Press Release
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Education International, 4th World Congress
Porto Alegre, Brazil, 22-26 July 2004

EI and WHO to distribute 100,000 Teachers’ Exercise Books for HIV Prevention

As part of its HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Education Development Center (EDC), Education International will soon be distributing 100,000 exercise books on HIV/AIDS prevention to teachers on the ground.

To be printed in English- and French-language versions, the 200-page publication contains all the elements - information as well as participatory activities - that teachers can use in both their union and their schools. The majority of the exercise books will go to the 17 countries presently involved in the EI/WHO/CDC/EDC HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme and will be distributed to teachers who have received training and have already started working in their schools.

To date, over 50,000 teachers have been participated in the training programme and there is an increasing need for training material. Through the cascade model, the EI/WHO/CDC/EDC Programme is reaching out to many thousands of teachers in a growing number of schools. This exercise book is therefore an unprecedented step taken in the training of teachers in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and will greatly assist all the trainers and teachers in their task to encourage students to adopt responsible behaviour and attitude towards HIV/AIDS.

Schools provide the ideal setting for prevention messages to reach children and teenagers, so as to increase their knowledge in and awareness of HIV/AIDS. If the opportunity is seized through the implementation of well-designed HIV/AIDS education programmes, the positive impact on teachers and students will be considerably enhanced. With its unique approach, the exercise book is therefore an essential tool in the training of teachers and students alike.

EI started its work in HIV/AIDS Prevention ten years ago, spearheaded by outgoing President Dr Mary Hatwood Futrell. As part of a sign of appreciation for her leadership, the partners – EI, WHO, CDC, EDC – will present the first copy of the exercise book to her on 24 July, during the 4th EI World Congress in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

For more information on EI’s HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme, visit our web section: www.ei-ie.org/aids.htm