

Using human rights standards to
assess HIV-prevention programmes for
children and youth:
a case study of Uganda

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Background


- Uganda widely regarded as “success story in HIV-prevention”
- Controversial expansion of “abstinence until marriage” programs under PEPFAR
- Little tangible evidence of what is happening on the ground

Methodology

- Short period of intensive field research in November 2004
- Application of human rights standards to research findings
- Media and advocacy campaign to exert pressure on political leaders

Uganda: early campaigns

What Have You Heard About AIDS?



What Does It Mean?

How Does It Harm Us?

Who Can Get It?

What Causes It?

How Can We Stop It?

What Can We Do For People Who Have It?

How Can It Be Cured?

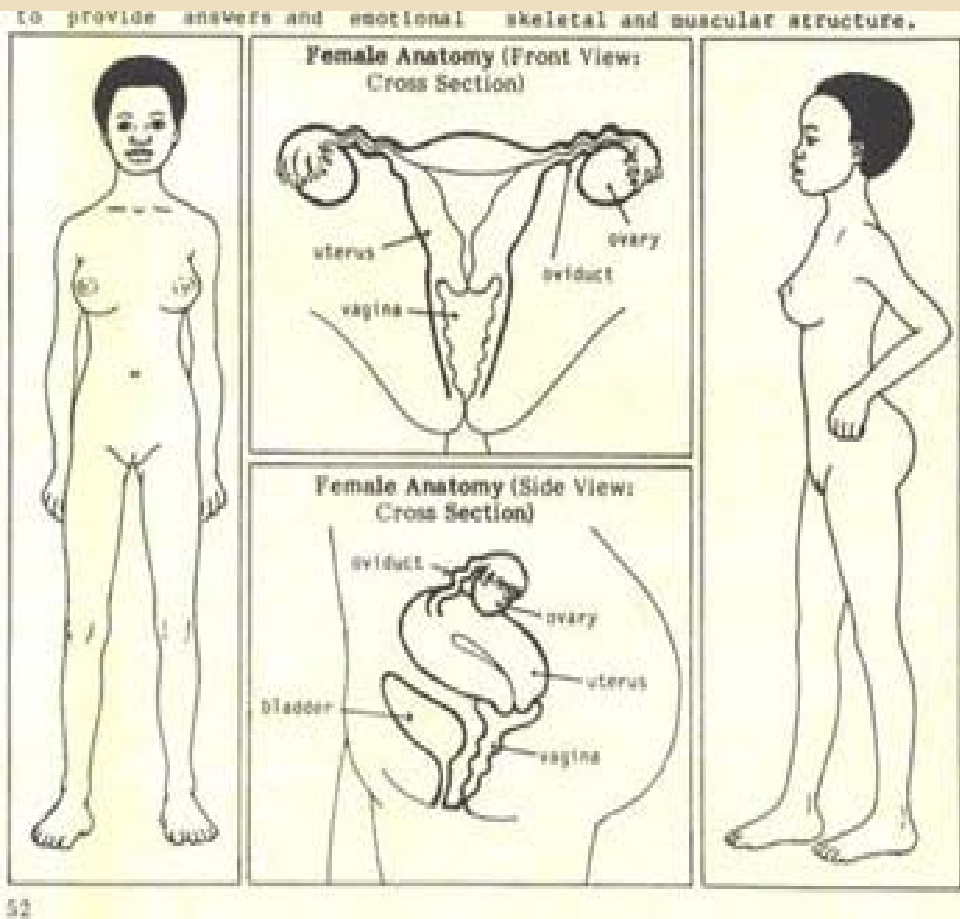
What Does It Look Like?

Which Of Us Has It?

**Don't GUESS the Answers!
LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT AIDS!**

Uganda School Health Kit an AIDS Toolkit (1992-93)
Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health (AIDS Control Programme), 1992/93

Uganda: early campaigns



Uganda: early campaigns

How to prevent the spread of AIDS

Find the poster "Prevent AIDS". Discuss with your pupils what it shows:

1. "Prevent AIDS:

Do not Have sex until you are married, then stay faithful to your partner"

- AIDS is mostly spread through sex. If you do not have sex at all, you will prevent the spread of AIDS through sex.
- If you are already having sex, only have sex with a faithful partner. Both partners should be faithful to each other.
- If a man has many wives (is polygamous), he should have sex only with his wives and they should remain faithful to him. Again the man and all the women in the polygamous group should be faithful.
- The more unfaithful sexual partners one has, the greater the chance of having sex with someone with the AIDS germ (HIV). As seen by the story even one sexual contact with a person having the HIV germ can pass it on to the person.

