



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET

HIV & AIDS PREVENTION THROUGH SPORT

UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2013

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

BASIC FACTS

Over 34 million people around the world are living with HIV, and many of them are involved in sport, either as spectators or as participants. One-third of the estimated 34 million living with HIV are young people under age 25.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), which contribute in the transmission of HIV, are more frequent in young people aged 15-24. Young people who become sexually active at a young age are more likely to change sexual partners and risk greater exposure to STIs.

Young people are, for various reasons, more reluctant to seek help from health services.

THE IOC'S INVOLVEMENT

The IOC has a moral obligation, as indeed it is required by its [Charter](#) to place sport at the service of humankind. It is committed to contribute to the global fight against HIV & AIDS, as expressed in the UN's Millennium Development Goal 6, by investing in related grassroots projects and promoting educational initiatives. AIDS is impacting our collective sporting future and everyone must play their part in this fight. This is why all of us are being called on to play a part in the response to HIV & AIDS and in the fight against discrimination.

The IOC Policy on HIV & AIDS prevention through sport was adopted early 2004 - in document which outlines in particular the role of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) as implementing arms of the IOC, in fighting the pandemic.

An MoU was signed with UNAIDS on 1 June 2004, sealing a partnership at institutional level and launching a world-wide advocacy programme.

SPORT AND HIV & AIDS

Participation in sport benefits people living with HIV: moderate exercise indeed strengthens the immune system, better equips the body to fight HIV and may delay the onset of AIDS. Sport also provides an arena for social inclusion and support. Involving HIV-positive sportsmen and women proves extremely valuable in normalising HIV and fighting stigma.

Sportsmen, and in particular successful athletes, are role models - their voice is hence another way to drive prevention and care messages at community level.

Sports organisations should not only try to ensure that their players are protected from HIV infection and do not stigmatise or discriminate against people living with HIV & AIDS; they should also ensure that the workplace is a safe, non-discriminatory environment for discussing HIV & AIDS.

ADVOCACY & PEER EDUCATION

The first **Toolkit on HIV & AIDS prevention through sport** was jointly published by the IOC and UNAIDS in 2005. It is available in French, English, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Swahili and Spanish. Specifically designed for members of the sports community, it offers:

1. **more information about HIV & AIDS**, how prevention can be effective, how sport can be beneficial for HIV-positive persons, all about testing and counselling, and much more;
2. numerous **activities and programmes to be developed** with practical suggestions, from basic information sessions with colleagues or players, to communication campaigns during sports events, or how to develop a comprehensive policy for sport organisations themselves;
3. specific suggestions for youth **activities** for 10-15 year-olds and over, as they are a crucial target group for prevention;
4. information on **who can assist you**, and which organisations can provide expertise and support.

For free download:

<http://www.olympic.org/development-through-sport/hiv-aids-prevention-and-promotion-of-healthy-lifestyles>



Regional Seminars are organised by the IOC in cooperation with UNAIDS, the IFRC and UNICEF with the objective of discussing the role of sport in national and regional efforts against the pandemic, evaluating the impact of HIV & AIDS on sportspersons in participating countries, and creating working relationship between NOCs and partner institutions so that they may cooperate in their activities.

HIV & AIDS Information campaigns are also run during the **Olympic Games** in the Olympic Village, in partnership with Organising Committees, in addition to condom distributions, to raise awareness among athletes and officials on healthy and responsible lifestyles.

SOME INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN AT COUNTRY LEVEL

BARBADOS

In the Caribbean, the Barbados NOC has included modules on HIV & AIDS in seminars organised for young sportswomen, in cooperation with the National Sports Commission, and has partnered with the Commonwealth Sports Development Programme to develop the Caribbean Healthy Lifestyle Project for Caribbean Youth that addresses HIV & AIDS.

BRAZIL

The Brazilian NOC has undertaken HIV awareness-raising campaigns, advocacy work, document distribution, lectures by volunteer members of vulnerable populations to athletes, and distribution of free condoms, all of which is in keeping with the National AIDS Policy of the Brazilian Government. Furthermore, the Brazilian NOC has cooperated in the publication of the Portuguese version of the IOC/UNAIDS Toolkit on HIV & AIDS prevention through sport which has been made available to all Portuguese-speaking NOCs in the world.

MALAWI

A joint working group of the Malawi NOC and the National Red Cross Society, which provides HIV-related messages in all the NOC activities, has been created, and the NOC is involved in all the sports activities organised by the Red Cross. In addition, the Malawi NOC, is working with Youth Net Counselling (YONECO) to stop HIV transmission and mitigate the impact of AIDS through sports.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The NOC, through its Medical Commission and in partnership with the IOC and various government agencies (including the National Aids Council-NACO, UNAIDS, as well as NGOs) with whom it formed a Committee on HIV and Sport, has undertaken various HIV advocacy and prevention activities. The Committee has launched a National Declaration on HIV Prevention through Sport including a fully-fledged plan of activities for which it has obtained major funding from the government to implement the programme over a 10-year period.

THAILAND

The NOC of Thailand set up multi-sectorial National Committee on HIV & AIDS prevention through sport in 2006. This committee developed the translation of the IOC Toolkit on HIV & AIDS prevention through sport into Thai. This publication has supported a fully-fledged action plan consisting of educational & awareness activities undertaken in the framework of sport competitions, such as the 2007 South Eastern Asia Games and the 2006 Bangkok Universiades, and special occasions such as World Aids Day.

UGANDA

The Ugandan NOC has been responding to HIV & AIDS since 1993, through its programme of Health Education through Sports, and has organised advocacy activities with several NGOs during sport events. Also, with the



assistance of the Government, the Ugandan NOC has developed the National Sports Strategic Framework, aimed at providing financial and technical support to local partners and organising HIV prevention activities.

Some initiatives undertaken at regional level
The **Sports Training and Outreach Program on HIV (STOP HIV)** - born from a partnership between the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS)/UNAIDS/The Asia Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF)/ the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF)/ the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) and the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) - uses the power of sport to deliver education and awareness on HIV & STIs to male and female youth in the Pacific.

http://www.sportingpulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?c=2-4052-0-0-0&SID=86454

CUAHA (Churches united against HIV & AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa) is an ecumenical network whose main task is uniting churches and creating a shared commitment to HIV and AIDS issues. Through capacity-building and the exchange of ideas and experiences, the network helps churches and faith-based organizations build more effective programmes to tackle the epidemic. CUAHA has a strong partnership with the IOC and has taken up to rolling out the IOC Toolkit on HIV/AIDS prevention through sport in Eastern and Southern Africa through various workshops and sports activities, in cooperation with the local NOCs.

<http://www.cuaha.info>

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