



Module 3: Community Issues and Citizenship

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Section 1: Exploring good citizenship

Key Focus Question: How can you use different ways of organising pupils to develop their understanding of citizenship

Keywords: classroom organisation ; large classes; assessing learning; thinking skills; citizenship rights; responsibilities

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this section, you will have:

- developed your skills to help you relate pupils' previous knowledge to new knowledge about citizenship;
- found different ways to help out about community responsibilities;
- organised a school assembly

Introduction

Large classes present special problems for teachers – particularly if they are multigrade classes (see **Key Resource: Working with large and/or multigrade classes**). In this section, we make suggestions about using different types of classroom management for developing pupils' understanding of citizenship.

Just telling pupils about their roles and responsibilities as citizens has much less impact than involving them in active experiences. This section helps you think about different ways to find out what they know and use this to extend their understanding.

1. Using pairs and groups to discuss rights and duties

All citizens, including children, have rights and duties (responsibilities), but these vary from person to person. In order for pupils to understand this, they need to explore what rights and responsibilities mean for them, share their findings with other pupils and consider the differences. To do this, they need to talk either as a whole class or in pairs or groups.

Citizenship is a difficult idea for young pupils and they may not understand it at first. It is a good idea, therefore, to relate it to something they know – such as the kinds of tasks that are carried out at home. With older pupils, you will be able to explore the topic more deeply and extend their understanding by thinking about their roles and responsibilities within the wider community.

Case Study 1: Using desk groups to discuss family rights and

duties

Mrs Nqwinda is a teacher in Malbena Primary School in Mndantsane in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. She has a Grade 4 class of 62 pupils who sit in groups of five around each desk. It is not easy to move the children or the desks, so she used desk groups to discuss the duties pupils have to carry out at home. She chooses the group work method because she wants to make sure that all the pupils have a chance to share their ideas.

As they discuss their duties for ten minutes, she moves around the classroom making sure that no one is dominating the discussion and reminding each group to think about the three duties they are to feed back on.

The pupils find this an easy task. As the groups feed back their answers, Mrs Nqwinda writes each new duty on the chalkboard. She is interested to find that most of the girls help their mothers with tasks around the house, like cleaning and cooking and looking after smaller children. Most of the boys help their fathers and uncles with fetching wood and water, and some of them work in the fields and gardens. They have an interesting talk about gender roles in the household.

Mrs Nqwinda then asks if they could say what things they were free to do in their family. The pupils find this task more difficult, so she encourages them to discuss in their groups before giving feedback. Mrs Nqwinda writes their answers on the chalkboard and explains that these things they are free to do are their 'rights'. She checks they understand the difference between duties and rights.

See **Resource 1: Rights and duties of children** for the list of her pupils' rights and duties in the home.

Activity 1: Pair work to discuss rights and duties in the family

- Discuss the word 'duties' with your class and make sure they understand what it means.
- Ask the pupils, in pairs, to discuss and list the duties they have to carry out at home.
- After ten minutes, ask each pair in turn to give a different duty and list these on the chalkboard (many will have the same duties). Make sure they all understand these are their duties. Ask each pupil to record their own list of duties in their book.
- Next, ask the pairs to discuss the things they are free to do in their homes (such as read books, go to worship, go to school, play inside or outside).
- List their ideas on the chalkboard and explore their understanding about how these are their 'rights'.
- Ask them to list and draw the things they like doing most – duties or rights.

Did you find working in pairs easy to manage? If so, why? If not, why?

How would you change this activity to improve it next time?

Did the pupils' knowledge and ideas surprise you?

2. Rights and duties and the community

We all live in a group or family, and our family is part of a group, such as a village or a community. Within our community we have rights and duties. This means we must do certain things in the community and the community must do, or provide, certain things for us. **Resource 2: Rights of the child in Rwanda** will help you prepare for this topic.

Pupils need to be able to meet expert people who are willing to talk with them about their ideas on this topic. This will help pupils to understand their responsibilities in the community and motivate them to learn. Before a visitor comes to your classroom, you may need to think about moving the furniture to make the atmosphere more welcoming. This will make the visitor feel comfortable and help the pupils' learning because they can see and hear better. See **Key Resource: Using the local community/environment as a resource** for further information.

Case Study 2: Organising the classroom to discuss community responsibilities

Mr Kamali wanted his 40 Primary 4 pupils to discuss their community responsibilities. He decided that the layout of the classroom was not helpful for group discussion work so he made a plan for a new organisation of the desks. He discussed it with his head teacher, who approved the change. With a fellow teacher to help him, he reorganised the classroom into eight groups, each with three desks arranged to seat six pupils. The next day, the children were excited that the classroom was different. Mr Kamali explained that the arrangement would mean they could do more group discussion.

He asked the pupils to discuss, in their groups, what the community provides for them – the rights of the people living in the community. But first he talked with them about taking turns to speak in their groups and listening to each other with respect. Each group was to make a poster showing the different things the community provides as their rights as members of the community.

His pupils knew that they also had duties along with rights so, in their groups, they discussed what their duties in the community were and then they marked these on their poster in a different colour and provided a key.

All the posters were displayed on the wall so the groups could see everyone's ideas before they had a final discussion about which were most important rights and duties.

Activity 2: Using local experts to motivate pupils

- Discuss with your pupils their duties in the community.
- Guide their talk towards care for the environment, respecting people and property, taking care of each other. Organise the class into groups and ask the groups to make a poster, write a poem or a story, or draw a picture to show their ideas.
- Discuss their rights in the community – help them understand they have a right to education, to medical care, to be safe in the streets and their homes, and to speak their opinions.
- Talk about community leaders and other important people in your community. Make a list of all the people who serve the community.

- Decide who they would like to visit the school to tell them about their work in the community. It could be a village elder, a community leader, a political leader, a nurse, a librarian, a police officer or a religious leader.
- See **Key Resource: Using the local community/environment as a resource** for guidance. Arrange the visit and prepare questions with your class to ask the visitor.

After the visit, discuss with the pupils what they found out about the work of the visitor.

3. Planning an assembly on citizenship

To qualify as a citizen of any country you have to meet certain criteria. These are usually laid down in the Constitution. Try to get a copy of the Constitution of your country and see what it says. **Resource 3: Excerpt from the Constitution** lists criteria for qualification as a citizen.

One way to explore your pupils' ideas on citizenship is given in **Case Study 3**.

School assemblies can bring a topic to a close in a way that will motivate your pupils. How to prepare for a school assembly is explored in the **Key Activity**.

Case Study 3: A visit from the local government chairman to discuss citizenship

Mrs Mukadata, from a small rural school in the South Province, invited the district mayor to visit her Primary 5 class of 40 pupils. The district mayor brought with him a photograph of the president, the national flag, coat of arms/national emblem, his identity card and passport. He explained to the children about the importance of these things in being a Rwandan. He explained what the different parts of the flag symbolise. They also sang the national anthem and made a list of all the events where they sing the national anthem.

After the visit, Mrs Mukadata organised the class in small groups around their desks and asked them to discuss why it is important for them to be citizens of Rwanda. She moved around the class and guided the groups to stay focused on the task and to listen to each other's ideas.

Next, she asked them to work individually and write their own reasons in their books. She collected their work and was able to assess how much each pupil had learned about citizenship. There were five pupils whose reasons were less developed and Mrs Mukadata discussed the reasons with these pupils during break to assess whether they understood the ideas.

Key Activity: Presenting learning in a school assembly

Ask your head teacher if you can hold a school assembly on 'Being a good citizen'.

Discuss what the content of the assembly might be with your class.

Each group prepares their part and the resources needed. You might want to suggest to your pupils that the following need to be included:

- Who is a citizen?
- Rights and duties in the home.
- Rights and duties in the community.
- Symbols of national identity – flag, anthem, identity card, coat of arms, passport.
- Why is it important to be a good citizen?

Give groups different tasks and allow them time to prepare their contributions – maybe over several lessons.

Make the task clear, so that each pupil produces a piece of work that you can use to assess their learning.

Encourage them to write poems or texts for reading, paint flags or find a text they want to read or use.

Agree the order for the presentations and rehearse.

Present your assembly to the school.

Afterwards, discuss with the pupils what worked well and what could have been improved. How well did they think the rest of the school understood about citizenship?

Resource 1: Rights and duties of children – Mrs Nqwinda's class list

Example of pupils' work

Our duties are:

Cleaning the house

Fetching wood/water

Looking after younger children

Cooking

Working on the land

Our rights are:

Somewhere to live – shelter

Food to eat

Protection from harm

Care from adults

Medical care when sick

To go to school

Resource 2: Rights of the Child in Rwanda

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

In line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child passed in 1990, the Rwandan government is bound to protect the rights of the child in Rwanda. The provisions of the Convention are as follows:

A child in Rwanda:

- 1 Should have the same rights as an adult, irrespective of sex, religion, custom, rural or urban background, nationality, tribe, race, marital status of parents or opinion.