2. "Prevent AIDS: Use condoms during sex"

- AIDS is mostly spread through body fluids shared during sex. Condoms can stop body fluids from being shared.
- Condoms can stop the AIDS germ from passing from a man to a woman or from woman to man.
- Condoms are fairly effective (safe) in stopping the AIDS germ from being transmitted from one person to another, if used correctly. This means condoms are very much better than no protection at all.



3. "Prevent AIDS: Treat sexually transmitted diseases early".

- Sores from syphilis or gonorrhoea allow the AIDS virus to enter our bodies.
- Pus or blood from sores can carry a lot of AIDS germs (they are high risk body fluids)
- It is possible to stop the sores, pus and blood, when treatment is obtained.
- Sexually transmitted diseases can be treated and cured if you contact the nearest clinic or Doctor for treatment.

Nov. 2004: Uganda 'AB' policy

“The mixing of this message [abstinence and being faithful] with an offer of perceived immediate gratification by condom use can be confusing to youth and indeed adults. The condom message can compromise the power of the A and B message.”

--Uganda AIDS Commission, “Uganda National Abstinence and Being Faithful Policy and Strategy on Prevention of Transmission of HIV” (November 2004)

For marriage...

RESISTANCE

Office of The First Lady - Uganda.

YOU CAN!

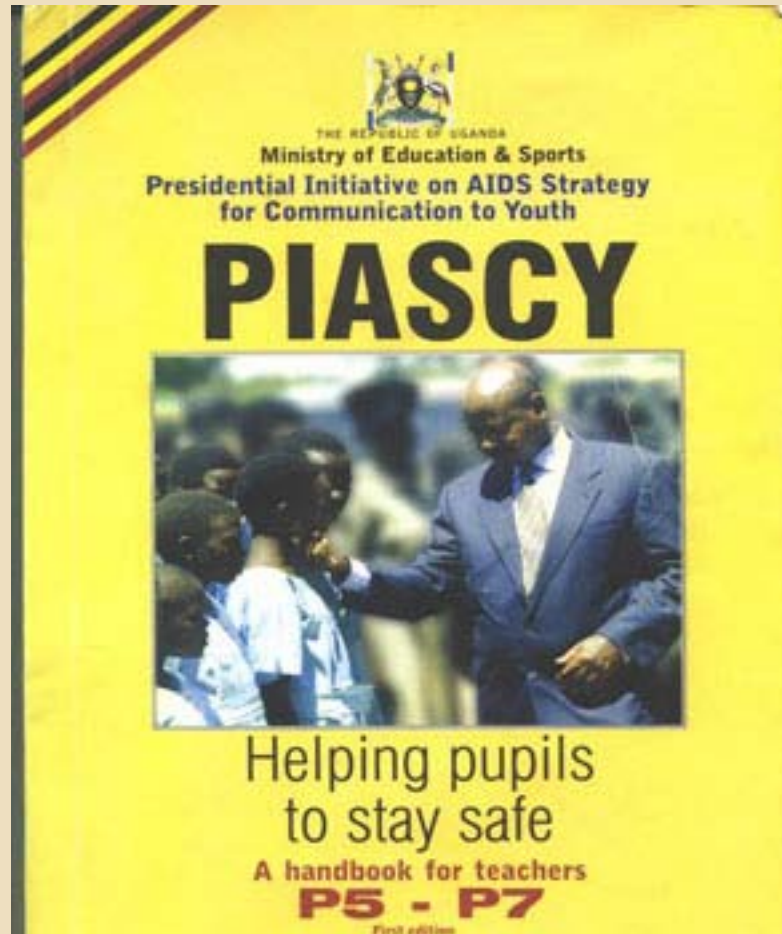


She's keeping her
What about you?

