

DRAFT

UNILORIN HIV / AIDS POLICY REVIEW

2009

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The University of Ilorin policy on HIV / AIDS shall be in line with the National Policy on HIV / AIDS, and shall be complementary towards achieving the set goals, objectives and targets.

GOALS

University of Ilorin is committed to controlling the spread of HIV / AIDS in the University community, providing equitable care and support for all staff and students within the community who may be infected by HIV, and mitigating its impact to the point where it is no longer a threat to healthy and productive life. The University of Ilorin is also committed to be part of the global effort in controlling the pandemic of HIV / AIDS.

OBJECTIVES

Towards achieving these goals, the following objectives have been formulated:

1. Create awareness and an enabling environment for mitigating the spread and impact of HIV / AIDS;
2. promote a multi-disciplinary response to issues relating to HIV / AIDS;
3. ensure that adequate attention is paid to vulnerable groups such as women, young adults and students with special needs;
4. Provide care and support for People Living with HIV / AIDS (PLWHA) and People Affected by HIV / AIDS (PABA) in the University community; and
5. Stimulate research on all activities relating to the epidemy.

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

It has been recognised that limiting the HIV / AIDS epidemic in the most vulnerable age group requires a change in education, personal behaviour, public norms and the social and political situation of the environment. It is in this context that the policy statements in this document are derived from objectives identified, and are presented around seven thematic areas namely

1. Budgetary Allocation and Programme Management
2. HIV / AIDS Awareness and Behavioural Change
Communication
3. Care and Support
4. Capacity Building
5. Impact Mitigation
6. Research and Pedagogy
7. Monitoring and Evaluation

1. BUDGETARY POLICY AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The University shall have a budgetary allocation for implementing its policy on HIV / AIDS.. There shall be an HIV / AIDS programme management and Counselling Centre for the effective implementation of the University HIV / AIDS policy.

2. HIV/AIDS AWARENESS and BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

COMMUNICATION. The University of Ilorin is committed to engendering greater improved enlightenment among members of the University community regarding prevention of HIV / AIDS, as well as care and support for People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). To this end, the following awareness initiatives shall be pursued with more vigour:

- a. Inclusion of HIV / AIDS education in students' orientation, matriculation and convocation programmes
- b. Production and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as books, journals, newsletters, posters, audio and video tapes, billboards, radio/ television jingles, and drama / songs; and to reach people with special needs such as the blind and the deaf.
- c. Organisation of workshops, symposia, seminars, film shows, etc on HIV/AIDS.
- d. To provide training of peer educators to disseminate information on HIV / AIDS prevention and control through platforms already existing in the Faculties of Education and Health Sciences
- e. Accessibility and availability of male and female condoms.
- f. Inclusion of HIV / AIDS talks in Religious, Union and Professional meetings as preventive measures as an alternative to abstinence.
- g. Active participation in National and International HIV / AIDS

campaign programmes..

- h. Establishment of a Youth - Friendly Center that will promote behavioural changes among other things on a continuous basis.
- i. Promotion of gender equality as a fundamental right in all HIV / AIDS-related issues.
- j. Generation of information data base on new preventive technologies.
- k. Establishment of HIV / AIDS club as motivating agents of change.
- l. Provide training on life saving skills for staff and students to promote attitude and value reorientation.
- m. Disseminate appropriate code of ethics for gender relations, particularly between staff and students.
- n. Disseminate information on responsible sexual behavior.
- o. Establishment of male / *female* condom dispensers in convenient places within the university.

3.CARE AND SUPPORT

The University is committed to providing appropriate care and support services for PLWHA and PABA. The following strategies shall be put in place to achieve this objective:

- a. Discrimination in any form against PLWHA and PABA in the University shall be outlawed;
- b. The policy of early diagnosis and effective use of the syndromic management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) shall be adopted in the University Health Centres;
- c. Prompt referral shall be made for HIV / AIDS related services such as Anti-Retroviral (ARV) therapy and nutrition programmes, which are not available in the University Health Centres;
- d. Counselling services such as individual, group and web-based systems shall be provided for the psychological support for PLWHA and PABA within the University community.

- e. Encourage PLWHA in the university community to join support groups and networks of PLWHA;
- f. Extend scholarships / work study programmes to support PABA;
- g. Promotion of anonymous, voluntary, free-of-charge HIV testing with obligatory pre- and post-test counselling;
- h. Opening of Family Planning Offices that will provide information, counselling, medical examinations and contraceptives and offer youth-friendly services free-of-charge;
- i. Opening of telephone hotlines that will offer confidential information and counselling services.
- j. Facilitate access of staff and students to accredited blood transfusion services when required through effective referral system.
- k. Develop Youth-Friendly initiatives such as transition programmes in the feeder institutions.

4. CAPACITY BUILDING

- a. Provision of adequate social and life skills education in making choices and taking responsible decisions about life.
- b. Adequate training in management of HIV / AIDS related conditions shall be given to all Health Care workers in the University community.
- c. Extension of scholarship / work study programs to support people affected by HIV / AIDS.
- d. Establish more recreation and resource centres in several locations in the University.

5. IMPACT MITIGATION

- a. Promotion of enforcement of human rights of HIV / AIDS infected persons on the University campus.

- b. Facilitate access to rehabilitative therapy for intravenous drug users (IVDU) through appropriate referrals.

6. RESEARCH AND PEDAGOGY

The University is committed to research initiatives in all areas relating to HIV / AIDS epidemic. The University is also committed to developing and integrating HIV / AIDS curriculum into the institution. The following initiatives will therefore be pursued:

- a. Develop and train a team of HIV / AIDS educators across disciplines
- b. Encourage multi-disciplinary research on HIV / AIDS with emphasis on finding a cure for HIV / AIDS
- c. Source for funds for HIV/AIDS research.
- d. Encourage research linkages and collaborative studies on HIV/AIDS.
- e. Encourage appropriate dissemination and utilization of findings emanating from HIV / AIDS related research in the University.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Effectiveness of the preventive initiatives of the University HIV / AIDS programmes can be measured by establishing indicators for actions proposed in this policy.

- a. Ensure periodic monitoring and evaluation of all HIV/AIDS related initiatives in the University
- b. Assessment and availability of funds to prosecute the HIV / AIDS initiatives (e.g. number of students benefiting from work study scholarship scheme for indigent students).
- c. Availability and accessibility of (condoms within the University community).
- d. Assessment of availability of antiretroviral drugs to PLWHA

CONCLUSION

In adopting this policy the University administration has demonstrated willingness to give administrative and financial support for HIV / AIDS control as much as possible.