UNITED NATIONS

WORLD CHRONICLE

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AIDS and Development

Dr. Michel Lavollay, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Senior Programme Officer for the HIV and Development Programme, highlights the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS problem worldwide. In a number of African countries during the last decade, 10 to 15 per cent of the general population, or 30 to 40 per cent of young adults, have become infected with HIV. Dr. Lavollay believes that AIDS is not just a medical problem but is also a social and economic crisis. UNDP, he says, coordinates efforts with other UN agencies, national governments and organizations to tackle the pandemic. From the economic side, the degradation of the skilled working force in developing nations caused by the disease affects their production capacity. Dr. Lavollay asserts that UNDP promotes protective measures to contain the epidemic.

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