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# Supporting comprehensive education sector responses to HIV and AIDS: Lessons learned from global initiatives

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E-mail contact: [j.buchanan@unesco.org](mailto:j.buchanan@unesco.org) ABSTRACT No TUPE1024

<http://www.unesco.org/aids> (ED/UNP/HIV/IAC2008/POSTER/9)

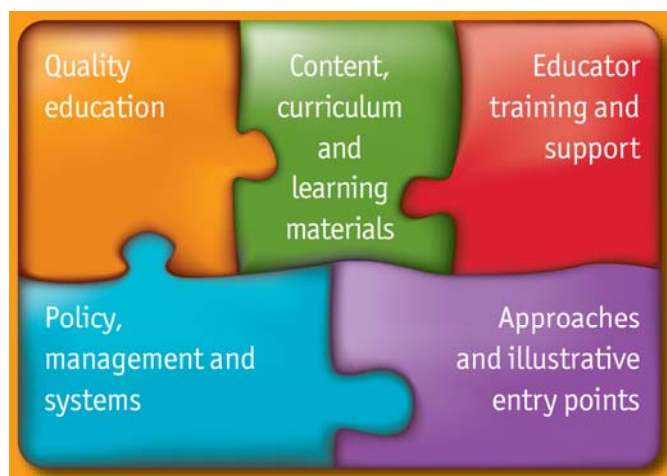
## Issues:

- The education sector has a key role to play in the response to HIV and AIDS at all levels. At the same time, the epidemic has a particular impact on learners, teachers, and education systems. In light of this, the UNAIDS Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS (EDUCAIDS) was launched to provide a framework for action for comprehensive education sector responses.
- EDUCAIDS, which is led by UNESCO, stresses the importance of partnerships among ministries of education & youth, civil society, multilateral and bilateral agencies and other key stakeholders.

## Description:

The EDUCAIDS Framework outlines five components of a comprehensive education sector response:

- 1) **Quality education:** rights-based, learner-centred, gender-responsive, inclusive, culturally sensitive, age-appropriate, scientifically accurate and delivered in secure learning environments.
- 2) **Content and curriculum:** evidence-informed, begun early and sequenced to build knowledge and skills to reduce risk behaviours.
- 3) **Educator training and support:** pre- and in-service educator training to build technical knowledge on HIV and AIDS, confidence and experience, and address educators' own vulnerabilities to HIV and the impact of HIV and AIDS.
- 4) **Policy, systems and management:** sectoral policies on HIV and AIDS, workplace policies to ensure zero tolerance for violence, abuse and discrimination, and strategic plans that are costed and funded to implement, enforce and monitor policies.
- 5) **Approaches and entry points for education sector action:** a holistic effort which maximises the use of various approaches, opportunities and entry points to address underlying vulnerabilities and behaviours that create and perpetuate HIV-related risk.



The EDUCAIDS Framework: the five essential components for a comprehensive education sector response

## Lessons learned:

- There remains a general lack of understanding of the education sector's role in national AIDS responses.
- EDUCAIDS and similar efforts must concentrate on advocacy.
- It is essential to adapt the global framework to regional and national contexts through capacity-building.
- Education sector responses that address all five Framework components simultaneously have a greater impact than sector responses where focus was given to some but not all.
- Education ministries need to better engage the global and national HIV and AIDS funding architecture. Conversely, education HIV-related efforts need to better link in with sector planning mechanisms.

## Next steps:

Scaling-up of comprehensive education sector responses to HIV and AIDS will be sought with particular emphasis on advocacy, capacity-building, partnerships and sustainability at the country level.

# EDUCAIDS

Towards A Comprehensive  
Education Sector Response