

STUDENT'S HANDOUT

AIDS in Tanzania



Inaccessibility is Unacceptable



Background Information

The majority of HIV positive people live in developing countries. The ongoing development of these countries has brought about some devastating consequences for the families and communities of these countries. As the HIV/AIDS epidemic worsens, the communities and the families are deprived of an invaluable labour force. Family members who become ill cannot occupy themselves with farming or work for a proper income to support the rest of their household. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is assisting the Tanzanian government to set up the first stages of a treatment programme to deal with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Today, Tanzania remains one of the countries hardest hit by AIDS.

Source: In-Terre-Actif Network, CIDA, Canadian Health Network.



Instructions

Read the following text and complete the activity suggested by your teacher.

AIDS in Tanzania: when treatment remains inaccessible

Although there are drugs to slow down the ravages of AIDS for HIV positive patients, there are still thousands of people with AIDS for whom treatment for their suffering remains inaccessible.

Drugs used to treat people with AIDS are called antiretroviral or multi-therapy retroviral because it is a mixture of several drugs which slows down the progression of HIV. The CIDA's contribution to the Tanzanian government's ongoing programs is used to buy and distribute antiretroviral drugs. This program also aims to modernize infrastructures, to train health care workers, and to educate and bring about public awareness

Why is this so difficult for sick people to get access to medication? The drugs which are used to treat the frequent infections caused by AIDS cost thousands of dollars per year! The cost of medication in developing countries, even at a lower price, remains out-of-reach for the majority of the population. In Africa, the continent the most affected, more

than 290 million people live on less than one dollar a day – and what can be said about Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in Africa...

Why is medication are so expensive? It is because drugs are often protected by patents. A patent is a document which gives title to its holder the exclusive rights to exploit the patented invention, this over a limited duration (generally 20 years) and in a given territory. When a drug is patented the manufacturer holds a monopoly, which means it is forbidden for anyone else to manufacture or market copies of the drug in question. In a monopoly market, there are several buyers but only one salesman. The pharmaceutical companies (manufacturers) justify this practice by arguing that the profits generated finance their research and development activities. Unfortunately, for those who can not afford these drugs, this monopoly eliminates any commercial competition which could help in the reduction of prices.

Of the 24 million Africans affected by AIDS approximately 2.5 million need antiretroviral drugs, however less than 1% currently has access. For developing countries this situation constitutes a social risk as the steadily high prices creates difficulties and often prevents access to treatment and medical care.

	Tanzania	Canada
Capital	Dodoma	Ottawa
Gross national product (GNP) (per person)	\$ 290 US (2003)	\$ 23 930 US (2003)
GDP (% - 2003)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	43	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	17	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Services	40	66
Life expectancy at birth	41 ans (1960) 43 ans (2003)	71 ans (1960) 79 ans (2003)
Mortality rate for children under age 5 (per 1000 children)	241 (1960) 165 (2003)	33 (1960) 6 (2003)

Student's name _____ Class : _____ Date : _____

Reading Comprehension Evaluation: AIDS in Tanzania

Section One

Based on the text you have just read, write a short paragraph on your thoughts between 75 and 100 words.

1. How do you feel about the subject after having read the text?
2. What have you learned?

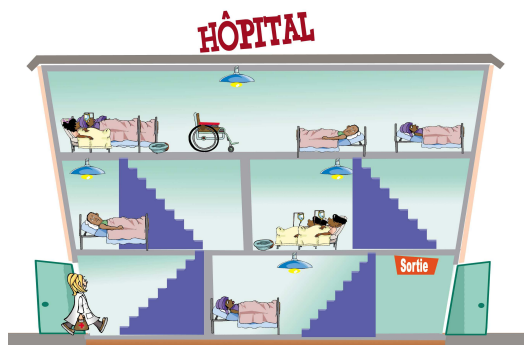
Section Two

Oral exercise. Follow your teacher's directions.

Section Three

Based on what you have read, written, and heard, express your own opinions in a short paragraph between 75 and 100 words. Write a short paragraph answering the following question: *What do you think about limited access to medication?*

From the Pedagogical Instructive Tool Kit "À la découverte du continent africain" found on the WEB site at: www.in-terre-actif.com (section «Trousse pédagogique»)



AN INITIATIVE OF THE
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