- 2 The right to grow up in a peaceful, caring and secure environment, and to have the basic necessities of life, including food, health care, clothing and shelter.
- 3 The right to a name and a nationality.
- 4 The right to know who his or her parents are and to enjoy family life with them and/or their extended family. Where a child has no family or is unable to live with them, he or she should have the right to be given the best substitute care available.
- 5 The right to have his or her best interests given priority in any decisions made concerning the child.
- 6 The right to express an opinion and to be listened to, and, to be consulted in accordance with his or her understanding in decisions which affect his or her well-being.
- 7 The right to have his or her health protected through immunisation and appropriate health care, and to be taught how to defend himself/herself against illness. When ill, a child should have a right to receive proper medical care.
- 8 A child with disability should have the right to be treated with the same dignity as other children and to be given special care, education and training where necessary so as to develop his or her potential and self-reliance.
- 9 The right to refuse to be subjected to harmful initiation rites and other harmful social and customary practices, and to be protected from those customary practices which are prejudicial to a child's health.
- 10 The right to be treated fairly and humanely within the legal system.
- 11 The right to be protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation.
- 12 The right to basic education.
- 13 The right to leisure which is not morally harmful, to play and to participate in sports and positive cultural and artistic activities.
- 14 The right not to be employed or engaged in activities that harm his or her health, education, mental, physical or moral development.
- 15 A child, if a victim of armed conflict, a refugee, or in a situation of danger or extreme vulnerability, should have the right to be among the first to receive help and protection.

Resource 3: Excerpt from the Constitution of Rwanda, showing those who qualify to be Rwandan citizens

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

The Constitution of Rwanda

The following people qualify to be citizens of Rwanda.

- All persons originating from Rwanda and their descendants shall upon their request be entitled to Rwandan nationality.
- Rwandans or their descendants who were deprived of their nationality between 1 November 1959 and 31 December 1994 by reason of acquisition of foreign nationalities automatically reacquire Rwandan nationality if they return to settle in Rwanda.

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Section 2: Ways to investigate gender issues

Key Focus Question: How can you use interactive strategies to discuss gender issues?

Keywords: gender; role play; stereotyping; single-sex groups; questionnaire; local experts

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this section, you will have:

- explored attitudes to gender through single-sex group work;
- used reverse role play to highlight gender stereotyping;
- used local experts and drama presentations to share ideas on gender issues.

Introduction

There are certain behaviours in society that are often seen to be appropriate for either boys or girls, not for everyone. Some of these behaviours may negatively affect girls' and boys' self-esteem and aspirations, and not serve them well when it comes to learning in the classroom. Researchers note that girls are often shy of speaking up in class and sometimes fail to give answers even when they know them.

The activities in this section will help you to explore gender stereotyping with your class and to see gender roles, both male and female, in more positive ways.

Resource 1: Gender issues provides background to some of the issues about gender.

1. Using group work to explore gender differences

Gender stereotyping, although a wider social issue, starts in the home. Without realising it, many adults treat the boys and the girls in their family in different ways – it has always been like that and they see no reason to change.

Such consistent behaviour then causes girls, in particular, to believe that this 'is just the way things are' and there is nothing they can do about it. Boys also accept the situation because it tends to benefit them.

You can explore these differences with your pupils by working in single-sex groups to help your pupils talk about their own behaviour and beliefs.

In an earlier case study (**Module 2, Section 2, Case Study 2**), one teacher asked her pupils to bring family rules to class. At the time, the class saw that there were different rules for boys and girls. She decided to plan some lessons on gender, later in the term.

Case Study 1 shows what happened in one of these lessons.

Case Study 1: Using drama to explore gender issues

The teacher found the list of family rules from a previous lesson. She thought about how to explore the issues around the different treatment of boys and girls in the family and decided that drama would be a good method. See **Key Resource: Using role play/dialogue/drama in the classroom** for ideas.

She organised the class into 'family' groups of different sizes, with pupils playing different family members. One group was only four people, one group was 11. She asked the groups to make up a play about a family to show how boys and girls are treated. She gave them the whole lesson to do this and went around each group to help and support them. She asked questions like 'So what would happen next?' 'How could you...?'

She asked them to bring in some items to help identify different people in the family and to rehearse their plays during break times.

Over the next few lessons, each group in turn performed their play and afterwards the whole class discussed what they had seen. After watching all the plays and discussing them, they realised that girls had less freedom to choose than boys. They had a vote to decide whether this was fair, and the class agreed that boys and girls should be given equal opportunities and not be denied access to activities and work because of their gender.

Activity 1: Single-sex group work

To help your pupils explore and explain their feelings concerning gender roles, this activity uses single-sex groups.

Hand out the questionnaire in **Resource 2: Gender – what do you think?** to each pupil and explain the rules to the whole class.

Give them ten minutes to complete the questionnaire.

Each pupil shows their answers to their neighbour and they discuss.

Organise the class into single-sex groups of between five and seven pupils.

Each group prepares a list of all the different activities they do:

- on schooldays;
- at weekends;
- during holidays.

Groups present their list of activities – which you write on the board – making a list for girls and one for boys.

Discuss the lists with the class. Ask about fairness. Ask why they think the activities are different.

Ask the pupils to write an essay called 'How and why are girls and boys different from each other?' Ask them to include their own views. Younger children can draw pictures of activities they do and compare them with each other.

2. Using role play to explore gender differences

Role playing can be a very powerful teaching and learning method – especially when dealing with sensitive topics in life skills or citizenship lessons. It is particularly useful when exploring issues of gender with your pupils. It can help pupils to speak more freely because they are talking about the behaviour of other people rather than their own behaviour. (See **Key Resource: Using role play/dialogue/drama in the classroom.**)

It is important to explore where gender stereotypes come from. Pupils need to recognise when stereotypical behaviour is reinforced. Much of this happens in the family, but you may want to look at your own behaviour. Do you reinforce gender stereotypes in your classroom? Were gender stereotypes reinforced in your own family? **Case Study 2** shows how one teacher used his own experience to explore gender with his class.

Case Study 2: Using childhood experience to discuss gender

Mr Kabeja wanted to work with his class on gender issues. He spent some time thinking about what to do. He remembered that when he was a child, his father used to tell him to 'act like a man'. He also remembered that his two sisters were often told off for not 'being ladylike'. He decided to use these examples to introduce his lesson.

He prepared two sheets with the following titles: 'Act like a man' and 'Be ladylike'. He asked the boys to say what it means to act like a man. When the boys ran out of ideas, he

asked the girls. He did the same for the boys, asking what words or expectations they had of someone who is ladylike. He wrote all their ideas on the sheets.

He drew boxes around certain words on the lists and explained that behaving in this way can stop pupils wanting to succeed. They talked about how it is alright for boys to like machines and sport and for girls to like cooking and looking after children, but the problem comes when we feel we must fulfil these roles 'to fit in'. Some girls may wish to work with machines etc. and some boys may want to look after children or be cooks, but they don't say so because they might be laughed at.

In small groups, the pupils discussed when they had felt under pressure to act in certain ways and did not want to. They discussed what they could do to be accepted as they were and perhaps do things differently to their parents or carers.

Activity 2: Reverse role play

In this activity, we want you to prepare some role plays where the 'normal' roles are reversed (see **Resource 3: Reverse role play** for an example). This may help you to think about different situations where you can swap the traditional roles played by men and women. Read **Key Resource: Using role play/dialogue/drama in the classroom**.

Explain to your class about the activities and their purpose and about not laughing at people, but to think about the issues raised as they watch.

After each role play, ask pupils to discuss, in mixed-gender groups, the following questions:

- What do you think about this situation?
- How did you feel when you were watching the role play, and why?
- What do our feelings show about how we see the roles of men and women in society?
- If the role play were the other way around, would you have felt differently?

If you have younger pupils, you will need to make your role plays quite simple. Also, you may feel you need to guide their discussion afterwards, rather than asking them to discuss the questions in groups.

3. Raising awareness of gender issues

There are many forms of abusive behaviour and it is girls and women who are more often the victims. This does not mean that boys cannot also be abused; just that girls and women have tended to have had a more passive role in society, while males have been more dominant.

If you are going to explore this area with your class, you will need to prepare very carefully and be able to support your pupils as some ideas may be very uncomfortable and challenging for them. You may also find that you uncover some incidences of abuse, and you must be prepared to support your pupils, sensitively and discreetly.

You may not feel equipped to deal with this sensitive subject alone – so you could follow the lead of Mrs Mukarusine in **Case Study 3**, who asked someone from a local NGO to come and assist with her class discussion on abuse.

Case Study 3: Using a local expert to help discuss sensitive issues

Mrs Mukarusine's Primary 5 class had been working for some weeks on gender stereotypes and how they can negatively affect girls' progress in the classroom and in life. It had been a difficult time for Mrs Mukarusine because the boys felt that they liked the status quo and did not see that it needed to be changed.

She decided to get in some expert help and contacted a local NGO which was working in rural development projects in their town. She had met a lady called Uwera who was their gender specialist.

Uwera came to the school and talked to the class about abuse. They identified that abuse can be mental as well as physical and sexual. Uwera told the class some stories of young people who had been abused by their parents, by other family members and even by people from their religious group. She also talked of ways in which these pupils had been helped and the organisations that help people in such situations. It made some of the pupils very upset that people can behave that way.

During the talk, Mrs Mukarusine noticed that two girls started crying. After the visit from Uwera, Mrs Mukarusine asked the two girls if they would like to go and talk to Uwera and she made appointments for them.

In the next lesson, Mrs Mukarusine asked her pupils to write about abuse and explain their feelings about it. From this, she was able to see how much each pupil had understood and was able to see how they had reacted to the stories Uwera told.

Key Activity: Organising a school event about gender issues

Having explored some issues about gender with your class, suggest to them that they share what they have found out with the rest of the school.

