







Building Knowledge, Skills and Hope: HIV and AIDS Education for African Children

Project Goal and Objectives

The project's goal is to strengthen the impact of HIV and AIDS education in selected countries in Southern Africa.

This project is a vehicle for pursuing several key, inter-related objectives:

At its heart, this project is about providing greater hope to children in Southern Africa. With improved policy and programmatic guidance for education ministries and schools, and increased training and support for teachers, schoolchildren throughout the four

project countries (Angola, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland) will be reached with improved curricula and learning materials. There is strong evidence that, by simply staying in school and receiving a basic quality education on HIV and AIDS, children are better able to prevent HIV infection, have improved access to AIDS treatment and care, reduce stigma and discrimination against



people living with HIV, and live with greater hope for the future.

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This project will also enable UNESCO to significantly deepen the scope of existing programming on HIV and AIDS, particularly through EDUCAIDS, the initiative to promote comprehensive education sector responses to HIV and AIDS, delivered in partnership among governments, international partners, and civil society at global, regional and country levels. EDUCAIDS in turn increases UNESCO's contribution to the attainment of Education for All (EFA) and global goals on education. In relation to this, the project will enable UNESCO to increase its programming specifically in the Southern African region.

Last but not least, the project will engender a living memorial to Virginio Bruni Tedeschi, one that will associate the Virginio Bruni Tedeschi Foundation with one of the noblest causes of our time – increased education on HIV and AIDS for girls and boys in Southern Africa.

The **objectives** are to:

- 1. Increase the coverage and quality of effective HIV and AIDS education in the identified countries;
- 2. Improve the availability of timely, relevant and high-quality technical support to project countries and implementing partners; and
- 3. Develop and maintain partnerships and share lessons from project implementation.



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Project Location

The focus is on the Southern African countries of <u>Lesotho</u>, <u>Namibia</u>, and <u>Swaziland</u>, which are among the countries in the world most highly affected by AIDS. The project will also be undertaken in <u>Angola</u>, which has a lower, but rapidly rising, rate of HIV infection. One-page EDUCAIDS country snapshots have been produced for each of these countries, and can be downloaded by clicking on the links above.

In each country, UNESCO is conducting an initial needs assessment and developing a plan for a comprehensive education sector response to HIV and AIDS, based on the EDUCAIDS Framework for Action, linking to countries' national AIDS strategies, and building on existing education sector plans. This assessment and plan will identify country level action, which is likely to include the development of the following, in an appropriately prioritised and phased manner:

- Policy and programmatic guidance,
- Curricula, content and learning materials,
- Educator training and support,
- Planning, monitoring and evaluation systems and processes,
- Human and financial resource management systems,
- Greater involvement of people living with HIV, and
- Linkages between the education sector and other sectors as well as communities.

Activities include developing and delivering up to two technical consultations to serve as guidance for country-level project implementers in order to deepen technical support to countries and partners, including schools and teachers. Depending on the findings of the country needs assessments and the content of country plans, each technical consultation may be on a topic such as:

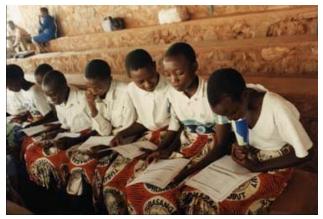
- Improving school-based sex education for HIV prevention,
- Improving HIV and AIDS treatment education and the role of schools in HIV & AIDS care and support, or
- Developing the meaningful participation of teachers and students living with HIV in prevention, treatment, care and support programmes.

Technical advice and resources for countries and partners will also be provided to ensure effective planning, monitoring and assessment; best practice technical quality guidance and assurance; and sound and efficient financial and administrative systems for project implementation.

All project activities are designed and executed in cooperation with appropriate partners. Lessons learned from project implementation will be widely shared to improve similar or future efforts in HIV and AIDS education.

In each country, the **intended results** are that:

- up to 100 schools will be mobilised with improved policy guidance and systems support,
- up to 1000 pre- and in-service teachers will be reached with improved policy and programme guidance and educator training and support, and
- up to 100,000 students will be reached with improved curricula, content and learning materials.



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