced an updated 'One Hour on AIDS' resource pack to support teachers in sharing information and advice on HIV and AIDS themes with their students. Including a lesson plan and poster, the activity was designed to be easily tailored to different countries and classrooms. 'One Hour on AIDS' was well received by unions around the world and was available not only in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese but also in the languages of Wolof, Setswana, Sepedi, Kiswahili, Kirundi, Joola, Isixhosa, Ffulde, Kinyarwanda, Nepali and Dutch.

EI's engaging activity 'One Hour on AIDS' was just one of the ways that teachers and their unions marked World AIDS Day. Unions also coordinated and participated in rallies, art exhibitions and theatre plays.

This report summarises a selection of the activities undertaken and is based on reports from submitted by the unions to EI.



## Argentina

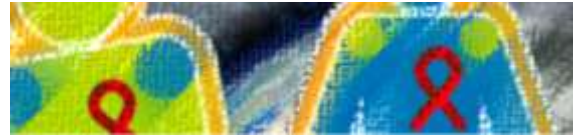
CTERA (the Confederation of Education Workers of Argentina) ran activities under the slogan 'Let's Talk about HIV and AIDS at school'. At its Voluntary Testing and Counselling Centre, CTERA opened its doors to the community and offered its services on a free and confidential basis. In a World AIDS Day statement, CTERA reaffirmed its "commitment to roll out public policies of prevention that reach out to all members of the education sector".



The House of Representatives of the city of Buenos Aires recognised CTERA for its longstanding work in the field of HIV/AIDS. During a ceremony on 28 November, Francisco Nenna, Deputy General Secretary, accepted the award on behalf of CTERA.

## Brazil

Surveys by the Brazilian Centre of Planning and Analysis indicate that after family, young people turn to school as their second source of information on AIDS. Accordingly on World AIDS Day, teachers in many states of Brazil discussed AIDS with their students supported by 'One Hour on AIDS' material. In the wake of World AIDS Day, Brazilian union CNTE, the National Confederation of Education Workers organised their 3rd National Seminar on AIDS



and STIs under the auspices of the EFAIDS Programme. Forty-two members from twenty states across Brazil participated in sessions on HIV prevention and education.



## Costa Rica

SEC (Union of Costa Rican Education Workers) and ANDE (National Association of Educators) encouraged teachers to work with their students on 'One Hour on AIDS'. In the capital San José a rally took place around the theme of HIV and AIDS. The Psychosocial Impact of AIDS and discrimination against those living with HIV were central areas of focus. The two unions followed up these activities with a series of eight regional workshops to support teachers to integrate themes of HIV and AIDS into the school curriculum.

## Côte d'Ivoire





'One hour on AIDS' carried out in many schools, such as the lesson featured here in a school in Yace Agnimel de Dabou, 45km from Abidjan.

## Dominica

The 'One Hour on AIDS' lesson was carried out with Form One students at the Dominica Community High School (DCHS). The lesson was facilitated by the Dominica Association of Teachers (DAT) EFAIDS



Coordinators –Jozette Matthew and Patrick Jeffers. The facilitators commented that "the lesson generated a lot of discussion and interest. The entire atmosphere was one of openness and respect." Some myths related to the spread and 'cure' of the disease, which were brought up by the students were dealt with. In the end the students made their pledges as to their involvement in the HIV and AIDS union Programme.

Every student was given a T-shirt on which the slogan "Spread the Word not the Virus" was printed. They were enthusiastic for further sessions on AIDS-related themes.

In addition to the lesson, slogans were aired over a ten day period on D.B.S Radio, the island's main radio station – the "Nation Station". One announcement was aired daily, featuring AIDS related information.





## Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, students spent the week prior to World AIDS Day preparing placards and banners to be used in rallies and in schools on 1 December. On World AIDS Day itself 151 municipal leaders from Dominican union ADP (Dominican Association of Teachers) in coordination with local authorities, participated in 139 marches across the country. ADP distributed over half a million red ribbons through the network it has helped set up to address HIV on the island.

## Gabon

Gabonese unions FESEENA (Union Federation of Teachers in National Education) and SENA (Union of Teachers in National Education) took part in the 'One hour on AIDS' lesson, using it to reinforce the knowledge of participating teachers and mobilising Gabonese students around the theme of HIV prevention.

## Haiti



In Haiti the CNEH, the National Confederation of Haitian Teachers, coordinated the One Hour on AIDS activity in four of the nine regions of Haiti. In the capital Port-au-Prince representatives of the different union federations met in the Chilean School, while over 500 students from ten schools of the Champs de Mars area celebrated together. Inspired by the 'Take the Lead' poster and the slogan 'Spread

the word, not the virus', students and teachers alike pledged behave responsibly and counter stigmatisation and discrimination. Students were similarly motivated during a 'One Hour on AIDS' event in the Sténio Vincent High School in St Marc in the Bas Artibonite department. To follow on from World AIDS Day, participants opted to launch a committee to raise awareness composed of students, teachers and union activists. In Port-de-Paix in the North-West department, in addition to a training session, there was a rally past the offices of the Minister





of Health to lobby for greater support for those living with HIV.

