

# **Professional Development for Parliamentarians and Staff**

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## **Parliaments and HIV/AIDS**

## **Introduction**

This training module on Parliaments and HIV/AIDS has been prepared by the Parliamentary Centre, in partnership with the World Bank Institute. Main contributions have been made by Petra Andersson, Program Officer Africa, Christine Ivory, Coordinator Learning Programs and Jennifer Slawich, Research Assistant.

The aim of this training module is to increase the knowledge of Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff on HIV/AIDS so that they can address HIV/AIDS from a multisectoral and crosscutting approach. It also seeks to provide various tools and examples on how parliamentarians can fulfill their roles and responsibilities in the fight against HIV/AIDS more effectively.

The module is comprised of the following units:

### **UNIT 1: An Introduction to HIV/AIDS**

This unit provides introductory information regarding HIV and AIDS, which includes basic information and facts on the current status of the disease globally using the latest available statistics, important definitions that distinguish HIV from AIDS, the impact of HIV on the body, modes of transmission, as well as methods of prevention and treatment.

### **UNIT 2: The Impacts of HIV/AIDS**

Unit 2 aims to give a deeper, more meaningful understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS on various groups who are vulnerable to HIV infection or death due to AIDS outcomes. Emphasis will also be given to the importance of upholding Human Rights, as integrating internationally agreed upon standards is a key step in developing relevant HIV-related law and achieving policy reform. The unit will also demonstrate the unique ability of HIV to undermine areas such as social and economic development, as well as democracy and good governance.

### **UNIT 3: Global Responses to HIV/AIDS**

Unit 3 gives an introduction to some key international and regional declarations and frameworks that have been developed to address the HIV/AIDS crisis. It also provides some information on the progress made to demonstrate where responses can be improved, but to also show the importance of international frameworks in garnering national success. It also presents three of the key international funding initiatives, as well as some prominent parliamentary initiatives to address HIV/AIDS.

### **UNIT 4: Parliamentarians and HIV/AIDS**

Unit 4 provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians in the fight against HIV/AIDS and explores the rationale for stronger parliamentary engagement in the response to the pandemic. This unit identifies how MPs can play an active leadership role on HIV/AIDS through their core lawmaking, oversight, and representation functions. This unit looks more broadly at the leadership role of parliamentarians, as an introduction for subsequent units that delve into the specifics of HIV/AIDS legislation, budgetary oversight, committee work and outreach initiatives in more detail.

### **UNIT 5: The Legislative Role of Parliamentarians in the Fight against HIV/AIDS**

Unit 5 explores the legislative implications of HIV/AIDS and provides some key resources that parliamentarians can refer to when making decisions on HIV-related laws and legislative reform which includes a human rights-based approach.

### **UNIT 6: Parliamentary Oversight and HIV/AIDS**

Unit 6 gives an introduction to the various aspects of parliamentary oversight and the role that parliament plays in the budget process. The unit also explores some of the key issues and challenges for ensuring HIV/AIDS allocations in the budget. In addition, it provides some tools and examples on how to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight of the budget with special regards to HIV/AIDS related issues.

## **UNIT 7: Parliamentary Outreach and HIV/AIDS**

This unit looks at various forms of legislative public outreach and how they can be used as tools in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Outreach activities can not only serve to gather important information on how various HIV programs affect the citizens and identify the challenges they face, but also to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS among the population and the parliamentarians themselves. Unit 7 will also examine how parliaments can work in partnership with civil society and the media in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Finally, it will focus on how parliamentarians can act as advocates on key HIV/AIDS issues in their constituencies and vis-à-vis the government.

## **UNIT 8: The Role of Parliamentary Committees and HIV/AIDS**

Unit 8 explores the role of parliamentary committees in reviewing and amending legislation with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS. It also discusses the rationale for creating specific committees responsible for HIV/AIDS as well as the need for a multi-sectoral approach whereby other parliamentary committees, such as those responsible for trade, healthcare, international development and so forth, should also be involved in scrutinizing the impact of legislation and policies on HIV/AIDS.

## **UNIT 9: Corruption and HIV/AIDS**

Unit 9 looks at some of the links between corruption and HIV/AIDS and where this type of corruption can occur. It also looks at how corruption in relation to HIV/AIDS can be addressed, and in particular what role parliamentarians can play in curbing corruption.

## **UNIT 10: Gender and HIV/AIDS**

This unit aims to provide a comprehensive overview of some of the key issues that relate to gender and HIV/AIDS. It will explain why it is imperative to take a gendered perspective in HIV/AIDS mitigation to address the disease as well as the importance of using a rights-based approach when addressing gender inequalities, including those that affect men. This unit will also address the necessity of involving men and how partnerships between men and women can help changing gender norms and reduce vulnerability.