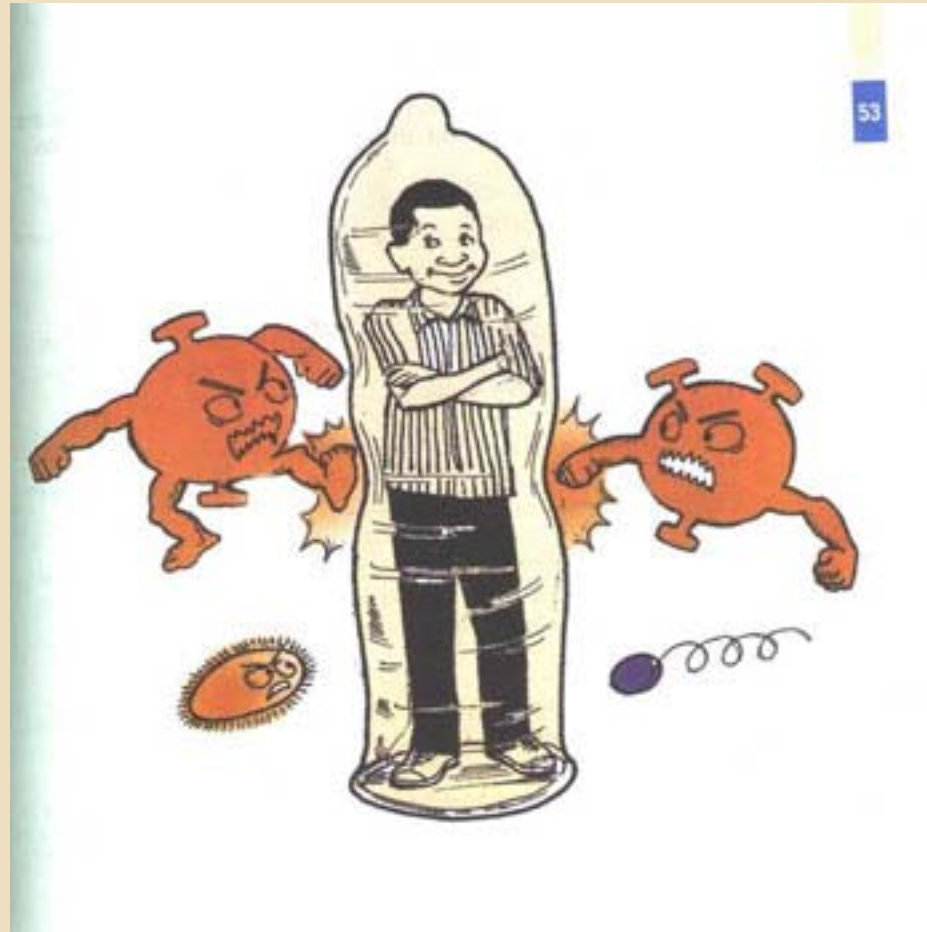


OAFRA

Schools: PIASCY materials



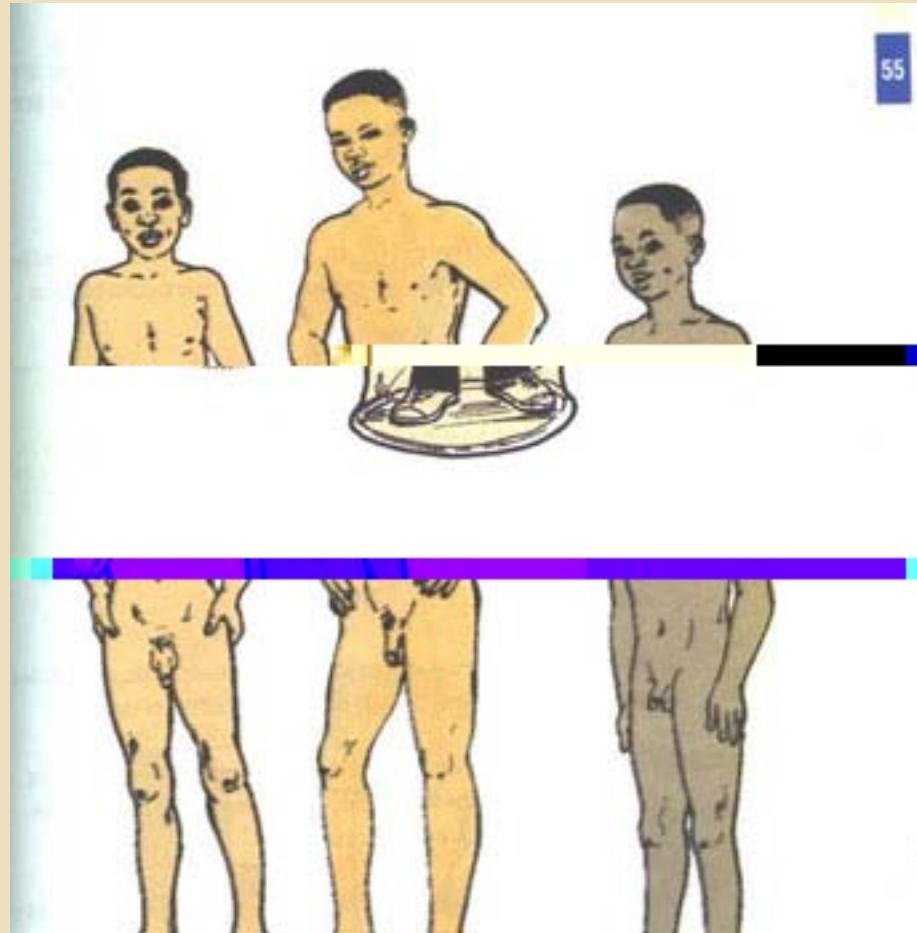
PIASCY in primary schools: Images removed from first version