## Honduras

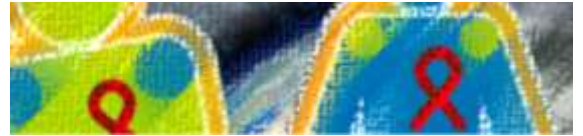
The collective of unions working together on the EFAIDS Programme in Honduras, FOMH (Federation of Teacher Organisations), organised 'One Hour on AIDS' workshops in teacher training colleges, such as the Escuela Normal. Through this strategy the next generation of teachers have the information and skills to educate their students about HIV prevention.



## Malaysia

In the wake of World AIDS Day Malaysian teacher union, NUTP organised an HIV/AIDS Seminar for 50 teachers with support from the Malaysian AIDS Foundation.

The two-day seminar aimed to show Malaysian teachers the importance of contributing to the HIV and AIDS, and to empower them to work together to spread awareness and provide education on AIDS related issues.



Activities included a walk, HIV/AIDS 101 interactive session, games and mini exhibition. The initiative was very positively received by participating teachers. Thanks to the training, teachers' awareness on HIV/AIDS extends beyond the basic facts on the disease, to include complex issues and questions such as HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

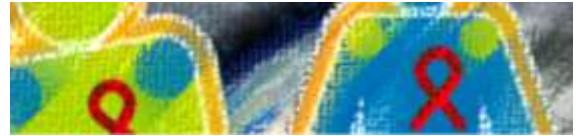
## Mali

SNEC, the Malian teacher union held 'One Hour on AIDS' lessons in 6 districts of the capital Bamako. The EFAIDS programme coordinator in Mali, and various colleagues and principals from Malian schools participated in one of the events, as did a representative of the Ministry of Education.



The EFAIDS master trainers in each of the districts involved were at hand to answer the questions posed by students in response to the One hour on AIDS lesson. In total, 375 students from the capital were involved in World AIDS Day activities.





## Namibia

NANTU, the Namibia National Teachers' Union, ran initiatives under the slogan 'Take the lead on AIDS'. Many of the sessions organised centred on action to prevent HIV. The workshops addressed the issues underlined on the 'One hour on AIDS' poster: Protect yourself; Increase awareness; Change your school; Get involved in your community; Demand global action. One of the EFAIDS trainers Mulisa Vincent emphasised the impact of the 'One Hour on AIDS' session, "It was amazing how learners came clearly and with openness to discuss HIV and AIDS".

## Netherlands

Dutch unions AOb and CNV Onderwijs, the EFAIDS partners in the Netherlands, got creative with their plans for World AIDS Day 2008. The education unions coordinated Art for AIDS workshops in a number of schools.



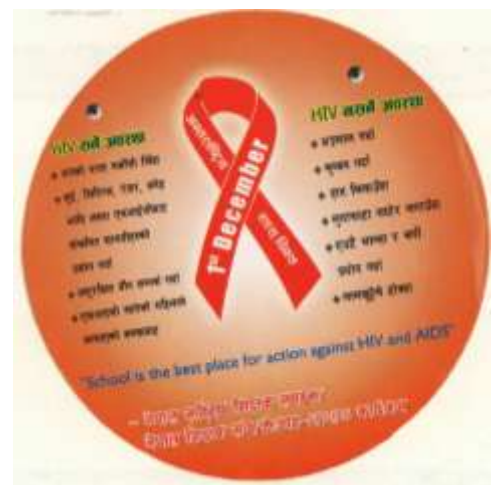
Artist Henk Bervoets, co-founder of Art for AIDS led students on a one-day journey into the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the consequences for their peers in high prevalence countries. Trudy Kerperien, of AOb described the process, "Starting with sensitizing activities, slowly building up knowledge, he guided the pupils step by step from feelings to knowledge, from knowledge to statements, from statements to images and from there to artworks, using the technique of collage. The results were just amazing. They got impressed by the message and discovered new competencies just by doing."



She highlighted the positive reaction from participants, “Some of them mentioned that due to this way of working, visualising a topic that is difficult to talk about, they learned more than ever about what HIV and AIDS can do to people living in less comfortable circumstances than theirs. All schools reported the same enthusiasm and involvement.” After the series of workshops, a jury selected the most inspiring collages. These will be printed, and added to the international portfolio of Art for AIDS and sold worldwide. Proceeds from the sale of the artwork go to selected projects for women and children living with AIDS.

## Nepal

The Nepalese teacher unions, NTA and NNTA, translated the ‘One Hour on AIDS’ resource into Nepali to strengthen the reach and impact of the activity in schools across the country. To further support their activities on HIV prevention education, the unions designed posters and diaries featuring AIDS-related slogans.



## Pakistan

In Pakistan teacher union COT, the Central Organisation of Teachers celebrated World AIDS Day with a series of classroom activities in public and private schools across the country. Many schools held drama activities around the question of HIV/AIDS, with students putting





their questions to the actors once the performances were over. In one town, an HIV/AIDS awareness rally was also held, with students marching 1km through town with members of the local community. At the end of the day, many students met with union representatives and politicians to talk about campaigning on HIV.

