# The Quality and Effectiveness of Partner Efforts Supporting the Education Sector's Response to HIV and AIDS –

#### **Lessons Learned from Kenya**

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#### **Overview**

- UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team on Education
- Purpose of country case study exercise
- Methodology of the review
- Country context and background Kenya
- Country findings

Recommendations for education sector response

and development partners



#### Background: UNAIDS IATT on Education

- Established in 2002 to support accelerated and improved education sector responses to HIV and AIDS; convened by UNESCO
- Includes as members: UNAIDS Co-sponsors, bilateral agencies, private donors, and CSOs
- Aims to:
  - Accelerate and improve education sector response to HIV and AIDS by promoting and supporting good practices in the education sector, and
  - Encouraging alignment and harmonisation within and across agencies to support global and country level actions.

# Mapping Opportunities for Collaboration: Country Case Study Exercise

- Purpose: Assess the quality & effectiveness of collaboration based on stakeholders' perceptions in Jamaica, Kenya, Zambia and Thailand of:
  - Achievements and gaps in the education response to HIV & AIDS
  - Coordination efforts
  - Harmonisation and alignment
  - Information sharing and key resources
  - M&E and feedback into decision-making
- Final purpose: formulate recommendations for the response, for development partners and for the IATT



#### Methodology

- Desk review of relevant documentation
- Stakeholder interviews in four countries with:
  - Ministry of Education
  - Universities
  - Development agencies
  - Civil society and NGOs
  - PLHA groups

- Private sector
- National Aids Council/ MoH & other key actors
- Teachers and students in schools
- Visits of selection of local educational facilities
- Preparation and circulation of country "aide memoires" to maximise participation of stakeholders



#### Background - Kenya

- Kenya facing declining rates of HIV infection
- High prevalence rates in previous years means high number of HIV-related deaths and orphans
- Government declared a 'total war' on AIDS in 1999
- Commitment to multi-sectoral national response
- National AIDS Control Council coordinates effort, in Office of the President

#### Findings - Achievements

- MoE demonstrated an early commitment to accelerating the response
- HIV mainstreamed into the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme including the curriculum
- Lifeskills integrated in curriculum (Children & Teachers)
- Education Sector Policy on HIV and AIDS and workplace policy guidelines on HIV and AIDS
- AIDS Control Units (ACUs) established
- Positive teacher network and psycho-social support groups for positive teachers
- Expanded access to VCT
- M&E system, EMIS, DEMIS



#### Findings – Gaps and Challenges

- Limited policy dissemination and translation into actions
- MoE staff turnover, retrenchment and retirement, as well as a stop on new recruitments, affecting staff availability and continuity
- Insufficient teacher training & Lifeskills for teachers
- Inadequate focus on gender, sexuality & HIV & LSBE for the empowerment of girls & other children affected by AIDS
- Funding gaps in KESSP
- Coordination between ACUs and development partners
- Stigma and discrimination continue to pose barriers to accessing VCT

#### Findings - Coordination

- Education response has been much better coordinated, and moved faster, than in other key sectors
- SWAp process led to enhanced donor coordination, more formalised structures, clarification of priorities, better mainstreaming of HIV in education, and a framework for joint planning and funding
- However,
  - Civil society and PLHIV groups are not systematically part of decision-making
  - Continued duplication of efforts by partners
  - Coordination between ACUs fragmented

#### Findings - Harmonisation and Alignment

- Alignment by DPs with the SWAp and the KESSP
- Commitment to basket funding for key programmes
- Joint planning and reporting on KESSP
- SWAp and KESSP created an enabling environment
- Ongoing challenges:
  - Funding of KESSP affecting implementation
  - Some development partners keep funding outside of KESSP
  - Efforts limited to education sector no cross-sectoral coordination for OVC

# Findings – Key Resources and Information-Sharing

- Information-sharing through EDPG, joint annual reviews, thematic meetings
- Ongoing concerns:
  - Limited decentralisation
  - Some key resources have not been sufficiently disseminated or monitored
  - Integration of information into decision-making not regular or consistent



### Findings – M&E, Evaluation and Feedback

- Little progress towards identifying education-specific indicators on HIV and AIDS
- Promising developments :
  - On-going work to establish an EMIS and DEMIS which will provide critical information on the implementation of KESSP
  - National framework for HIV and AIDS monitoring has been set up (COBPAR)

### Recommendations – For education sector response

- Further disseminate the policy and legal frameworks and monitor their compliance and implementation
- Take stronger leadership in effective inter-sectoral coordination on issues impacting on the sector
- Establish clear coordination, harmonisation and reporting structures for the ACUs and strengthen them with additional staff
- Develop an education sector HIV and AIDS monitoring and evaluation plan and support data flow from decentralised to MoE levels

## Recommendations – For development partners

- Develop clear mechanisms for translating the HIV and AIDS programme under KESSP into priorities and joint annual plans
- Strengthen links between different sectors within development agencies themselves
- Ensure HIV & AIDS and education programmes have clear indicators for monitoring outputs and outcomes, and necessary resources

### Find out more about the UNAIDS IATT on Education

