

The Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Adult Mortality in Developing Countries, that the Population Division will hold at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 13 September 2003, is a unique combination of a technical meeting and a training activity for African population specialists working in the area of HIV/AIDS in some of the countries most affected by the epidemic. The Workshop is one of the main components of the Development Account Training programme on the Demographic Impact of AIDS in Africa. About 20 trainees, most of whom are working currently in national statistical offices and or in the AIDS coordination bodies of African countries, will attend the Workshop. The objectives of this training activity are to give African trainees a good understanding of the broad demographic aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including methodological and data quality issues, and to make them aware of the crucial importance of adopting effective ways to communicate the results of research on population and HIV/AIDS.

The Workshop will focus on presentations by experts and active discussions between trainees and experts on the technical aspects of estimating the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS, measuring adult mortality levels in general, and projecting mortality levels in the presence of the epidemic. The Workshop will also include discussions on ways of improving such communication, especially through the mass media. United Nations correspondents and DPI representatives will address the Workshop.

The effects of HIV/AIDS on a wide array of social and economic aspects will also be discussed in conjunction with policy responses and programmes developed to meet the challenges posed by the epidemic. The last two days of the Workshop will be devoted to a discussion of opportunities and constraints in the use of demographic information to inform policy formulation and communication in the 15 countries represented.