Ask them how they could do this. Could they:

- produce a play?
- do an assembly?
- write an information book?
- write a poem?

You could do more than one if you have a large class. Pupils could choose which group they join.

Once they have decided what they want to do, ask them to plan what to say and the best way to say it. Remind them to be sensitive to their audience and careful how they present their ideas.

Give them time to draft or practise what they are doing. When ready, allow them to present their play, book, poem or assembly to the class for constructive feedback, so that they can make any changes before they do the real performance or presentation to the school.

After the event, allow your pupils the opportunity to assess the impact of their actions.

Think how you can support your pupils and build on this task.

Resource 1: Gender Issues

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

- Gender describes those characteristics of men and women that are socially determined rather than biologically determined.
- Many of the pupils' reactions come from the way they have been socialised, which leads to an unconscious gender stereotyping.
- In the family, men are generally considered the heads, and decision-making is largely dominated by them.
- There are gender disparities in access to education, economic opportunities and health care.
- There are imbalances in employment by sector and sex. Within the agriculture sector, women are the major food producers.
- People are born male or female, but learn to be girls or boys who grow into women or men.
- People are taught what the appropriate behaviour and attitudes, roles and activities are for them, and how they should relate to other people. This learned behaviour is what makes up gender identity and determines gender roles.

Issues in gender teaching

- Gender issues are sensitive and therefore rules should be strictly observed in order to ensure that discussion does not become just a fight between the girls and the boys.
- You need to help both sexes appreciate the dilemmas and choices of the opposite sex.
- It is important for pupils to understand how gender stereotypes are reinforced by behaviour in the family, in the school and in society.

You need to help your pupils develop strategies and skills to challenge unfair gender situations

Resource 2: Gender – what do you think?

Pupil use

Read each statement and draw a ring around the score to show how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

- 5 means you fully agree.
- 1 means that you completely disagree.
- If you really do not know, you can circle 3.

a	Boys are stronger than girls	1	2	3	4	5
b	Cooking is a girl's job	1	2	3	4	5

c	Girls don't have time to study because of their chores	1	2	3	4	5
d	Girls wake up before boys	1	2	3	4	5
e	At school, girls do more work than boys	1	2	3	4	5
f	Boys are more intelligent than girls	1	2	3	4	5
g	Education is more important for boys as they must support a family when they are older	1	2	3	4	5

Resource 3: Reverse role play

Teacher resource for planning or adapting to use with pupils

Mrs Mukamurigo is late

Mr Nkusi is busy cleaning the house. He is carrying his baby, Munyana, on his back because she will not stop crying. Annie, the five-year-old, is pulling at his legs because she wants something. Mr Nkusi is obviously tired, but dinner is cooking on the small fire. He shouts at some older children outside to go and fetch more wood for the fire. He talks about his problems as he works. He is worried that there may not be enough food when his wife comes home from work at the council.

Mrs Mukamurigo arrives home. She is a little drunk and she is angry that the dinner is not ready and the house is not clean. She shouts at Mr Nkusi and they have an argument, then Mrs Mukamurigo hits Mr Nkusi and storms out of the house saying she is going to get her dinner somewhere else.

Resource 4: Gender violence

Example of pupils' work

Studies from around the world show that gender violence is a major feature of school life for many adolescent pupils, especially girls. For girls in Sub-Saharan Africa, particular aspects of this violence include sexual abuse and harassment by older male pupils and male teachers, and, in the vicinity of the school, by 'sugar daddies' who seek sex in exchange for money or gifts. Boys as well as girls are exposed to regular verbal abuse and insults from both teachers and other pupils, and excessive corporal punishment from both male and female teachers. Boys too may be victims of sexual abuse.

Violent schools are breeding grounds for potentially damaging gendered practices, which remain with the pupils into adult life. Some may themselves become abusers. When school authorities fail to clamp down on gender violence, they send the message to pupils that it is a 'normal' feature of life. Failure by those in authority to investigate allegations and report offenders, lack of prosecution of teachers and others guilty of sexual misconduct, and lack of information for parents and pupils about their rights and available channels for complaints, allow such behaviour to continue unchecked.

Gender violence is a sensitive area to research because it involves sexual abuse, which is a taboo topic, one that we would prefer to ignore. Abuse of schoolchildren remains largely hidden because victims are reluctant to talk about their experiences to teachers and parents, and those in authority may find easy excuses for a lack of action. In Ghana, as elsewhere, people prefer to talk about abuse as being something experienced by others.

Girls are particularly at risk of violence and abuse because:

- women and girls occupy a subordinate status in society and are expected to be obedient and submissive – this makes it difficult for them to resist or complain;
- boys learn that masculine behaviour involves being aggressive towards females;
- girls who make allegations of sexual abuse by teachers and other men are often not believed;
- teachers often fail to take action against boys who use aggressive and intimidating behaviour towards girls;
- girls have fewer opportunities to earn casual income than boys, so poverty pushes some girls into having sex as a means of paying school fees or meeting living expenses. Engaging in transactional sex or sex with multiple partners increases the risk of HIV and AIDS.

Gender violence includes:

- sexual harassment and abuse;
- bullying, intimidation and threats;
- verbal abuse, taunts and insults;
- physical violence and assault, including corporal punishment and other physical punishments;
- emotional abuse (e.g. tempting someone into a sexual relationship under false pretences such as promises of marriage);
- psychological abuse (e.g. threatening to beat up a pupil or fail them in an exam).

The government of Ghana has made a concerted effort to increase enrolments at primary and JSS levels, especially among girls. The establishment of a Girls' Education Unit in the Ghana Education Service and the appointment of Girls' Education Officers at the regional and district levels to oversee improvements in girls' participation are significant developments. Despite these efforts, girls continue to be enrolled in fewer numbers than boys, and to have higher dropout rates and lower achievement. It may be that abusive and intimidating behaviour in schools undermines efforts to improve girls' participation.

There is an urgent need for a more coordinated, proactive and system-wide response to combat the problem of school-based abuse. The study revealed weaknesses in terms of linkages between the district education office and the national level response to violence and abuse in the school environment. A holistic approach is required, working with all categories of stakeholders, e.g. teachers, parents, pupils, government officials in education, health and social welfare, the police, child protection agencies and NGOs working with woman and children. The example of one head teacher's misconduct is informative, as it shows how difficult it still is for communities to gain redress, despite efforts to delegate powers of educational decision-making to regional and local bodies and to give political voice to the people through district assemblies and bodies such as school management committees.

1 Schools should:

- 1 develop specialised curriculum inputs on abuse within a human rights framework, and provide gender-based training courses, workshops and materials for all teachers;
- 2 provide pupils with gender awareness training to eliminate negative perceptions about girls and make boys aware of the negative impact of aggressive behaviour, e.g. through clubs;

- 3 ensure that pupils receive information on child abuse, children's rights and protection through the life skills curriculum and other materials; ensure that they know how to report cases of abusive actions, whether to parents, teachers or adult relatives;
- 4 teach life skills and Geography and Citizenship through methods that engage pupils in discussion and reflection on their own experiences. Skilled facilitators are needed;
- 5 engage peer educators to visit schools to talk about sexual violence and other issues that concern pupils.

2 Head teachers and teachers

School head teachers are crucial in ensuring that pupils learn in a supportive environment. Less authoritarian schools are not necessarily ones with poor discipline. Strong leadership is key.

Studies show that schools with high attendance and achievement are those where expectations of both teacher and pupil behaviour are high, where the school culture is supportive of both (and includes teacher professional development) and where regulations are enforced fairly and firmly.

School head teachers can work with teachers to:

- create a pupil-friendly environment that is conducive for learning, by working with pupils, especially girls, supporting their personal development and protecting their rights;
- attach importance to gender equity in a whole-school approach;
- take effective action against cases of abuse and bullying in the school, confront the issues and deal with them as serious disciplinary matters;
- consider setting up a Student Council with pupil representation and involvement in decision-making;
- foster more trusting relationships between pupils and teachers. The research shows that pupils distrust their teachers and rarely confide in them;
- strengthen G&C teaching so that it engages pupils with the issues and develops understanding. A traditional didactic approach is not suitable. Allow space for reflection, analysis and open discussion of taboo topics. Life skills should promote consent, negotiation and consultation in adolescent relationships rather than power domination and control.

Parents and carers should be encouraged to:

- listen to what children tell them and refrain from blaming girls when they make allegations;
- provide their children, especially girls, with basic school items;
- refrain from using abusive language towards children;
- show interest in their children's progress in school, monitor their attendance and discuss their education with teachers;
- refrain from entering into negotiations for compensation with teachers who have made their daughters pregnant.

Adapted from: Gender Violence in Schools: Ghana 3 Newsletter March 2004

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Section 3: Looking at work and employment

Key Focus Question: How can different ways of grouping pupils develop understanding of work and employment?

Keywords: group work; collaboration; debate; local contexts; work; employment

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this section, you will have:

- used 'think-pair-share' to help your pupils realise the importance of work in the home and community;
- prepared collaborative (joint) activities and assessed individual learning;
- used local contexts and resources to motivate pupils to understand about work and employment.

Introduction

The way you group pupils for discussion can make a big difference to their learning experience. Sometimes you will want to group them according to ability; sometimes you will want to mix quicker and slower pupils. If you have a large and/or multigrade class, you may need to group them according to age or grade. In this section, you will use different forms of grouping for both individual and collaborative working to help pupils discuss and reflect on their understanding of work and employment.

