

3S-ADO Multimedia Center in Benin



Suggested level	Secondary 1-2 (7 th -8 th grade)
Length	55 minutes (1 period)
Subjects	English, language of instruction
Broad Areas of Learning	Citizenship and community life Health and well-being
Focuses of Development	Contributing to a culture of peace
Educational Aim	To use information presented in texts and to become aware of the role of an African organisation in matters connected to the health and well-being as well as the education of Beninese youth.
Subject-Specific Competencies	To read and listen to literary, popular and information-based texts
Cross-Curricular Competencies	To use information



Background Information

Currently over 40 million people around the world suffer from HIV/AIDS. Africa is certainly the most affected continent, with close to three quarters of all cases. The high mortality rate of AIDS victims is creating a serious and increasing number of orphans. In Benin, teens are an especially vulnerable group, often exposed to various problems such as a lack of education, social discrimination, child trafficking, genital mutilation, prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, early and unwanted pregnancies, and black-market abortions that can lead to sterility or even death. Fortunately, initiatives have been taken to educate youth and to enhance the general awareness of these problems.



Instructions

Students are invited to read the text below as well as the following interviews, and to answer the questions to verify their comprehension of the subject.



Answers to the Questions

Please note that these are suggested answers.

- 1- In Benin, teens are an especially vulnerable group, often exposed to various problems such as a lack of educational resources, social discrimination, child trafficking, genital mutilation, prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, early and unwanted pregnancies, and black-market abortions that can lead to sterility or even death.
- 2- The student may list any three of the mentioned objectives:
 - a. To promote the sexual and reproductive health of youth;
 - b. To increase the participation of Beninese youth in the program development process, such as the defining and establishment of long term solutions to problems related to health and reproduction;
 - c. Improving teenagers' quality of life;
 - d. Promoting the adoption of positive behaviours related to health and reproduction as well as a change of attitude amongst teenagers, parents, society, and religious and political leaders towards youth;
 - e. Improving communication between parents and children.

- 3- The Beninese government, together with a few international organisations, created a national communication strategy aiming to enhance the participation of youth in the development of their country. This action is responsible for the creation and purpose of the 3S-ADO Multimedia Centre. Inspired by recommendations of international youth conferences, the Multimedia Centre is a communication channel that helps young Beninenses to achieve by themselves the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).
- 4- The student may list two of the following achievements:
 - a. From 2002 to 2003, nearly 300 teenagers benefited from training in various subjects.
 - b. By the end of 2004, 50 youth had already found employment thanks to the program.
 - c. Some youth specialized in health and reproduction education founded a visual production association named Inov Production.
 - d. Youth who received drama training from the project have been touring France and Belgium to enhance awareness of HIV/AIDS. Some youth have chosen to continue their journalism training in Senegal and Canada. About ten youth took part in an exchange program between Canada, Senegal, and Benin in journalism and human rights, organized by Canada World Youth (CWY)

Difficulty Encountered: Insufficient financial resources for the centre.

- 5- The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) are an initiative of the United Nations, signed in 2002. The goal mentioned in the text is to reduce extreme poverty and the spread of HIV/AIDS around the world by one half before 2015.

The Millennium Development Goals occupy an important place in all of the development programs of international institutions. They're perceived as a challenge to be achieved by all nations for a fairer and more equitable standard of living for the world's populations.

- 6- The centre's survival is threatened by a lack of resources.
- 7- The 3S-ADO Centre helped to give birth to Nina's first writings in journalism. It represents her first real step into the media world which makes her today a true journalist.
- 8- Student's personal answer

The Center helped 50 youth from various backgrounds to find employment, and ten others to earn their living thanks to a visual production association that they created by themselves. Moreover, the centre trained hundreds of youth and gave them the opportunity to bring awareness of sexual health and reproduction to Benin. This program hence reduces poverty through employment creation and the enhancement of educational opportunities.

▶▶▶ **To learn more about the subject, you may wish to consult the following sources and propose them to your students:**

3S-ADO (in French only): www.3sado.freesurf.fr/visite.htm

Canada World Youth: www.cwy-jcm.org

In-Terre-Actif Network («Press Room»): www.in-terre-actif.com

AN INITIATIVE OF THE
In-Terre-Actif Network of the Comité de Solidarité/Trois-Rivières



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