

Presentation of CAFS

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CAFS (Centre for African Family Studies) is a regional African institution which seeks to “strengthen human and organisational resources in offering services in the field of reproductive health, population and development in the African Sub Sahara”.

The objective of CAFS is to:

1. promote sexual and reproductive health
2. promote habits and lifestyles underlying reproductive health
3. assure the quality of services in the field of reproductive health
4. encourage cooperation and partnerships between the institutions concerned

In order to fulfill this task, CAFS organises courses at regional and national levels for professionals in the field of health, development and population. CAFS training is based on active methods and refers to experiences on site, which makes this courses highly practice-oriented.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, CAFS has much experience in the field of training of health care workers. CAFS has longstanding experience in organising courses in the sector of population, development, reproductive health, management of health programs, prevention and provision of care to HIV and AIDS patients.

What is the utility of training in the field of prevention and provision of care to STD/HIV/AIDS patients?

The spreading of HIV infections has reached critical limits in the southern areas of the Sahara. The consequences are as serious as is the dimension of this epidemic (decreased life expectancy, diminished productivity and increased poverty).

The HIV infection is a public health problem which affects everyone: parents, children, teachers, medical and paramedical professionals, social workers, university lecturers and people living with HIV.

Many studies show that the high rate of infections and the subsequent high mortality rate highly correlate with lack of information or bad information about the HIV infection, furthermore, the system of care, if it exists at all, is either weak or the services cannot be used due to poverty.

For this reason, CAFS offers courses which aim at creating synergies between all sectors of the population, development, but above all, between “the health care sector and the community” in order to strengthen prevention and provision of care.

The target groups:

- Doctors, mid-wives, nursing staff in health structures (public and private, profit- and non-profit-oriented, Church Orders)
- Professionals in the social sector (sociologists, psychologists, etc.) and those who have a contact to HIV/AIDS infected persons

The training improves knowledge of the problems relating to HIV infections, and enables personal communication and counselling of STD/HIV patients. People learn to understand the role of the community in the area of prevention and provision of care to infected persons.

The professional perspectives for graduates are the eligibility for the positions in public bodies, in organisations and associations combatting HIV and its repercussions. Graduates may become consultants for HIV/AIDS issues in public health and/or private structures.

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