Young men and women aged 15-24 represent 40% of new HIV infections, and much still lack access to information, skills and services required to prevent infection. Young women in this age group are particularly at risk, and are 1.6 times more likely to be infected. The gap between knowledge and practice persists, and young men and women with accurate information about HIV still engage in risky behavior. Education is central to preparing young people for adult life, and offers important protection against HIV. Well-planned and delivered HIV and sexuality education increases knowledge, develops skills, generates positive attitudes and modifies or reduces risk taking behavior.

In Tanzania, UNESCO, together with UN Agencies and other partners, provides technical guidance for developing and implementing gender responsive, age-appropriate, culturally relevant and rights-based HIV and sexuality education. Currently, UNESCO’s work includes: building the skills and capacities of education experts and teachers to deliver effective education on HIV, sexuality, and drug-use prevention; supporting the development and implementation of social behavioral change communication in higher learning institutions; and strengthening capacities of education experts to coordinate and monitor HIV and sexuality education interventions.

UNESCO supports the Tanzanian government to develop and implement comprehensive responses to HIV and AIDS through the education sector. UNESCO also works with a wide range of civil society partners, including professional associations, academics and network organizations of people living with HIV to advocate for the reduction of stigma and discrimination at workplaces.

For more information on UNESCO’s global support to HIV and AIDS Education, click here.