PIASCY in primary schools: Images removed from first version



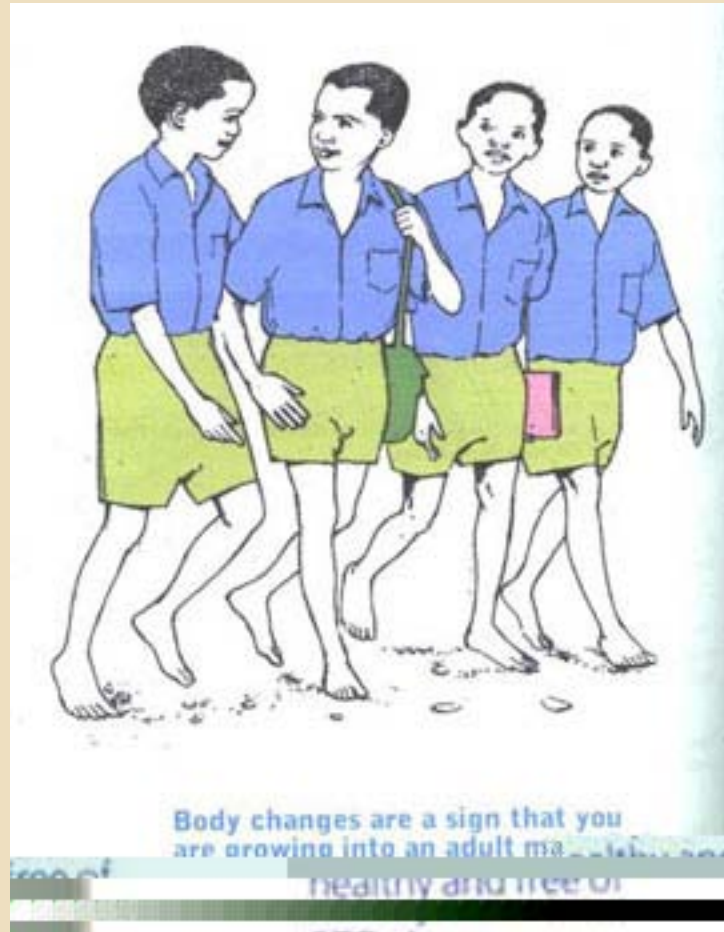
PIASCY in primary schools: Images removed from first version



