

## Education NGO Forum – 15 April 2004

The Education NGO Forum of 15 April 2004, was held at Save the Children (Redd Barna) Norway, Hammersborg Torg 3 and the theme was **HIV/AIDS and Education**. There were two presentations: first, by Ellen Carm from LINS who presented “*The Practical Experiences from mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in Teacher Training Programme in Zambia*” and second, by Sine D. Christensen from Save the Children (Redd Barna) Norway who presented reflections from her Master thesis entitled “*HIV/AIDS and Education Dialectic with a Focus on Botswana*”. The two presentations were each followed by the discussion which mainly focused on the contemporary challenges in our endeavour to address the theme of HIV/AIDS and Education.

Focusing on the LINS cooperation with Livingstone Teachers College in Zambia, Ellen Carm outlined the objectives and main activities of the project as well as the various strategies that have been employed in the project in the actual mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in Teachers Training. Together with other strategies, the project’s emphasis on the localisation of the HIV/AIDS campaign message, as well as its involvement/use of local or traditional chiefs in the HIV/AIDS initiatives proved to be by far more effective innovation than more conventional sensitisation approaches that often have been used without a clear focus on the target groups and adequate or critical scrutiny of their methodologies. The challenge of numerous uncoordinated sensitisation workshops and activities were also mentioned.

On more theoretical premises, Sine Christensen shortly presented the dialectic relation between education and HIV/AIDS. She also discussed her proposal for a in-service training programme for the teachers which, among other things, includes a call for a training to overcome the taboo, denial and stigmatisation around the HIV/AIDS pandemic which hinders the development of an open and tolerant environment in schools. Among the relevant issues raised during the discussion is the central role of the community and ‘family unit’ in the HIV/AIDS campaign. How to integrate parents in the initiatives against aids and actively looking at ‘family’ as a resource unit were argued to be important.

Ane Haaland from Haaland Communication/Scanteam shared some of her experiences from a recent KAP study in Tanzania. Participatory teaching and learning methods was emphasised but there is a need to define what is meant by participatory methods. Teachers may define this as children asking questions, and not as promoting a real dialog. The family as an important resource was also mentioned.

The discussion concluded by agreeing on the date for the next NGO Forum to be held at Flyktningerådet 10 June 2004 on the theme of ‘Minimum standard for Education in Emergences’.