

REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

Ministerial Commitment on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern African (ESA)

Background

UNESCO and UNAIDS in collaboration with UN and development partners, RECs and CSOs, religious and youth leaders led an initiative aimed at securing commitment from Education and Health ministers from 20 Eastern and Southern African countries to accelerate access to comprehensive sexuality education and health services for young people in the region. The initiative is a strategic tool that brings together Ministries of Education and Health to strengthen HIV prevention efforts and foster positive health outcomes by advocating for access to quality, comprehensive sexuality education as well as sexual and reproductive health services for young people in the ESA region.

The historic ESA commitment was endorsed at the 2013 ICASA¹ Conference and has time-bound actions and targets that were agreed upon by member states. The ESA Ministerial Commitment is expected to pave the way for actions which scale up delivery of sexuality education and related health services, support joint action around developing programmes, sharing information strengthening linkages and referrals between schools and health services and an overall approach which facilitates access and equity and strengthens national responses to HIV and SRH.

Purpose of Accountability Framework

The accountability framework has been developed as a tool to monitor country and regional progress towards the agreed commitments as set out in the ESA Ministerial commitment document. The technical coordinating Group, under the leadership of UNAIDS and with support from SADC and EAC Secretariats will play a key role in the development and implementation of the accountability mechanism. The intended audience for the framework are primarily governments in the 20 countries, civil society partners (including young people and community based organisations) and development partners.

¹ Countries that endorsed the commitment include Angola, Botswana, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Targets as set out in the ESA Commitment

To ensure effectiveness, impact and accountability, working together within a multi-sectoral and whole government approach, as education and health ministers we affirm our determination to achieve all of the aforementioned ten Commitments and the following targets by the end of 2015:

- 4.1 A good quality CSE curriculum framework is in place and being implemented in each of the 20 countries;
- 4.2 Pre and in-service SRH and CSE training for teachers, health and social workers are in place and being implemented in all 20 countries;
- 4.3 By the end of 2015, decrease by 50% the number of adolescents and young people who do not have access to youth-friendly SRH services including HIV that are equitable, accessible, acceptable, appropriate and effective.

In the longer term, we will work towards reaching the following targets by the end of 2020:

- 4.4 Consolidate recent and hard-won gains in the reduction of HIV prevalence in ESA, and push towards eliminating all new HIV infections amongst adolescents and young people aged 10-24;
- 4.5 Increase to 95% the number of adolescents and young people, aged 10-24, who demonstrate comprehensive HIV prevention knowledge levels;
- 4.6 Reduce early and unintended pregnancies among young people by 75%;
- 4.7 Eliminate gender-based violence;
- 4.8 Eliminate child marriage;
- 4.9 Increase the number of all schools and teacher training institutions that provide CSE to 75%.