

Vietnam

EDUCAIDS was launched by UNESCO Hanoi with government counterparts in 2006. In a country where the [One UN](#) principles are being put into practice, the emphasis of the education sector response to HIV and AIDS is on partnerships, information sharing and joint programming between UN agencies and the Government.

Activities

UNESCO has been working towards the integration of scaled-up responses to HIV and AIDS in the education sector through two groups: the education cluster under the Joint UN Team on HIV and AIDS with UNFPA and UNICEF; and through the School Health, HIV and Education Working Group, which supports the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET). The strategic goals incorporate institutionalising a policy framework to mandate reproductive health (RH) and HIV & AIDS education in schools, mainstreaming RH and HIV & AIDS prevention education in the school curriculum, and capacity-building for educational personnel through pre- and in-service teacher training. Activities include:

- A jointly organised national workshop on the education sector response to HIV and AIDS that have led to the establishment an interdepartmental coordination mechanism in the MoET to manage and implement comprehensive responses to HIV and AIDS.
- Development of guidelines for the implementation of recent legislation on HIV and AIDS into the education sector. The legislation seeks to address stigma and discrimination experienced by people infected or affected by HIV and AIDS, and to protect the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS, including confidentiality and equal access to jobs and healthcare.
- Reviewing and piloting of curricula on reproductive health and HIV education for 24 secondary schools and 4 teacher training colleges and universities in 3 provinces. It is anticipated the review will inform inputs into the development of regional standards for sex education.



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Evaluation of a teacher training manual on HIV and AIDS, developed by UNESCO Bangkok and adapted for Vietnam, by trainees at a teacher training university in Hue.

Lessons Learned

- Initially, EDUCAIDS was misperceived as a funding mechanism, while others saw it as an attempt by UNESCO to own the HIV and AIDS response in the education sector. Effective partnerships can be built and sustained by overcoming concerns about agency ownership and recognition. Focusing on shared goals and the collaborative approach of EDUCAIDS - one of the central components of the EDUCAIDS framework - are integral to this.
- Integrating the EDUCAIDS framework into ongoing in-country processes, acting as a technical guide and reference tool, is more strategic and productive than separately promoting a new framework which may confuse partners and risk positioning it in parallel with what is already happening.
- Mutual understanding of the nature and culture of each organisation in a partnership helps to build coherence in the group and the message it communicates.
- Ownership of national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS by the Government is crucial to build and maintain its involvement and support.