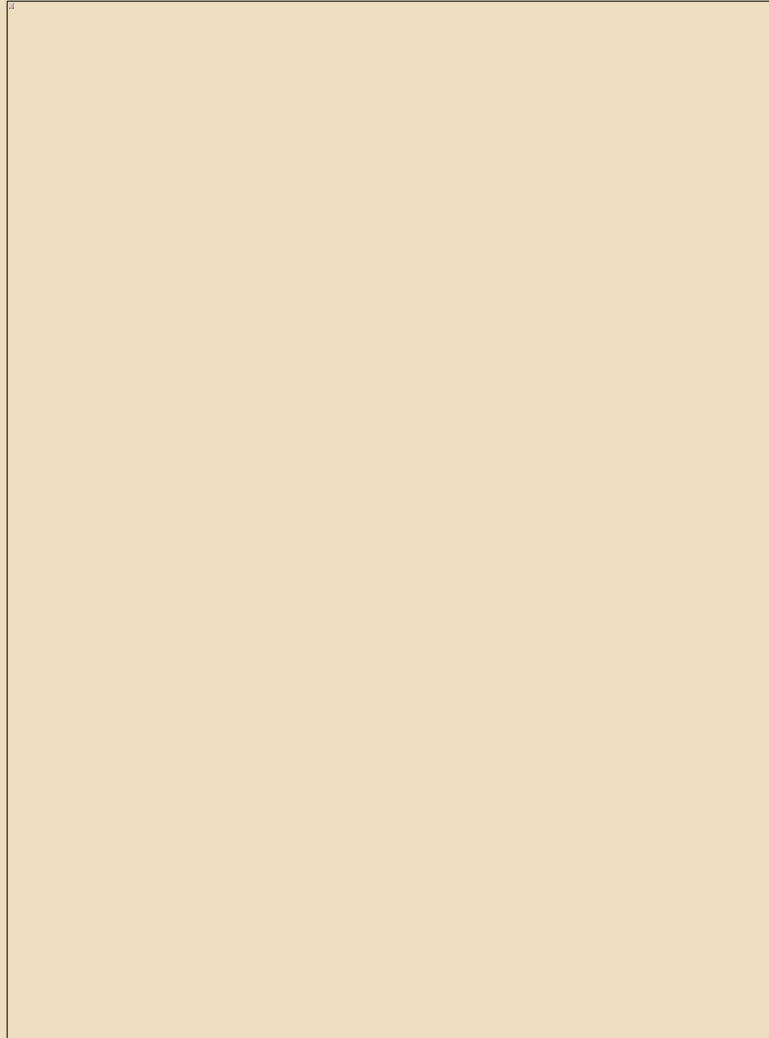
PIASCY in primary schools: Images removed from first version



PIASCY in primary schools: Re-released versions



PIASCY in primary schools: Re-released versions



PIASCY in primary schools: Re-released versions

“The religious teachings in Uganda all agree about the values of life, family and sex.

They all promote the understanding of sex as a gift from God that must be protected and respected.

They discourage sex outside marriage. In fact, religions consider sex outside marriage as sinful and dishonoring God, the creator.

HIV/AIDS enters the human body mostly through sex. Young people, therefore, should learn to value life, respect sex and avoid HIV/AIDS.”

PIASCY in primary schools: Testimony from teachers

“At the teacher training, we were told not to show [pupils] how to use condoms and not to talk about them at our school. In the past, we used to show them to our upper primary classes. Now we can’t do that.” (Kasese)

“We talk about marriage—what it is, when one should marry, and how to be good in marriage. We discourage condom use. They can burst, and some can acquire STDs or become pregnant while using them. Condoms encourage pupils to keep practicing sexual behaviors.” (Mbale)

PIASCY in secondary schools: Excerpts from August 2004 draft

“[C]ondoms are not 100% perfect protective gear against STDs and HIV infection. This is because condoms have small pores that could still allow the virus through. . . . [T]here is no doubt that abstinence works the miracles considering the many limitations with pre-marital sex that could cause one to be chased from school or abandoned by family after reliance on condoms fails to safeguard them from STDs.” (p. 22)

Faith-based programs: US partners

U.S.-based groups:

- Catholic Relief Services
- Samaritan's Purse
- International Youth Federation
- PATH
- Children's AIDS Fund

Ugandan partners:

- National Youth Forum (First Lady Janet Museveni)
- Makerere Community Church (Martin Ssempe)
- Family Life Network (Stephen Langa)

Faith-based programs: CORE

“The programs are a bit silent about the use of condoms. The people implementing the programs are supposed to concentrate on ABY [Abstinence and Behavior Change for Youth] . . . They may not openly talk about condoms, because it’s not included in the program. The program came as ABY. It did not come as ABC.”

--Official of the Uganda Ministry of Gender to Human Rights Watch, June 27, 2005

Human rights standards

- Right to information (ICCPR)
- Right to health (ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC)
- Right to non-discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation (ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC)
- Right to life (ICCPR)
- Right to religious freedom (ICCPR)

Thank You

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