You can also use local contexts and resources to motivate pupils so that they use their own initiative to make useful and saleable items from local materials.

1. Using group work and pair work to explore employment

Young people and adults do different activities as work and employment. In this section, we suggest you use a 'think-pair-share' approach to help your pupils explore the meaning of work and employment and its importance.

Exploring where the money comes from to provide things at home is a good starting place for this topic.

In **Activity 1** you ask your pupils to think about the different kinds of work in your community and discuss the difference between work and employment. **Case Study 1** shows some pupils' ideas about different types of employment.

Case Study 1: Group working and debate

Mr Petrus' Grade 5 class in South Africa had been working on different forms of employment in the country. He now wanted them to focus on the local community.

Mr Petrus split the class into two. He asked one half to identify all the local employers and prepare an argument saying why it is better to be employed. He asked the other half of the class to identify different informal ways to make money and prepare an argument saying why it is better to earn money this way. After 20 minutes of preparation time, each group gave in their list and Mr Petrus wrote it on the board – making sure he didn't duplicate ideas (see **Resource 1: Ways of earning money** for their list). They discussed the lists and realised that the work is the same in some cases, whether formal or informal, paid or unpaid.

In the next lesson, they held a debate, with each group nominating a speaker to present their argument. At the end, they held a vote on whether formal or informal employment is better. Even after the vote, the pupils continued to discuss the ideas, which pleased Mr Petrus.

Activity 1: Using think-pair-share to explore work activities

Use the '*think-pair-share*' approach for pupils to identify different ways to make money and explore pupils' employment opportunities.

- Ask your pupils to each *think* of the different ways there are to earn money. Give each pupil five minutes.
- Next, pair them with their neighbour and ask them to share their ideas. (If your pupils sit in desk groups of three, you could use threes instead of pairs.) They combine their ideas to make one list for each pair or three. Allow ten minutes.
- Ask each pair or three to give their ideas and list them on the board.
- Discuss the distinction between work and employment. Make sure they understand that people must work in their homes and on the land, and this is different from the work they do as employment for which they get paid.

Ask the pupils to share how they would like to be employed in the future.

2. Exploring different kinds of work

Hearing from others how they do their different activities can help your pupils understand what variety of jobs there are and what they would like to do themselves. Inviting a guest to talk to them about what they do can help pupils understand how a particular kind of

work is done. Taking pupils outside school will excite and motivate them and give them a real understanding of many jobs.

Key Resource: Using the local community/environment as a resource provides guidelines on inviting visitors to your classroom.

Case Study 2: Talking about work and employment

To help her pupils develop the concepts of work and employment, and understand the importance of work, Primary 5 teacher Niyitegeka talked to her pupils about work and the future. She found that most of her class wanted to go to Kigali Institute of Science and Technology so that they could get good jobs and earn lots of money. Most of them wanted to move to KigaliCity.

To show her pupils real-life experiences, Niyitegeka invited a local shopkeeper, Habinshuti, to come to the school and tell the pupils how he started his business. They learned that starting a shop and running it involves hard work. It also needs money; he got a loan from Agaseke Microfinance to start his business. He had paid back nearly all of his loan and would soon own his business.

Niyitegeka also invited a friend of hers, Nikuze, who used to live in their village but had gone to university and now worked in Banque Populaire in Kimironko in KigaliCity. Nikuze explained that she had always wanted to work in a bank and she had studied hard to become an accountant.

After the visits, the class held a debate on whether it is better to stay in your village and run your own business or to go to university and get a job. The class had learned much about how work and employment were related to their efforts at school and in the wider community.

Activity 2: Visiting a local business

Take your class (or in smaller groups, in turns) to a local market and let them see what happens there. Pair the pupils carefully to make sure they stay focused on the task and do not get distracted while out of school. Prepare for the activity by arranging with some of the market traders to answer some questions from the pupils about their business. You will need to prepare a worksheet/questionnaire for your pupils (see **Resource 2: Worksheet for the visit to the market**). If you do not have the resources to make a worksheet, then in the previous lesson write some questions on the board and ask the pupils to copy them into their books – leaving spaces for the answers they will get at the market. Also, ask the pupils what they want to find out and add these questions to the list.

If you think it is more appropriate, you could take the class to a local bank or other place of employment, but you will still need to plan this and have some questions or tasks for them to do or ask when there. After the visit, the pupils can write up and/or discuss what they learned about work. Summarise these thoughts on the board and/or ask the pupils to give short presentations in groups of their observations and findings.

3. Developing entrepreneurial skills

In the previous activities, your pupils have found out more about work and employment through group work and have also heard life experiences of people who are employed or earn a living.

In the **Key Activity**, you give pupils the opportunity to be involved in a task that will extend their skills and which they might be able to use to gain an income.

Case Study 3 shows how one teacher set up a mini-enterprise to give her pupils experience of work and employment.

Case Study 3: Using local recycled materials to sew and make an income

Mrs Kayitesi Zainabu is a vocational skills teacher in a primary school in Kayonza, a small town in Eastern Rwanda. Near the school there are three tailoring shops. The area around the tailoring shops was littered with small pieces of cloth that the tailors had thrown away. Mrs Kayitesi and her class thought that they could use the pieces of cloth to make useful items during their needlework lessons. She asked the tailors to collect all the pieces of cloth for her instead of throwing them away.

Mrs Kayitesi used the cloth to teach the pupils how to sew. They cut, neatly hemmed and stitched them to make handkerchiefs, scarves and small tablecloths. Since most of the pupils did not have a handkerchief or scarf, each pupil was given one. The rest of the handkerchiefs and the small tablecloths were sold at very reasonable prices in school and the village.

One boy and one girl were chosen to record how much money they were paid. They also had to pay for the needles and threads they used. The profit was used to buy sugar to put into their porridge. The pupils were very happy because there was no more littering from the tailors and they could now take porridge with sugar.

Key Activity: Working for our school

It is now time to put all your pupils' knowledge about work and employment to the test by doing an activity that will benefit the school or home.

- Discuss and identify activities that they can do as projects to help them develop skills, while at the same time being beneficial to the school/home. Decide together which are the two best ideas to carry out. Examples could be: making baskets, mats, ropes or brooms, or collecting plastic bags and bottles for recycling. The kind of activity will depend on the context of the school.
- Pupils choose to work on one of the two selected projects. You will need to help them in planning their project and collecting the resources. Local experts and other community members could help and advise you on what to do.
- Discuss with the pupils what they can do with the products they get from their project (whether they can be used in school, at home or possibly sold to make money).
- Discuss with the pupils the usefulness of their projects and the skills they have developed.

- You might want to plan a day to sell some of your goods and use the profits to buy things that would benefit the whole class.

Point out to the pupils that the activities they do both at home and in school as work can help them develop skills that they can use to gain employment in the future.

Resource 1: Ways of earning money – Mr Petrus' class list

Example of pupils' work

Formal ways to earn money

- Work for the government.
- Work for a company.
- Work for a small-business person.
- Run own business.
- Make things.
- Work for an NGO.
- Work at a clinic.
- Be a teacher.
- Build furniture.
- Work in a garage.
- Be a plumber.

Informal ways to earn money

- Sell things.
- Grow things.
- Sell hot food to workers.
- Sew.
- Fix cars.
- Street trading.
- Be a local guide.
- Be a domestic worker.
- Be a gardener.

Resource 2: Worksheet for the visit to the market

Pupil use

1. **How many market stalls are there in the market?**
2. **What different goods are sold there?**
3. **Who owns/is in charge of the market?**
4. **What are the opening hours?**
5. **Where is the next nearest market?**

Resource 3: Worksheet for the visit to the market

Pupil use

1. **How did you start your business?**
2. **Where do the goods come from that you sell?**
3. **How do you calculate your selling prices?**
4. **How do you calculate your profits?**

5. **What form of transport do you use to come to market?**

6. **How far from the market do you live?**

7. **What is the biggest problem for the market traders?**

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Section 4: Exploring the environment

Key Focus Question: How can you gather data to develop pupils' learning about the environment?

Keywords: environment; data gathering; assessment; diaries; real-life stories

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this section, you will have:

- used real-life stories, data gathering and diaries to develop understanding of environmental issues;
- planned, carried out and reflected on an action on a local environmental issue;
- assessed the learning of the class and the success of the project.

Introduction

A major issue across the world is the impact that people have on their environment. If we use up or misuse resources and pollute the environment we have a negative effect on wildlife and crops, and we run the risk of damaging the world for future generations.

As a teacher, and a responsible citizen, you need to be aware of environmental matters and act as a role model for your pupils as well as helping them to understand the issues. You can do this best by giving them activities that involve gathering information about the environment, both locally and more widely, and using what they find out to think about the consequences of different actions.

1. Focus on the local environment

Learning about some of the complex concepts about the environment needs you as the teacher to break down the ideas into smaller parts and build up the picture in a logical way. Pupils find this easier if you think about the ideas they already have and you use the local environment to show them how these ideas relate to their situation.

There are many ways to do this. This first part of the section focuses on gathering information from your pupils' own experiences to explore the concepts and their own responsibilities and rights.

Case Study 1: Researching local water use

Mrs Namhlane in Nigeria was starting a topic on the local environment with her large Primary 2 class, looking at the importance of water in everyone's life.

