



**INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
FOR EAST AFRICA
(IUCEA)**

**MAINSTREAMING HIV & AIDS IN
TEACHING CURRICULA IN UNIVERSITIES
IN THE EAC PARTNER STATES**

GUIDELINES

January 2015



Inter-University Council for East Africa

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PREFACE

The relevance of Higher Education institutions to HIV and AIDS is multi-faceted, ranging from vulnerability of students as in any part of society, to usage of its functions of teaching, research and community services in responding to HIV and AIDS challenges. In this regard, higher education institutions can play a more important role in all key aspects of HIV and AIDS namely, prevention, treatment and mitigation, through its administrative mechanisms and functions of teaching, research and services.

Data from the HIV baseline studies conducted in universities by the East African Community/AMREF Lake Victoria HIV&AIDS Partnership Programme referred to as EALP, reveals that university students are vulnerable to HIV&AIDS by virtue of their mobility patterns and HIV & AIDS related risky behavior. During the Dissemination Workshop of the EALP Study Results, in March 2012, in Entebbe Uganda, Vice Chancellors from universities where the studies were conducted expressed the need for mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into university Curricula.

IUCEA spearheaded the effort to ensure that management of HIV and AIDS related knowledge and interventions in the community including universities were more effective by equipping the relevant professionals and future graduates with such skills.

This was undertaken through convening an HIV and AIDS Thematic Cluster meeting from 25th -26th June 2012 at imperial golf view hotel, Entebbe, Uganda, where experts from the fields of medical and social sciences from universities in the East African Community (EAC), as well as other stakeholders were brought together and developed the guidelines for HIV and AIDS curriculum for universities. It is expected that these guidelines will provide an important platform for the development of curricula that will enhance the mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS knowledge and skills by universities. This Curriculum guideline will also equip

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professionals and future graduates with the needed skills, and nurture a well-informed citizenry of the Community on matters of HIV and AIDS.

Prof. Mayunga H.H Nkunya
Kampala, January 2015
Executive Secretary, IUCEA

1. Introduction

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is an institution of the East African Community (EAC) whose mission is to promote strategic and sustainable development of higher education systems and research for supporting East Africa's socio-economic development and regional integration. Its vision is to become an EAC strategic institution responsible for promoting, developing and coordinating human resources development and research in the region.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa coordinates inter-university cooperation and facilitates higher education institutions' role of producing professional and skilled personnel needed to contribute in socio-economic development of the East African Community. As an institution responsible for Human Resource development and research in the EAC, IUCEA aims to promote networking between scholars of related disciplines so as to strengthen capacity of universities in teaching, research and services. IUCEA introduced 13 Thematic Clusters, focused on providing sector wide developmental themes for our economies and livelihoods. The Thematic Clusters therefore constitute one of effective systems for bridging academia and community gaps. Among the 13 Thematic Clusters is the HIV and AIDS thematic cluster.

2. Background and Rationale

Since its first detection in the eastern African region as early as 1980s, the impact of HIV and AIDS has been felt in almost all sectors, including the Higher Education sector. University staffs, students and members of the respective surrounding communities have in some cases been considered to be vulnerable to HIV/AIDS as reported in data on HIV and AIDS incidence and prevalence (Ref. EALP Sero-behavioural surveys for Kenya, Tanzania and Ugandan universities). The relevance of HIV and AIDS to Higher Education institutions is multi-faceted ranging from vulnerability as in any part of society, to usage of its functions

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of teaching, research and community services in responding to HIV and AIDS challenges. The Higher Education institutions have so far, played their roles at different levels in the region, due to the structure of institutions, affiliation, novelty of the HIV and AIDS problem and exposure to various notions on HIV and AIDS. Whereas some universities have policies on HIV and AIDS, some are integrating or mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in their programmes. Other institutions though, are still at very early stages in regards to HIV and AIDS management.

To some extent, a number of institutions have been engaged in different types of research in HIV and AIDS, including clinical, social and operational aspects of the pandemic. Noting that higher education institutions can play a more important role in all key aspects of HIV and AIDS namely, prevention, treatment and mitigation, through its functions of teaching, research and services, IUCEA realizes the need to spearhead the efforts which will ensure that management of HIV and AIDS related knowledge and interventions in the community including universities, are more effective by equipping the relevant professionals and future graduates with such skills.

Universities have a responsibility to address HIV and AIDS through education by developing skills, values, and changing attitudes to promote positive behaviors that combat HIV and AIDS. One of the measures to effectively address the challenges posed by HIV & AIDS, is for universities to develop a common course on HIV and AIDS and effectively mainstream or incorporate it across the wide range of curricula in University Programmes.

3. The Guidelines

In view of the above, Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has developed guidelines for HIV and AIDS curriculum for universities in the EAC region. The universities will be expected to use the guidelines to develop common/general

HIV and AIDS courses, so that university students can protect and take necessary care of themselves and others, during and after completion of their studies.

This is a common course that responds to the students' needs to deal with the challenges of HIV and AIDS. The first part of the course will involve didactic concept/teaching/learning strategy which includes: lectures, tutorials/seminars, community outreach services, case studies, video clips/multimedia, role play, field trips /attachments and simulated patients/clients. The other part of the course will involve assessments which includes progressive assessments and examinations.

4. Learning Outcomes

The Course thus developed should enable students to be able to:

- i. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical background, myths & misconceptions, risk factors, biology and epidemiology of HIV & AIDS.
- ii. Demonstrate an understanding of the modalities for HIV prevention and control as well as rapid tests used for HIV diagnosis.
- iii. Describe the available treatment, care and support systems for people infected with HIV and the impact of HIV & AIDS on the different sectors of society.
- iv. Articulate the importance of nutrition and demonstrate skills in HIV treatment and care.

5. Study Levels

The course aims at equipping graduates with knowledge and skills to contribute to the management and control of HIV/AIDS during and after their studies, irrespective of their professions. It shall be among the first courses offered to all students in their respective study programmes.

6. Universities Implementation Guidelines

Commissions/Councils for Higher Education/Universities in Partner States will be expected to oversee the implementation of these guidelines through their regulatory, accreditation and other appropriate framework and mechanisms and frameworks.



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