# HIV and STDs



### What to discuss with the learners?

Ask the following questions, see what they answer. Make sure that all the facts mentioned below about HIV, AIDS and STDs are discussed!

- Do you know what HIV is? What about AIDS?
- Can you prevent it? How?
- Do you know what antiretrovirals (ARVs) are?
- If you are HIV-positive can you have sex without a condom if you're having ARV? (No)

#### **HIV & AIDS**

- = human immunodeficiency virus
  - Is transmitted through unprotected sex (vaginal/anal/oral) and through blood.
  - Is NOT transmitted through hugging, kissing, holding hands or using the same toilet.
  - Causes a permanent infection that damages the defence system of human body.
  - AIDS is the last phase of HIV. In AIDS the defence system is already severely damaged.
  - HIV can be treated well with antiretroviral drugs.
  - HIV is preventable by using a condom during sex.

Created by midwife students: Essi Kakkonen and Meri Nieminen TAMK, Finland



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#### STDs

- = sexually-transmitted diseases
  - Are transmitted through unprotected sex (vaginal/anal/oral).
  - Can cause skin symptoms (blisters, wounds).
    They can also be symptomless!
  - Even if you wouldn't have any symptoms you can spread the disease.
  - If not treated:
    - $\circ$  can harm your fertility
    - can cause death
  - STDs are preventable by using a condom during sex.

### Always use a condom during sex!

## If you have had unprotected sex you should get tested for HIV and STDs!

If you have symptoms you should see a doctor!

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