To stimulate her pupils' interest in the topic, she decided to set up a class research project. First, she asked them to get into groups of six to eight people who lived in the same part of the community and told them that there were three people coming into school next day – one from each part of the community – to talk about how they got and used water. She asked them to think about and write down questions to ask. These area groups shared their questions together so that each area group could check they had thought about all aspects.

The next day, each visitor talked, either in the classroom or outside under a tree, with pupils from their area. The groups asked their questions in different ways – in one group different pupils asked one question each, in another group a girl and a boy asked all the questions and the others took notes.

After the visit, pupils were asked to list three important things they had found out and report to the whole class. Mrs Namhlane asked each group in turn to tell what they had found out but not to repeat any answer already recorded on the board.

They then discussed the problems that there were about water and thought of possible solutions (see **Resource 1: Problems of getting water**).

Activity 1: Keeping a 'water diary'

Ask your pupils to keep a 'water diary' for one week. They will record (perhaps on a wall chart) how much water they use and what they use it for (see **Resource 2: Water usage diary** for a possible template).

After a week, ask them to work in groups and to list all the uses in their group and then put them in the order of which activities use most water and which use least. Display each list on the wall and allow them to read each other's lists before having a final session together discussing the issues about water in their area.

You may want to consider questions like: Where does our water come from? Does everyone have access to water? Is our water clean and safe? How could our water services be improved? How can we help?

You could also link this activity to number work (by looking at the data – the amount of water used), to science (why water is essential to life) and to social studies (the problems of providing water in some parts of Africa).

2. Using stories to explore environmental issues

Drawing is a useful way to explore pupils' ideas about any topic. It allows them to show their ideas without having to speak aloud or be able to write. It is especially useful with young pupils and provides a way for them to talk about their ideas. The drawings do not have to be of a high standard but have to tell a story or show an idea.

Using stories is another way of encouraging pupils to think more deeply about a problem. It removes the focus from the individual and allows pupils to talk more openly. Stories can also provide a wider perspective for pupils and give them inspiration. **Case Study 2** and **Activity 2** show how you could use both techniques in your classroom.

Case Study 2: Stories and environmental issues

Mr Karisa read **Resource 3: The story of the selfish farmer** to his Primary 4 class to stimulate their ideas about the Earth and its resources.

He then gave his pupils a small piece of paper and asked them to draw a picture of 'why the farmer was selfish'.

He explained the idea carefully and encouraged them not to copy, but think of their own ideas. As the pupils finished, they stuck their pictures on the wall. Mr Karisa asked some pupils to say what their drawings were about and he tried to guess what some were. The pupils enjoyed this very much.

Next, he led a discussion about how important it was for everyone to look after the land. They listed together on the board how people in the local community used the land and looked after it.

He then asked them some questions, which they discussed in groups. For example:

- How did the people use the land?
- Did they look after it?
- In what ways could the farmer have looked after his land?
- Who did the work?
- Was the land productive? If so, why? If not, why not?
- How could they improve the way they looked after the land?

More can be found in **Resource 4: Questions concerning use of the land**.

At the end of the day, Mr Karisa asked the pupils to look on their way home at all the different ways the land was being used and to come back the next day with any that could be added to their list.

Activity 2: Leaders and the environment

This activity looks more widely at the importance of looking after our environment.

Resource 5: Charles Gahire tells the story of a Rwandan man, Charles Gahire, who founded an environmental group called REASON. You can also read the story of a Nigerian woman who worked to raise awareness of environmental issues in Nigeria. Read this before you plan your lesson.

- Tell your class this story. On the wall have a number of words spelled out clearly, for example 'erosion', 'afforestation'.
- After you have read the story, discuss these words and their meanings.
- Ask your pupils, in pairs, to imagine themselves as someone like Charles Gahire. What particular environmental issue would they like to do something about? How would they do this? Move around the class and ask pairs with good ideas to explain their ideas to the rest of the class.

Ask them to look closely at their local environment as they go home and see if there are other issues they had not noticed before and share these the next day. Make a list of their five favourite issues.

Organising a campaign

As a teacher, you need to help pupils understand their responsibility to their environment in ways that stimulate their interest and develop a caring attitude towards it. In the **Key Activity**, a poster campaign is used as a stimulus and in **Case Study 3**, a small-scale project is described that shows how different groups can interact in order to make a difference.

As the pupils work through such a project, your role is to be well prepared to anticipate some of their needs and provide resources to support their learning. If you have a large class, you will have to think how you can involve all your pupils and perhaps divide the tasks up between groups. With younger pupils, you may have to plan to do something on a much smaller scale and involve some members of the community in helping you more.

Case Study 3: Planning and carrying out a class 'clean-up' campaign

A class in Gasabo District decided to launch a 'clean-up' campaign. The teacher Mrs Kagoyire had been working on a cross-curricular theme with the title 'looking after our land'.

Having spent one morning walking around the school and the area just outside it, Mrs Kagoyire and her class discussed what they had seen. They listed everything they liked about the area and also those areas or things they would like to change or improve.

They decided they could work on two small areas to clean up the environment – the school playground and the local stream. The class was divided into two groups with two teams working in each area. The teams discussed what they could do and then shared their ideas with their other team. They agreed who would do which tasks and then each team worked out its own action plan for the week, around school hours.

The class carried out the clean-up over a one-week period. They then made a display in the school hall that showed:

- the amount and type of material collected in the clean-up;
- their plans for keeping the environment attractive and litter-free in the future;
- how to dispose of the litter, including recycling and reusing some of it and burning or burying some.

The assembly went well and many pupils from other classes were pleased at the work done and helped to keep the school area tidier.

Key Activity: Taking action on environmental issues

This activity builds on your pupils' raised awareness of litter and waste management and takes a step-by-step approach to learning through action.

Step 1 – Ask the class (perhaps working in pairs) to identify litter and waste issues in and around the school. Select one issue (probably the one that was mentioned the most).

Step 2 – Work with the class to design a 'plan of action'. To do this, ask each pair to suggest ways of solving the problem. Make sure that the agreed plan of action you develop is realistic and can be attempted by the class. Give out tasks to groups of pupils.

Make the plan into a large poster with deadlines that can be displayed on the class walls.

Step 3 – Take action: this might involve days or months of work but make sure each group keeps a record of what they do, when and in which order.

Step 4 – As they complete each part of the action plan, ask them to record their progress on the poster.

Step 5 – On completion, reflect on the success of the action with the class. What went well? What did they learn? What were the problems? What could they do to extend this idea? Is the area staying clean?

Resource 1: Problems of getting water

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

- Long distances to travel to obtain water.
- Leaving younger children behind to get water.
- Pupils out of school to collect water.
- Is the water clean and safe?
- Size of containers to carry water and weight of water to carry over long distances.
- Time taken to obtain water stops people from doing other things.
- The water collected may be contaminated by poor sanitation and animals' use.
- Open to infection by water-borne diseases.
- Drought can restrict access to clean water.
- Lack of infrastructure e.g. pipes and storage containers to capture rainwater etc.
- Lack of systems to purify water.
- Lack of education about ways to use and keep safe natural water resources.
- No sustained access to water

Resource 2: Water usage diary

Pupil use

Each time you use water to have a drink or cook, etc. put a tick in the appropriate box.

	Drinking	Cooking	Washing	Cleaning the house	Other
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					

Resource 3: The story of the selfish farmer

Teacher resource for planning or adapting to use with pupils

There was once a young farmer, who had a wife and two children, who lived in a small village. The farmer had inherited his farm from his hardworking grandfather whom he loved. While being sad at the death of his grandfather, the farmer was pleased to be his own boss and own all the land.

He was a hardworking young man and he maintained the farm as well, if not better, than his grandfather. He had learned a lot from his grandfather but also had learned well at school and read all about different ways to preserve water and tend the ground, which increased his crops. However, he was not like his grandfather in that he would not share his ideas or extra produce with other farmers and growers in the village.

The villagers were surprised when they went to ask for some seeds or advice to be told to get off his land. His wife was not happy about this but respected his views. The villagers watched what he did and some tried to copy the things he did but without as much success. Others just laughed or moaned about what he was doing.

One very dry season, the crops in the village did not do well. There was little water as the stream had dried up and there was a long walk of over six kilometres to the next source of water, which meant that only water for drinking was brought back.

The selfish farmer, however, had plenty of water and food, but did not help villagers who came to seek help. His wife begged him but he did not change his mind. He had put up guttering and sheets to catch the rainwater and stored this in big drums that he had collected so when the drought came he was able to water his plants, which grew as well as ever.

As it got hotter and hotter and drier and drier, people's crops began to fail and many were hungry. The wife tried to persuade her husband to help the villagers. The children tried to persuade their father, but he would not listen. He said he had worked hard and it was his and the others were lazy or had not planned ahead.

However, one day, a very thin and ragged man came to the farm to ask for food for his ill wife. The farmer shouted at him to go away but his wife stopped him and said: 'Don't you recognise your cousin?' The farmer was shocked at how thin and old his cousin looked. The cousin explained how he'd tried to save water but failed, and so his crops failed.

