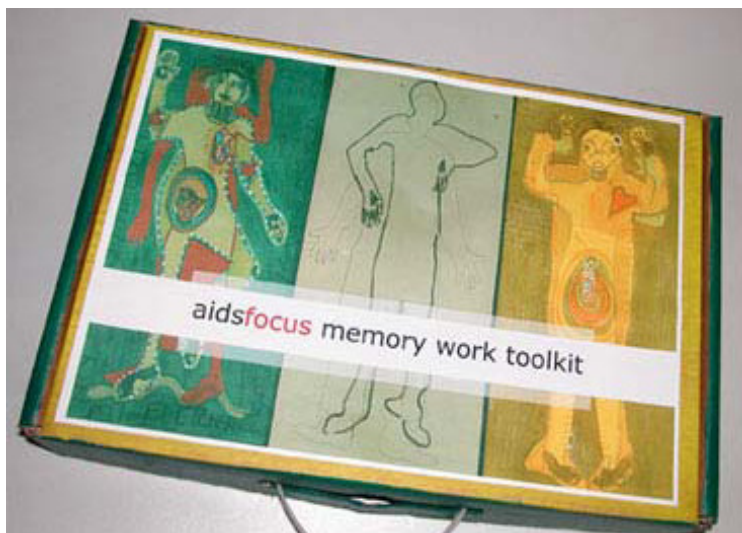




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aidsfocus.ch



Capitalisation Series: SDC Supported Projects and Activities in HIV/AIDS

A fact sheet elaborated in the frame of the 2009 SDC Backstopping Mandate with support from the Swiss Centre for International Health of the Swiss Tropical Institute

Introduction

aidsfocus.ch is the Swiss platform for HIV and AIDS, and international cooperation. It is organized by Medicus Mundi Switzerland and supported by more than 30 Swiss organisations.

Objectives

aidsfocus.ch facilitates exchange of knowledge and experience by building synergies between organizations in Switzerland and reinforcing solidarity with international partners. It aims to strengthen the skills and abilities of Swiss players in their efforts to more effectively stop the spread of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and its drastic consequences.

- Share knowledge and experience, and build synergies among actors in the field of HIV and AIDS, and international cooperation
- Strengthen skills and capacities and promote good practice in the field of HIV and AIDS, and international cooperation
- Create awareness and mobilize commitment to provide access to comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support for all, in recognition of the human right to health and life

Project Description

The effects of HIV and AIDS are felt by all stakeholders involved in international cooperation. To become more effective, some 30 Swiss organizations decided to share experiences and knowledge, learn from each other, coordinate their efforts, and define common strategies and approaches. Member organizations include many of the Swiss NGOs active in international cooperation, and various scientific institutions. They represent a large variety of sectors, including health, advocacy, child protection, gender issues, rural development, and more. Reflecting the nature of the organisations involved, contributions by the partner organisations feed into the multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS. Partner organisations are engaged in prevention and health promotion, care and treatment self help groups, people living with HIV/AIDS, children and orphans, gender mainstreaming, capacity building, multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS control, human rights based approaches and the use of “Memory Work” in the provision of psychosocial support to people affected by HIV and AIDS. Mainstreaming of HIV into the core work of the organizations complements the HIV/AIDS specific projects and related services provided by others.

aidsfocus.ch organises conferences and “meeting points” for exchange on certain topics, publishes an electronic newsletter, administers a website and promotes capacity building of partner organisations. The platform develops shared positions and engages in joint advocacy and public relations.

The project is organized by Medicus Mundi Switzerland, Network Health for All. The strategic and technical aspects of the project are managed by a steering

committee consisting of one representative from Medicus Mundi Switzerland and representatives from the partner organisations. The business office of Medicus Mundi Switzerland is responsible for the content and administration of the project.

Outcomes and Achievements

aidsfocus.ch has established itself as the Swiss platform for exchange and collaboration around HIV/AIDS and development. It succeeded in bringing together a highly diverse group of organizations, stimulated their sharing of expertise and experience, and facilitated their collaboration. It functions as a source of knowledge and new ideas.

The number of collaborating partner organisations has grown from 28 in 2005 to 33 in September 2008. The response to HIV and AIDS of the very diverse groups of Swiss actors is today much more harmonised and complementary than it was before the creation of aidsfocus.ch. Probably the most successful experience of aidsfocus.ch has been the production of the Memory Work toolkit and film which reflect the collaboration between partner organisations and its implementation by partners in the field. These products have become a visible expression of the platform's working methods and expertise. Today, the film and toolkit are used by various partner organisations in projects on raising awareness and sensitisation, and to introduce, or accompany Memory Work activities in many countries in the South.

SDC Partnership

Since its creation in 2003 aidsfocus.ch receives financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. These funds are complemented by membership fees and contributions of sponsors to specific projects and activities.

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More about this Project

www.aidsfocus.ch