

SUMMARY REPORT: Africa Sub-Regional Lusophone HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshop

Cardoso Hotel, Maputo, Mozambique
21-25 May 2007

Overview: UNESCO organized a capacity-building workshop for field staff and partner agencies (ministries of education, UNAIDS cosponsors and civil society organizations, including groups of HIV-positive people involved in education and HIV and AIDS) for African Lusophone countries in mid-2007. Twenty-two individuals from Angola, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome participated in the workshop held in Maputo, Mozambique. Colleagues from UNESCO's Section on HIV and AIDS in Paris, France; the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Dakar, Senegal; and UNESCO Brasilia were also present. The workshop provided a forum for participants to share experiences and lessons learnt with one another, increase their understanding of EDUCAIDS, and build their capacity to plan and implement comprehensive education sector responses to HIV and AIDS. This document provides a summary of the workshop. Please refer to the full report, available in English and Portuguese, for more details on the workshop proceedings.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Africa Sub-Regional Lusophone HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshop, one in a series of regional workshops organized and facilitated by UNESCO's EDUCAIDS team in partnership with UNESCO field offices, was part of UNESCO's ongoing efforts to continue and deepen strategic action on education and HIV & AIDS in the context of Education For All and the newly revised UNESCO Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS.

EDUCAIDS Africa Sub-Regional Lusophone Workshop Participants



The workshop, which was primarily funded by the Japanese Funds in Trust (JFIT), focused on the following objectives:

- To discuss and analyse the role of the education sector in national responses to HIV and AIDS,
- To build awareness and understanding of EDUCAIDS, support the development of comprehensive national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS, and establish priorities for action, and
- To improve capacity, skills and teamwork among UNESCO and its partners in the HIV and AIDS response.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR DISCUSSIONS AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

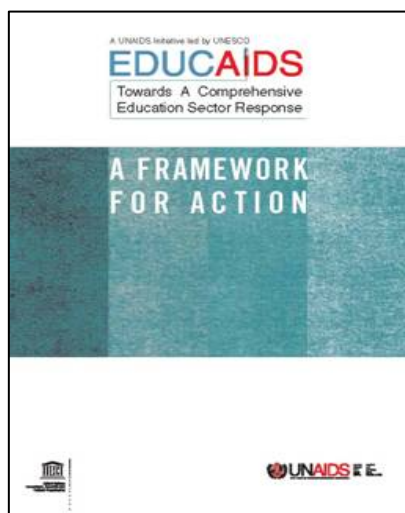
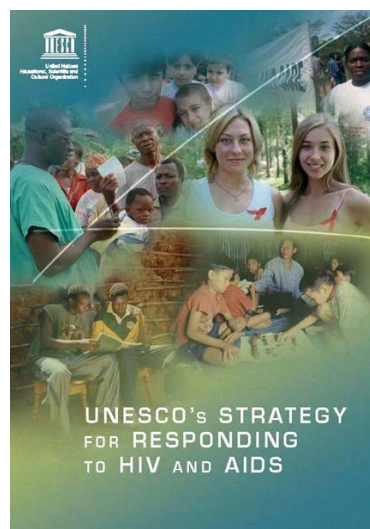
The workshop included a combination of plenary sessions, discussions and group work, with the aim of sharing experiences and stimulating dialogue among participants to identify challenges and possible solutions regarding the education sector's role in responding to HIV and AIDS at the country level. In order to set the tone for the workshop, organizers presented an overview of UNESCO's global strategy on HIV and AIDS, followed by a presentation on EDUCAIDS, the UNAIDS Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS. Skills-building sessions on prevention education, treatment education and socio-cultural approaches to HIV and AIDS helped participants increase their understanding of particular thematic areas.

UNESCO'S STRATEGY FOR RESPONDING TO HIV AND AIDS

UNESCO's global strategy on HIV and AIDS is the result of extensive consultation throughout UNESCO, including input from all of UNESCO's sectors, as well as from a wide range of institutes, regional bureaux and field offices.