The farmer told him what he could do next time. But his wife said he is too weak to do this unless you give him and his wife food. The farmer relented and gave the cousin food. The cousin returned a week later saying his wife was getting better and could he have more

food. The farmer was going to say no but his wife told him that they were so hungry it would not be enough to give just one lot of food. The farmer gave the food and over the next few days he slowly changed his ideas as he thought about how selfish and thoughtless he had been to his grandfather's memory and to his neighbours. So he asked the villagers to his farm and shared his food with them and promised to help them prepare better for the next crops

Resource 4: Questions concerning the use of land

Pupil use

1. How many different ways can we use the land? Make a list.
2. Why is it important to look after the land?
3. Why are some people more selfish than others? Why should we share our land?
4. How can we encourage people to share? Should we share everything?
5. Do we look after our land well?
6. Who else do we share our land with?
7. How can we look after the land better?
8. What can we, as a class, do to look after the school land?

Resource 5: Charles Gahire

Teacher resource for planning or adapting to use with pupils

Charles Gahire of REASON

After the 1994 genocide, a Rwandan environmental campaigner, Charles Gahire, started an organisation called REASON. The organisation was unique at that time, when most

organisations were being formed to provide humanitarian assistance. At that time the environment was not a priority. Trees in particular were being cut down countrywide for building shelter and providing fuel wood. There was a lot of waste and litter throughout the country, resulting from distribution and supply of relief food, water and medicine from international NGOs and the government. Wildlife in the country was not spared either.

REASON was started with the vision of environmental concerns shaping daily thinking and actions at work, at home, in recreation, and in other activities. Its mission was to take a lead in fostering environmental education and public awareness, advocacy and sensitisation among the people of Rwanda. It had the following specific objectives:

- 1 To impart knowledge to the youth and community regarding issues of the environment.
- 2 To create environmental awareness among all stakeholders through changes in attitude and belief so as to bring issues of environment closer to humankind.
- 3 To encourage the adoption of skilled knowledge through hands-on projects in environmental programmes.

Since its inception, REASON has been able to accomplish the following towards the protection of the environment.

- Afforestation and tree-planting campaigns in various parts of Rwanda.
- Soil erosion and deforestation campaigns.
- Campaigned against the importation and use of non-biodegradable materials like plastics in the country.
- Initiated the 'Keep Kigali City Clean and Green' campaign.
- Campaigned against the use of asbestos as a roofing material as it was scientifically proven to be carcinogenic.

REASON is convinced that prevention of harmful effects is less costly than their subsequent correction. For this reason, environmental considerations are entertained at all levels of planning in order to ensure that the pattern and style of development is consistent with a healthy environment, which is essential to the well-being of present and future generations.

Mary Ojerinde

In Nigeria, Mary Ojerinde, the daughter of a pastoral farmer who studied agriculture, noticed the impact of overgrazing in her village and the adjoining villages and had made up her mind to do something about it in her adult life. This life ambition of hers made her form a group, The Green Revolution Movement.

The aim of the group is to protect the environment from desert encroachment in the northern part of Nigeria. The group, consisting of many professionals, community leaders and local farmers interested in protecting the environment, encouraged the planting of trees and creation of grazing land for the Fulani herdsmen in specific areas in the villages. The group also held regular counselling sessions with the farmers on land use management and other environmentally friendly methods of rearing animals with increased productivity.

This made Mary Ojerinde a heroine among her colleagues in the Institute of Agricultural Research, where she works, and in the surrounding villages.

In order to promote positive attitudes towards environmental protection, the group visited a number of schools and encouraged them to set up Environmental Protection Clubs that focus on why it is important to look after the land and how to look after the land better. The

activities to engage in, as suggested by Mary Ojerinde, include cleaning the school environment of litter and waste, creating drainage and cleaning blocked drainage in nearby villages, and planting flowers and trees, particularly fruit-bearing ones like mangoes, guavas and oranges, in particular places on the school compound. The movement engages in awareness campaigns on the dangers of overgrazing and illegal felling of trees. All these activities were built into a work plan on a large poster with datelines that could be displayed on the class walls.

The local government learned about the activities of the group and the chairman had decided to fund all the educational aspects of the group's campaign. Mary Ojerinde had also been requested to launch the group in other parts of the State.

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Section 5: Sensitive ways to raise HIV and AIDS

Key Focus Question: How can you teach a sensitive topic like HIV and AIDS in a constructive and supportive manner?

Keywords: active learning; sensitivity; quizzes; role play; HIV and AIDS

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this section, you will have:

- prepared yourself for teaching a sensitive subject such as HIV and AIDS, using a variety of resources including the Internet;
- used different methods such as role play and local experts to ensure active learning;
- created a sensitive learning environment to develop understanding of HIV and AIDS.

Introduction

As a primary teacher, you will be aware of the importance of helping your pupils deal with the impact of HIV and AIDS on their lives, in terms of knowledge about the facts of HIV and AIDS, the safety of their own health and the health of others.

This is a difficult subject for some teachers and pupils to cope with and for that reason some teachers prefer to 'leave it to the experts'. However, there are many ways you can provide a sensitive learning environment to help your pupils explore this topic if you plan carefully. This section will help you to prepare and plan using a variety of resources – colleagues, outside experts, text and the Internet. You will develop skills in using role play

in your teaching about HIV and AIDS and create some classroom rules to provide a supportive learning environment. This section does not cover everything to do with HIV and AIDS but does help show approaches you could use.

1. Focus on planning

You are probably facing two specific challenges when preparing lessons on HIV and AIDS. The first is confidence in your own knowledge and the second is that it is a sensitive subject and potentially difficult to teach. If there are any doubts in your own mind about whether HIV and AIDS education should be taught in school, you should discuss it with your head teacher. However, it is important that everyone understands about HIV and AIDS.

It is critical that you are well prepared before you bring up this topic with your pupils. You must know the facts and prepare yourself to answer questions that may be difficult for you. This part will help you to prepare yourself well to teach HIV and AIDS.

You should also think about the pupils in your class and how each pupil might respond to this topic. What you cover will depend very much on the age of your pupils and how much you believe they know about the subject already.

Case Study 1: Planning to teach about HIV/AIDS

Mrs Shikongo in Tanzania was preparing herself to teach her Grade 4 class about HIV and AIDS and she was rather nervous. What if the children asked questions she couldn't answer? She knew it was important to be properly prepared and thought about how she could do this. She made some notes of the things she needed to do.

- 1 Speak to the Grade 5 teacher. He attended an HIV and AIDS workshop in Nairobi. Ask if he has any workshop notes or other resources that could be borrowed.
- 2 Look in the school library to see if there are any booklets or other information for teachers or pupils.
- 3 Ask the principal if there is an HIV and AIDS advisory teacher in our area and contact them for background material.
- 4 Find out if there are any NGOs or clinics in town that have information on HIV and AIDS.
- 5 Collect together the resources, then plan some time to go through them and make notes of important facts. Read the resources with the age of my pupils in mind and see if I could use them.
- 6 Think about how to make it easy for my pupils to learn about this subject and be able to discuss their own views. How can I make sure that their learning is not blocked by embarrassment?
- 7 Do we need special 'rules' by which we discuss such a sensitive subject?
- 8 Think about how to assess how much the pupils have learned.

Having done her planning, Mrs Shikongo taught her first lesson on HIV and AIDS. Her class were nervous at first but as the lesson went on they listened and participated well. Many of them talked about the lesson during break time. Some asked her questions that she said she would answer in the next class.

Activity 1: Preparing to teach HIV and AIDS

Prepare yourself by researching the facts of HIV and AIDS and thinking about how you will teach it to your pupils. (See **Resource 1: HIV and AIDS in Africa** for information and useful Internet links you could use.)

Make notes, thinking about the following:

- Check with your head teacher that he or she is happy for you to do this.
- Where will you get information?
- Is there a resource person in your school? Town? District?
- Are there NGOs or medical centres working with HIV and AIDS education?
- How will you collect this information?
- How will you judge what information is appropriate for your pupils?
- Think about the age of the pupils and size of the class.
- How will you organise the classroom and your pupils?
- Would your pupils benefit from having a local expert come to talk to them to build on your class work? Should they come at the start of this work or later?
- What other resources do you have access to? Is there a computer room in your school where the class can access the Internet or you can gather information?
- Are there any pupils who may react strongly to this subject? How will you deal with different reactions?
- Plan your introductory lesson.

2. Preparing pupils to discuss sensitive topics

Discipline is important in every classroom. However, the topic of HIV and AIDS can cause pupils to react differently to the way they behave in other lessons. In **Module 1, Section 4** you devised classroom rules. You may find that you need to extend those rules to encourage open discussions about HIV and AIDS and sexual activity. It can be a helpful lead in to the topic to discuss with your class why special rules are needed and ask them to suggest the rules themselves.

Resource 2: The classroom atmosphere gives some guidelines on how to make sure the classroom is an enabling environment in which your pupils can explore the topic of HIV/AIDS.

Case Study 2: Dealing with difficult pupils in class

Kabana was very tired – it had been a difficult day. She is a student teacher on practical teaching at Ahazaza Primary School and her mentor had asked her to teach some lessons to Primaries 4, 5 and 6 on HIV and AIDS. She did not feel very confident. They had been given some sessions on this at college (see **Resource 2**), which helped her prepare. She had been confident about working with the younger pupils, but had been very concerned about the Primary 6 class. There are a lot of older boys in that class and Kabana felt sure they would disrupt the lessons.

