

NAMIBIA

In the context of the EDUCAIDS framework for action, the UNESCO cluster office in Windhoek has been supporting the Government to build the capacity of the education sector for a comprehensive, scaled-up response to HIV and AIDS.

Activities

- A formal network of HIV-positive teachers was launched at the end of 2007 with the support of UNESCO, UNFPA and UNAIDS. This is intended to address advocacy for increased focus on the needs of positive teachers and their involvement in education policy development and implementation.
- In March-April 2008, UNESCO held consultations with the Ministry of Education, UN agencies, teacher training institutions, networks of people living with HIV, teacher unions and bilateral donors to develop enhanced project planning documentation, including an analysis of the country's education sector response to HIV and AIDS.
- A study to identify the needs of HIV positive learners has been completed. The findings will be used for advocacy, technical support and policy guidance in the country and region. Information was derived from 76 respondents who were involved in key informant interviews and group discussions, including 30 who were HIV-positive learners, children and young adults.
- Recruitment of an HIV and AIDS national programme officer and cluster coordinator.



Final year education students at an HIV session at the Windhoek College of Education.

The [Virginio Bruni-Tedeschi Foundation](#) partnership with UNESCO will aim to: Increase the coverage and quality of effective HIV and AIDS education for more than 1400 student teachers, and through them, over 100,000 learners in school. This will target all four teacher training colleges in the country to increase teacher capacity to address HIV and AIDS; strengthen country partnerships and lesson-sharing, as well as revitalise the HIV and AIDS coordination forum; and strengthen the mobilisation, management and coordination capacity of the network of HIV positive teachers. This builds on the work initiated by UNESCO and UNFPA in partnership with the national teachers' union.

Lessons Learned

Focusing initial project efforts on stakeholder consultations has ensured that interventions reflect country and regional realities, priorities and gaps in HIV and AIDS education.

Coordination of support to the government's education sector response to HIV and AIDS will be critical to achieving impact of interventions that target learners in Namibia.

Involving HIV-positive teachers in the national response to HIV and AIDS is key to addressing stigma and discrimination.