The strategy outlines five core actions within UNESCO's response and reflects:

- The guiding principle of working towards universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support; and,
- UNESCO's mandate under the UNAIDS division of labour as the lead organization for HIV prevention with young people in educational institutions.



EDUCAIDS

EDUCAIDS is a multi-country UNAIDS initiative, led by UNESCO with the collaboration of governments, civil society organizations and UNAIDS cosponsors, to support the development, implementation and strengthening of comprehensive national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS.

The EDUCAIDS framework outlines components of a comprehensive education sector response including the need for quality education; educator training and support; accurate and culturally appropriate content, curriculum and learning materials; policy, management and systems; and the use of varying approaches and entry points.

SHARING COUNTRY EXPERIENCES AND RESPONSES

Encouraging participants to exchange experiences, lessons learnt and future plans with one another was a key aspect of the workshop. Delegates from each of the four participating African Lusophone countries presented an overview of the current HIV and AIDS situation in the country and shared examples of programmes and activities in education and HIV and AIDS.

ANGOLA

Presenters: Agueda Maria Flores Gomes (UNESCO) and Kiaku-Mbanzila Mvumbi (Ministry of Education)

The HIV prevalence in Angola is estimated to be 5.5%. The HIV situation in Angola worsened following the re-opening of borders after the war. Education sector efforts to address HIV and AIDS in Angola have included introducing HIV and AIDS information into the school curriculum, teacher training and peer education. However, socio-cultural factors have made implementing HIV prevention education in schools challenging. In addition, negative attitudes towards condoms, combined with limited availability of and access to condoms, are other obstacles.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Presenter: Alzira da Silva Segundo do Rosário (National Programme on HIV and AIDS)

The only epidemiological study to date indicates that HIV prevalence among pregnant women has increased from 0.1% in 2001 to 1.5% in 2004. HIV and AIDS are included in the basic education subject, "Family Life." However, this is not a tested discipline and as a result teachers and students view the content less seriously. There are less than 1000 teachers in the education sector and roughly 60% have not completed the teacher education and training programme. Furthermore, the education sector does not have a coordination structure for educator professional development.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Presenter: Mamadù Danfa (Ministry of Education)

Guinea-Bissau's HIV prevalence is estimated to be 5% or higher. A national HIV and AIDS strategic plan exists under the Ministry of Health. In 1989 a thematic approach to HIV and AIDS was introduced in basic education. Major shortcomings in the education sector response include the lack of sector policies and protocols on HIV and AIDS, poor use of information channels and inadequate teacher training on HIV and AIDS. Furthermore, due to a fragmented education sector response to HIV and AIDS and the absence of an articulated sector strategy, many of the country's 11 provinces are not reached by existing interventions.

MOZAMBIQUE

Presenter: Teodora Cassamo (Ministry of Education and Culture)

Mozambique's national HIV prevalence is 16.2% and ranges from 11.7% in Inhambane Province to 26.5% in Sofala Province. Assessments predict that the education sector will lose thousands of teachers to AIDS during the present decade. Mozambique's national response aims to be cross-cutting, decentralised and integrated across levels with a strong education sector focus on life skills. Eighty percent of the school curriculum is national and twenty percent is local, thus allowing for tailoring content to local, regional and provincial contexts. High illiteracy rates are a barrier to programming as roughly half of the population cannot read or write.

PROMISING PRACTICES FROM BRAZIL AND MOZAMBIQUE

Brazil and Mozambique, two Lusophone countries with more extensive experience in education sector responses to HIV and AIDS, shared information and examples of noteworthy programmes. A representative from UNESCO Brasilia offered perspective on the Brazilian approach to HIV and AIDS. Workshop discussions were also enriched by a field visit to a school sexual and reproductive health project and a presentation from a local network of people living with HIV (PLHIV).

BRAZIL - Saúde e Prevenção nas Escolas

Brazil's response to HIV and AIDS has benefited from strong political leadership and commitment. Prevention education is implemented in the formal education sector while multiple programmes and projects, many of which are carried out by civil society organizations, address the needs of out-of-school young people.