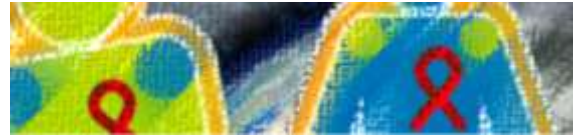
## Saint Lucia

SLTU, the St Lucia Teachers' Union, extended "One Hour on AIDS" activities to include both primary and secondary schools, with the lesson plan and posters distributed to all schools. Various activities were held to complement the 'One Hour on AIDS activity' such as special assemblies (where counsellors and nurses were on hand to address students' questions), and videos and art exhibitions.



## Sierra Leone

The Sierra Leone Teachers' Union, SLTU, coordinated with the National AIDS Secretariat (NAS) and other partners in marking World AIDS Day with the theme – "Take the Lead, Take the HIV Test". Tying in with the national campaign, the union undertook activities including rallies, radio and television programmes and classroom sessions on AIDS-related issues. A



big rally in the capital Freetown brought teachers and students together with many other organisations and AIDS advocates.



The rally was preceded by a nationwide broadcast by the Head of State marking the importance of the day. Radio and television panel discussions including phone-in programmes were held in all four regions of the country. Panellists drawn from the union, NAS and other key stakeholders raised awareness on AIDS.



Printed T-shirts, posters and flyers carried key messages on education and HIV/AIDS. SLTU introduced the 'One Hour on AIDS' lesson to schools across Sierra Leone, with EFAIDS trainers tasked with organising and delivering the lesson. Encouraged by the positive response from participants SLTU has pledged to work so that every school can carry out the 'One Hour on AIDS' lesson during World AIDS Day in 2009.

## Suriname

Surinamese teacher union, Bond van Leraren (BvL) successfully coordinated 550 teachers to lead over 15,000 students in the 'One Hour on AIDS' lesson. Astrid MacDonald, EFAIDS Coordinator explained the strong response for World AIDS Day "The steep increase in infections in Suriname and the world, and the trainings they received from the EFAIDS Committee have taught teachers that school should be the main place for combating HIV/AIDS and to place prevention of HIV/AIDS at the forefront. The idea to simultaneously teach 'One Hour on AIDS' was therefore applauded by the teachers". To guarantee a greater impact in the classroom, BvL translated the 'One Hour on AIDS' lesson into Dutch. As with much of the union's work in the EFAIDS Programme, BvL was supported in its World AIDS



Day activities by the Ministry of Education and Community Development, who were instrumental in securing principals' support for the initiative. The World AIDS Day activities were widely reported in the media and the 'One Hour on AIDS lesson' televised helping to bring AIDS issues to a wider audience across Suriname.

## Uganda

For World AIDS Day 2008, UNATU, the Uganda National Teachers Union launched a campaign promoting the importance of knowing your HIV status and encouraging the education sector and the population at large to get tested.

**Take the Lead on HIV & AIDS**  
*"The Teachers' Response"*

To have an... ductive  
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Test...  
tion into...

**Know your Sero-Status**

**UNATU**  
Plot 26/33 Bombo Road P.O. Box 377 Kampala (Uganda)  
Tel: +256 - 414 - 346 917 Fax: +256 - 414 - 346 917  
Email: unatuba@unatointernational.org

The union also participated in the EI initiative 'One hour on AIDS', obtaining wide press coverage on radio, TV, and the national press.

The 'One hour on AIDS' activity was launched with a march through Kampala as teachers and learners from various schools held high the campaign materials, the UNATU banner and that of the Anti AIDS Club of Nakasero Primary School. The subsequent celebration at Nakasero School provided an opportunity to present the work of Nakasero AIDS Eradication Reality Club, which raises awareness on HIV and AIDS in the school community and the recitation of HIV & AIDS related poems by students.

In her speech Margaret Rwabushaija, Chairperson of the UNATU, warned that HIV/AIDS poses a real threat to the target of Education for All by 2015 and highlighted that AIDS takes a toll on an already understaffed education sector and lauded the EFAIDS Programme as a proactive response.

The new HIV & AIDS campaign materials on HIV testing were



introduced by Erasmus Tanga, the Deputy Chief of Party of the SPEAR (Supporting Public Sector Workplaces to Expand Action and Responses against HIV& AIDS) project. Voicing his support of UNATU's work he pledged SPEAR's commitment to cooperating with them in the HIV and AIDS response.



## Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Teachers Association, ZIMTA, coordinated with other organisations working on HIV and AIDS to organise events to mark World AIDS Day in 2008. Despite a background of political turbulence and a struggling education system, ZIMTA, worked from September to raise awareness on HIV and AIDS issues in preparation for World AIDS Day. On the day itself, over 1,000 people gathered at Chipadze Stadium in Bindura, Mashonaland Central Province under the theme 'Zimbabwe, Proven Leadership in HIV Prevention; Scale up Treatment, Care and Support NOW!'. The World Aids Day event aimed to increase awareness on HIV and AIDS and important programme activities like Anti- Retroviral Treatment (ART), Programme of Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) to members of the public, who were entertained by drama groups, choirs and children from schools around the town.