She was right; she had just started the first lesson about developing the new classroom rules when Mugabo started to ask her questions about her own sex life. She was shocked at first, but she quickly told him not to be personal and carried on. Then, during group work, the class had got very rowdy and noisy with lots of laughter and her mentor had come to see what all the noise was about.

Kabana split up the noisy boys' group, but when they were giving feedback Mugabo and his friends kept describing explicit sexual behaviour to make the class laugh and make her embarrassed. She reminded them of the class rules and said they risked not being able to participate if they could not be responsible. She had dealt with them well, by ignoring most of their comments or turning the comments around to make a factual point. But it had been exhausting and she was glad when the bell went for the end of school. Next time, she would talk to these boys before the lesson about respect and what she would do if they misbehaved. She would try to help them understand the importance of the topic.

Activity 2: Creating an enabling learning environment

First read **Resource 2**.

Part of your preparation for teaching about HIV and AIDS with your class involves preparing the pupils as well as yourself. You learned earlier about developing classroom rules to help effective learning on sensitive topics. Now you need to do this with your own class.

- 1 Explain to the class that you are going to be doing some work on HIV and AIDS.
- 2 Review the existing classroom rules that you have by putting the class into groups to discuss if they are relevant.
- 3 Ask each group to think of no more than three extra rules they would like to have during this work.
- 4 Each group suggests their additional rules, which are written on the board.
- 5 As a class, agree the additional rules you want.
- 6 Discuss all the rules with the class, including the new ones, and make sure everyone is clear why these rules are needed for this topic.

What will you do if they ignore the rules? Agree with your class what limits or sanctions you will use.

3. Using role play and scenarios

If pupils are to learn actively, then they need to be either physically or mentally active – or both! There are many ways you can promote active learning to make sure your pupils are getting the most out of their lessons. Which methods you use to teach HIV and AIDS will depend very much on the size of your class and the age of your pupils – and also on what you know about their preferred methods of learning.

You know that role play is a good strategy to use for helping pupils discuss sensitive topics. In HIV and AIDS lessons, it will allow pupils to discuss situations that are not their own but to think about how these relate to their own experiences. This is used in the **Key Activity**.

Another effective method is the quiz (see **Resource 3: HIV and AIDS quiz**). In **Case Study 3**, one teacher uses a quiz activity to find out how much her primary class knows about HIV and AIDS.

Case Study 3: Using a quiz activity to learn about HIV and AIDS

Mugire used the Internet to prepare herself for working on HIV and AIDS with her class. She is lucky that she is upgrading her teaching qualification through distance learning and has access to the computer room at the study centre.

She found the website listed in **Resource 1** and decided to try one of the activities found there. This is set out in **Resource 4: Transmission runaround**.

Mugire followed the instructions and found that the method was very helpful in discovering some of the misconceptions her pupils had about HIV and AIDS. She also found that it took much longer with her big class of 56 pupils, and it was a bit chaotic the first time she did it.

So, the next time, she split the class into two groups and had one group write about things they knew or thought they did about HIV and AIDS while the others did the activity. In the following lesson, she swapped the groups around. Between lessons she was able to think about what the pupils already knew or thought they knew about HIV and AIDS and this helped her plan the next lesson.

Key Activity: Role play for HIV/AIDS lessons

Plan some role play lessons on an HIV and AIDS theme (see **Resource 5: Role play for HIV/AIDS lessons**) that are suitable for the age of your pupils. If they are sexually active, you might focus on prevention. Here are some examples of scenarios to use:

- John says he is in love with Mary. On a date, when they are alone, John tries to pressurise Mary to have sex with him.
- Jennifer, a pretty and clever girl, does not have the beautiful things some of her classmates have. Her uncle introduces her to his friend who likes Jennifer and wants to 'look after' her – but only if she will have sex with him.

You could use these scenarios to discuss the problems first and then ask your pupils to role play ways to deal with the problem.

With younger pupils, you could devise role plays which deal with misconceptions such as:

- Precious and Becky are in the washrooms at school. Precious wants to use the toilet but she says she will wait until she gets home or go in the bush because she does not want to catch AIDS.

Make your plan and then carry out the lesson. At the end, ask yourself: How well did it go? What did you do well? How could you improve your approach to help pupils understand and feel secure?

Resource 6: Support for HIV/AIDS issues in Rwanda gives the contact details for many Rwanda-based HIV/AIDS organisations that may well be able to help you with projects/teaching materials etc.

Resource 1: HIV and AIDS in Africa

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

<http://www.avert.org/> (Accessed 2008)

This is the web homepage of an organisation called AVERT, an international HIV and AIDS charity based in the UK, with the aim of AVERTing (preventing) HIV and AIDS worldwide.

You will find a good deal of useful information for teachers on this site.

HIV and AIDS useful facts and statistics for Sub-Saharan Africa

The AVERT site gives figures which your pupils may ask about. It also has a very useful guide to understanding the statistics.

Here is the summary of statistics for Africa. You will find more details for your own country on the website.

Sub-Saharan Africa is more heavily affected by HIV and AIDS than any other region of the world. An estimated 24.5 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2005 and approximately 2.7 million new infections occurred during that year. In just the past year the epidemic has claimed the lives of an estimated 2 million people in this region. More than 12 million children have been orphaned by AIDS.



Mother and child at Nsanje district hospital in Malawi, both HIV+

The extent of the epidemic is only now becoming clear in many African countries, as increasing numbers of people with HIV are becoming ill. In the absence of massively expanded prevention, treatment and care efforts, it is expected that the AIDS death toll on the continent will continue to rise. This means that the epidemic's impact on these societies will be felt most strongly in the course of the next ten years and beyond. Its social and economic consequences are already widely felt, not only in the health sector but also in education, industry, agriculture, transport, human resources and the economy in general.

How are different countries in Africa affected?

HIV prevalence rates vary greatly between African countries. In Somalia and Senegal the prevalence is under 1% of the adult population, whereas in South Africa and Zambia around 15–20% of adults are infected.

In four southern African countries, the national adult HIV prevalence rate has risen higher than was thought possible and now exceeds 20%. These countries are Botswana (24.1%), Lesotho (23.2%), Swaziland (33.4%) and Zimbabwe (20.1%).

West Africa has been less affected by HIV, but the prevalence rates in some countries are creeping up. Prevalence is estimated to exceed 5% in Cameroon (5.4%), Côte d'Ivoire (7.1%) and Gabon (7.9%).

Adapted from: <http://www.avert.org/subadults.htm> (Accessed 2008)

Resource 2: The classroom atmosphere

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

Pupils may react to lessons on HIV and AIDS in different ways. They may:

- ask questions to try to embarrass you;
- remain silent because of their own embarrassment;
- try to shock or amuse by describing sexually explicit behaviour;
- ask personal questions about your private life;
- make comments which open themselves to ridicule or criticism from other pupils.

To deal with these situations, it is important to set class rules. These must be very clear to pupils before you start. You can have pupils discuss and develop their own rules or you can start with a list and discuss if they are fair and why they are important. Your list might include:

- Pupils are expected to treat each other in a positive way and be considerate of each other's feelings.
- Pupils are not to discuss personal matters that were raised during the lesson with other people outside the classroom.
- Pupils should avoid interrupting each other.
- Pupils should listen to each other and respect each other's opinions.
- Both pupils and teachers have a 'right-to-pass' if questions are too personal.
- No put-downs – no matter how much you disagree with the person, you do not laugh, make a joke about them or use language that would make that person feel inferior.
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to put their questions anonymously to the teacher.
- Remember that the rules apply to the teacher as well as the pupils!

Possible strategies for productive lessons

- Young people often giggle about sex. This should be allowed in the beginning as it lowers the barriers when discussing sexuality, but encourage them to be sensitive.
- Respond to statements that put down or reinforce stereotypes (e.g. statements that imply that some ethnic groups are responsible for the AIDS epidemic) by discussing the implications of such statements.
- Be assertive in dealing with difficult situations – e.g. 'That topic is not appropriate for this class. If you would like to discuss it, I'd be happy to talk to you after class.'
- Avoid being overly critical about answers – so that pupils will be encouraged to express their opinions openly and honestly.
- Present both sides of a controversial issue.

- Avoid making judgements about what is said.
- It might be helpful to separate boys from girls in group activities where discussion might cause embarrassment, or where separate groups might be work more effectively.

Helping anxious pupils

You know that your main responsibility is to make sure that you know the facts when teaching about HIV and AIDS. You must prepare thoroughly and this will help your own confidence in dealing with this difficult topic.

It is helpful to think ahead of how you might respond to pupils who believe they may have been exposed to HIV. It is important that you behave in such a way that pupils who are worried will feel comfortable seeking your advice.

It is important that you listen to any pupil who approaches you, without imposing your values, moral judgements or opinions. Try not to ask leading or suggestive questions about their behaviour.

Part of your preparation should include knowing what HIV and AIDS services are available in your community. Find out which clinics or NGOs offer advice and support to young people so you know where to refer your pupils if necessary.

Convey your concern for the pupil's health and, when appropriate, tell them you know of services that can offer assistance. Offer to start the process by contacting the one the pupil chooses.

Continue your support by confidentially asking the pupil from time to time if they need more information, have taken any actions or are still concerned about anything related to your conversation.

Adapted from: School Health Education to Prevent AIDS & STD (1999) World Health Organisation/UNESCO

Resource 3: HIV and AIDS quiz

Pupil use

This quiz is online at <http://www.avert.org/generalquiz.htm> (Accessed 2008) and you can complete it there yourself. If your pupils have Internet access, you could also use it with them. If not, there is a text version here. Tick what you think is the right answer.

