

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Inter Agency Task Team on Children and AIDS Framework 2009-2010

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for more than two thirds of the global number of people living with HIV, and continues to account for the large majority of global AIDS deaths and new global HIV infections. HIV and AIDS further impacts on the health, education, protection and survival of millions of children. The epidemic substantially contributes to increasing child mortality rates and orphanhood across the region. Accordingly, the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Inter Agency Task Team (RIATT) on Children and HIV and AIDS was formed to accelerate the fulfillment of commitments for children affected by HIV and AIDS as laid out in the United Nations 2001 General Assembly Declaration of Commitments on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals.

The RIATT was formed in 2006 by the recommendation of the Third Global Partners Forum¹ to establish regional task teams that would support governments and the international community in reaching the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for children affected by AIDS. The RIATT is a multi-sectoral partnership of regional level institutions, including representation from Regional Economic Communities (SADC and EAC), UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, international cooperating partners, and academia.

RIATT Terms of Reference

1. Convene regional actors to harmonize and coordinate with the Global IATT and Global Partners Forum
2. Act as a regional platform for leveraging, advocacy and leadership.
3. Identify interventions to be carried out at regional level in support of national priorities
4. Promote learning and manage knowledge that stimulates a regional dialogue and provides insight for a scaled-up response for children
5. Clarify roles amongst RIATT members in support of common regional goals identified with continental and regional institutions for accelerated implementation at country level.

The RIATT strives to build consensus around a regional strategy for children affected by HIV and AIDS. By bringing together key stakeholders in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, the RIATT has a key role to play in reviewing progress and evidence for action needed to promote scaled up and sustained responses to children affected by HIV and AIDS. Beyond this platform, the RIATT provides a way for shared national priorities to be considered as regional concerns as well as being reflected in global policy-making through the GPF and Global IATT.

RIATT 2009-10 Objective

Promote learning and manage knowledge to stimulate regional dialogue and evidence based findings to inform regional and national policies and programmes in order to scale up responses to universal access for children affected by AIDS.

RIATT 2009-10 Activities

1. Develop a knowledge management strategy that promotes generation, dissemination and effective use of evidence based findings to inform regional and national policy, planning,

¹ See http://www.unicef.org/aids/index_41737.html for more information on the Global Partners Forum.

- and programming decisions around children and AIDS (see Knowledge Management Strategy).
2. Build and sustain regional partnerships through the RIATT Partnership Meetings and active engagement in key events and processes (see Knowledge Management Strategy).
 3. Facilitate implementation of RIATT “Getting it Right for Children” Conference recommendations at regional and national level (see RIATT Working Groups’ Plans of Action).
 4. Act as a technical resource to SADC and EAC in promoting scaled-up responses at the national level in support of children affected by AIDS (see RIATT Working Groups’ Plans of Action).

RIATT Governance Structure 2009-2010

