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ASCI UPDATE

AIDS, Security & Conflict Initiative Newsletter • May 2008



ASCI Progress Report

ASCI has mobilized further funding to support existing projects and to commission new ones. Co-funding arrangements have been established with multilateral partners including UNAIDS and UNFPA, civil society organizations, such as Justice Africa, private foundations such as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and academic research institutions such as the Health Economics AIDS Research Department (HEARD) at the University of Natal in South Africa. A wide variety of qualitative and quantitative research approaches have been supported, including field-based assessments, literature reviews, macroeconomic and epidemiological modelling, meta-policy analyses and case studies.

ASCI's research portfolio now includes a wide variety of initiatives across four priority thematic areas: uniformed services including the police, humanitarian and post-conflict transitions, fragile states and gender issues. Research partners consist of 23 different organizations and individuals, including non-governmental organizations, policy research and academic institutions.

- [Read the full update...](#)
- [Read the overview of ASCI's research projects...](#)
- Have feedback? Send it to asci@ssrc.org.

HIV/AIDS & the Police

Under the auspices of ASCI, forty three police officers, policymakers, academics and specialists met for the first-ever global consultation focused on issues of the policing and HIV/AIDS. These diverse stakeholders, representing every continent, met to discuss issues of common concern. Growing out of this meeting, ASCI released its first two research reports covering the current knowledge base around these issues.

- [Read ASCI Research Report No. 1, "The Police and HIV/AIDS: A Literature Review"...](#)
- [Read ASCI Research Report No. 2, "Current Trends and Issues in Research on HIV/AIDS and Police Forces in Africa"...](#)
- [Read a summary of principal issues and next steps from the global consultation...](#)

Report: Central American Uniformed Services

The first section of this ASCI Research Report presents an exposé about the specific Central American sensibilities and legacies concerning the military and the police. The second part of the report presents a country-by-country analysis of the military and the police in five Central American countries: Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Cost Rica. The report is based on a series of extensive interviews with professional medical staff, military and police officers, social workers, NGO employees and political authorities.

- [Read ASCI Research Report No. 3, "HIV/AIDS and the Central American Uniformed Services"](#)

Report: Impacts on Operational Efficacy of Military Forces

This ASCI Research Report describes the physical four-stage progression of the HIV infection on the individual soldier and looks at the effects on combat effectiveness, morale and discipline and implications for the capability and functional effectiveness of surviving personnel. Two diagnostic models are proposed. The first is a Force Capability Analytical Framework which examines the effect of HIV when procuring, preparing, employing and sustaining military forces for operations. The second model is a Military Institutional Audit that examines the results of the first in terms of the damage done to the force.

- [Read ASCI Research Report No. 4, "The Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Operational Efficacy of Military Forces"](#)

ASCI Gender Research Meeting, 21-22 May 2008

The London School of Economics will host a meeting of ASCI researchers working on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS, security and conflict. Papers will be presented by Charlotte Watts, Cathy Zimmerman, Johannes John Langba, Hakan Seckinelgin and Judy El Bushra.

Outreach: Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality

On 3 December 2007, forty academics, representatives of civil society organizations, experts and policy-makers met together in Geneva for a meeting titled "Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality: Emerging Results in HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence." The meeting was organised by UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Instituto Promundo and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and MenEngage.

- [Click here to read the summary report...](#)

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