

Brazil

Since 2003, UNESCO Brasilia has been working with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to mainstream HIV prevention education in schools through the **Health and Prevention in Schools** project. The project focuses on sexual and reproductive health for young people and includes increasing access to condoms and linking schools with a local health service, which serves as a resource for students, teachers and the school community at large.

Activities

Drawing on the EDUCAIDS framework, the project works through strong partnerships and coordination between the education and health sectors. Young people participate in the formulation and implementation of HIV prevention policies with inclusion in both state and municipal management groups, and in the national-level management group. This ensures greater ownership and support. The principal activities of the project are:

- Teacher training and development of appropriate and effective lesson content and methodologies
- Making condoms available in schools
- Production and reproduction of information materials addressing HIV and other STI prevention, absence from school caused by pregnancy, and gender or sexual orientation discrimination
- Integration of public health and basic care services into schools
- Organisation of yearly national event to promote awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues among young people and exchange of experiences at the local level
- Identification of new implementing and management partners and encouragement of participation of other schools and municipalities
- Promotion of voluntary HIV testing among young people



Prototype of condom machine: winner of a competition promoted by the project between public technical and vocational schools in technology. The machine will be introduced into 400 schools in 2008-09

The project works in more than 400 municipalities and 26 states in Brazil. As a result of the project, 10,000 schools now have condoms available for students.

Lessons Learned

Local community support of the activities of prevention and health promotion developed by the school is strengthened when families are involved and understand the actions of the project.

Through the joint management of the education and health sectors, the two distinct areas of expertise bring an enhanced understanding of the realities of the local situation, and support more effective implementation in schools.

The project has a greater impact when young people are included in the conception of policies affecting them.

To ensure sustainability, the implementation of the project in schools needs to be formalised into the Government's national education policy.

A study conducted by UNESCO showed that 90% of students, 63% of parents and guardians, and 58% of teachers agreed with making condoms available in schools.