1. Does HIV only affect gay people?

Yes No Only Only Gay
 Gay Men Women

2. Approximately how many people are living with HIV worldwide?

38.6 million 25.8 million 3.5 million

3. How can you tell if somebody has HIV or AIDS?

Because of the way they act They look tired and ill There is no easy way to tell

4. Can you get AIDS from sharing the cup of an infected person?

Yes No Only if you don't wash the cup

5. When was AIDS first defined?

1997 1987 1982

6. Which protects you most against HIV infection?

Condoms Contraceptive Pills Spermicide Jelly

7. What are the specific symptoms of AIDS?

There are no specific symptoms A rash from head to toe You start to look very tired

8. What is HIV?

A virus A bacterium A fungus

9. Can insects transmit HIV?

Only mosquitoes Yes No

10. What does STD stand for?

Sexually Transmitted Disease Special Treatment Doctor Standard Transmission Deficiency

11. Is there a cure for AIDS?

Yes No Only available on prescription

12. When is World AIDS Day held?

1st January 1st December 1st June

13. Worldwide, HIV is most common in which age range?

0–14 years old 15–24 years old 25–34 years old

14. Is there a difference between HIV and AIDS?

Yes, HIV is the virus that causes AIDS

No, HIV and AIDS are the same thing

Yes, AIDS is the virus that causes HIV

15. What percentage of those infected with HIV are women?

Nearly 25% Nearly 50% Nearly 75%

16. Is it possible to lower the risk of an HIV positive woman infecting her baby?

Yes, the risk can be made much lower No, not at all Only very slightly

Answers

Question 1.

Answer – No

Question 2.

Answer – 38.6 million

Question 3.

Answer – There is no easy way to tell

Question 4.

Answer – No

Question 5.

Answer – 1982

Question 6.

Answer – Condoms

Question 7.

Answer – There are no specific symptoms

Question 8.

Answer – A virus

Question 9.

Answer – No

Question 10.

Answer – Sexually Transmitted Disease

Question 11.

Answer – No

Question 12.

Answer – 1st December

Question 13.

Answer – 15–24 years old

Question 14.

Answer – Yes, HIV is the virus that causes AIDS

Question 15.

Answer – Nearly 50%

Question 16.

Answer – Yes, the risk can be made much lower

Resource 4: Transmission turnaround

Teacher resource for planning or adapting to use with pupils

You can use this method for any age group by adapting the questions to suit the level of the children. This description is better suited to older primary pupils.

Aims

- To assess levels of awareness of how HIV is transmitted.
- To encourage group members to think about a variety of transmission routes.

What you will need

A reasonably spacious room, to allow for free movement. Or you can move outside.

A copy of Transmission Runaround true/false question sheet for yourself and the answer sheet.

Two large sheets of paper clearly marked 'STRONGLY AGREE' and 'STRONGLY DISAGREE'.

Pins.

Time – up to 60 minutes depending on the number of statements used and the size of the group.

What you do

- Put up the 'STRONGLY AGREE' and 'STRONGLY DISAGREE' sheets on the wall at opposite ends of the room or on the wall/trees across the playground.
- Explain to the group as a whole that you will read out a series of statements, one at a time. Each person is to think about whether they agree or disagree with it, and move

to the appropriate side of the room/space. It is all right to stay in the middle if they are uncertain.

- Read the first statement. Once everyone has moved to their chosen place, ask members to choose one person near them and discuss why they are standing where they are.
- Now ask people to choose one person standing as far away from them as possible, and to discuss the statement with them, explaining why each has chosen to be where they are.
- Repeat the procedure with as many statements as time allows.
- Reassemble as a group and, going round the group, ask each individual to identify one piece of information they are confused or unclear about. Ask members of the group to clarify the issues involved and intervene yourself where necessary.

Likely outcomes

At the end of the exercise, it will be clear what areas of uncertainty remain. Individuals will have had a chance to think about ways of transmitting HIV, and to discuss these with other group members. It will also be clear that transmission routes for HIV are very specific e.g. it is not 'sex' that transmits the virus, but unprotected sex involving penetration. People can sometimes become quarrelsome during this exercise so you may need to intervene to settle disputes.

True/false question sheet

	True	False
1. You can become infected with HIV by sleeping around		
2. Injecting drugs will give you HIV		
3. You can get HIV from toilet seats		
4. If you are fit and healthy you won't become infected with HIV		
5. Married people don't become infected with HIV		
6. If you stick with one partner you won't become infected with HIV		
7. Women are safe from HIV as long as they use a contraceptive		
8. You can become infected with HIV from sharing toothbrushes		
9. If you have sex with people who look healthy, you won't become infected with HIV		
10. If you only have sex with people you know, you won't become infected with HIV		
11. Anal sex between two men is more risky than anal sex between a man and a woman		
12. You can become infected with HIV from kissing		
13. A man can become infected with HIV if he has oral sex with a woman		
14. A man can become infected with HIV if he has oral sex with a woman		
15. Condoms can stop you becoming infected with HIV		

True/false answer sheet

- 1 Sleeping around is not in itself risky, but having unprotected sex with an infected person is. By using condoms properly and by avoiding sex with penetration, you can substantially reduce the risk of infection.
- 2 Only if the needle or syringe previously has been contaminated with HIV.
- 3 There are no known cases of HIV infection via toilet seats.
- 4 It does not matter how healthy or unhealthy you are, if you engage in risky activities you stand a chance of being infected.
- 5 This depends on the partners involved, what they did before they met, whether either has unprotected sex outside of the marriage or injects drugs using contaminated equipment. Marriage by itself offers no guarantees of safety.
- 6 As for No 5.
- 7 Only condoms offer women protection against HIV, and even condoms cannot offer complete safety. Other forms of contraception do not offer protection from HIV.
- 8 There is no evidence of transmission via this route, but it is sensible not to share toothbrushes for general health reasons.
- 9 Most people with HIV will look perfectly healthy. Looks are therefore a useless way of assessing risk.
- 10 Knowing someone well offers no reliable guide to whether or not they have HIV infection.
- 11 Anal sex is equally risky regardless of whether it takes place between two men or a man and a woman.
- 12 There is no evidence of transmission in this way, although kissing when there are sores or cuts in the mouth may pose some risk.
- 13 HIV is present in cervical and vaginal secretions as well as in (menstrual) blood, so there is the possibility of transmission this way.
- 14 HIV is present in semen so there is a possibility of transmission in this way.
- 15 Condoms used properly will help to prevent transmission of HIV from an infected partner to an uninfected partner. Condoms are not 100% safe though. Any lubricant used should be water based, as oil-based lubricants can weaken the condom. When buying condoms check the 'sell by' date.

Resource 5: Role play for HIV and AIDS lessons

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

When thinking about the problems for role plays, make sure they allow your pupils focus on positive reactions or behaviour. Research has indicated that scary and negative messages do not always encourage a positive change in behaviour. In a role play, pupils act out a situation spontaneously. This means they take on a role and decide what they are going to do and say on the spot. They do not rehearse or use a script. You cannot tell exactly how a role is going to develop. Role plays can:

- help identify attitudes of different people;
- help pupils to explore group or personal behaviour;
- help pupils see that other people have similar problems;
- help pupils develop interpersonal skills;
- provide a way to address sensitive problems;

- help pupils see things from other people's points of view;
- help pupils practise assertive behaviour;
- allow pupils to explore situations that concern them without revealing anything personal about their own knowledge, beliefs, experiences or situation.

Tips for organising and conducting role plays

- Write the problem on the board or on sheets of paper.
- Allow the pupils to read and think about the situation.
- Give each pupil a role card explaining their role and allow them time to think about what they are going to say. This preparation can be done in groups of pupils who have the same role. (This method focuses pupils on their roles rather than the whole situation and can therefore lead to a more involved role play.)
- A boy could play the role of a girl and vice versa.

Allow time for discussion, prompted by questions like: What could character x have done differently? What are some of the reasons why character x behaved as they did? How did the different characters feel?

Resource 6: Support for HIV/AIDS issues in Rwanda

Background information / subject knowledge for teacher

Here are some contacts for organisations in Rwanda that can help you with information and resources around HIV/AIDS issues. They come from the web page of the Rwanda AIDS portal (UN) available at:

http://www.aidsportal.org/Article_Details.aspx?ID=718 (Accessed 2008)

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UNAIDS Global Report 2006 Data for Rwanda

I. DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Estimated population (thousands)	9,038	
Population growth rate	2.4%	
Life expectancy at birth	Men	Women
	44	47
Human poverty index	Rank	Value
	69	37.7
Human development index	159	
Percentage of people living with less than US\$2	83.7%	
Per capita gross national income	US\$ 1300	
Per capita government expenditure on health	14	

II. HIV AND AIDS ESTIMATES

Number of people living with HIV	190,000 [180,000–210,000]
Adults aged 15 to 49 HIV prevalence rate	3.1 [2.9–3.2]%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	160,000 [160,000–170,000]
Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	91,000 [86,000–95,000]
Deaths due to AIDS	21,000 [13,000–26,000]
GENERALISED EPIDEMICS	
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	27,000 [11,000–53,000]
Orphans aged 0 to 17 due to AIDS	210,000 [170,000–260,000]

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