The UNESCO Brasilia Office started a project with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health entitled *Saúde e Prevenção nas Escolas* (SPE) or Health and Prevention in Schools. This project set out to ensure that the education sector was more engaged in the national HIV and AIDS response. The proposal process involved all education secretariats and health secretariats in 27 states in order to promote collaboration between the two sectors. UNFPA and UNICEF are also involved and are represented on the interagency project management team.

The project includes youth peer education components in public schools, making condoms available and training teachers and health professionals on issues of sexuality and human rights. Schools are linked with a local health service, which serves as a resource for students, teachers and the school community at large. UNESCO Brasilia and the National AIDS Programme collaborate on the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

MOZAMBIQUE – Geração Biz Project

Workshop participants visited the Geração Biz Project in a local school in Maputo. This project is an example of a multisectoral effort involving the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Health along with support from UNFPA and technical assistance from Pathfinder International. The project aims to increase young people's awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues, increase access to youth-friendly health services and promote safe and responsible behaviour. Project activities are undertaken at the provincial, district and community levels and integrate school-based components, community-based interventions, peer education, youth-friendly health clinics and support for HIV-positive youth. The project is featured in *Education and HIV/AIDS: A Sourcebook of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs* (World Bank, 2003).

MOZAMBIQUE – Kindlimuka Association

Kindlimuka, which means *wake up*, is a local network of PLHIV in Mozambique. Association members attended the workshop and elaborated on the group's activities, which include prevention education, counseling and advocacy work to address issues of stigma and discrimination and access to treatment. Kindlimuka members discussed the importance of their efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV and AIDS by breaking the silence and speaking publicly about their status. Kindlimuka undertakes some income-generating activities to help sustain the association such as dressmaking and needlework workshops and selling various goods. However, insufficient human and financial resources, combined with the lack of an official work space, limit the association's capacity to implement programmes and activities.

HIV AND AIDS WORKPLACE POLICY LAUNCH

Workplace policies are an important part of a comprehensive education sector response to HIV and AIDS and play a key role in maintaining safe and supportive learning environments for educators and students.

During the workshop, the Portuguese language version of *HIV and AIDS Policy in the Work Place for the Education Sector in Southern Africa* was launched. The international Labour Organisation (ILO), a partner in the development of the policy, was represented at the launch by the ILO director responsible for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.



Workplace Policy Launch in Maputo, Mozambique

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

The exchange of information and experiences that occurred over the course of the five-day workshop resulted in improved understanding of EDUCAIDS, increased capacity to respond to the impact of HIV and AIDS on the education sector and preliminary identification of national priority actions. Participants particularly valued the opportunity to build ties with colleagues across Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and to share promising practices and lessons learned with one another.

UNESCO Brasilia's involvement in the workshop offered a unique occasion to draw on Brazil's extensive experience and lessons learnt from HIV and AIDS action. UNESCO Brasilia played a key role in organizing and conducting the workshop and also helped prepare Portuguese versions of key documents, such as UNESCO's Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS and the EDUCAIDS Framework for Action, and brought examples of many Portuguese-language HIV and AIDS education materials to share and discuss with participants. Further efforts will be made to encourage and support this type of South-South cooperation.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

In addition to the Lusophone workshop, an Anglophone workshop in Lusaka, Zambia (23-27 April, 2007) and a Francophone workshop in Bamako, Mali (18-22 June, 2007) took place. If you would like more information about EDUCAIDS or the Africa Sub-Regional HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshops, please contact the EDUCAIDS team at the Section for HIV and AIDS at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France (aids@unesco.org).

Workshop documents (available upon request):

- Concept Note
- Agenda
- List of Participants
- Country Presentation Slides
- Full Workshop Report

Key materials on EDUCAIDS:

EDUCAIDS: Towards a Comprehensive Education Sector Response. A Framework for Action

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001473/147360E.pdf>

Linking EDUCAIDS with other on-going initiatives

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001479/147916E.pdf>

UNESCO's Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001499/149998e.pdf>