

SUMMARY REPORT: Africa Sub-Regional Francophone HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshop

Azalai Hôtel Nord Sud, Bamako, Mali
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A UNAIDS Initiative led by UNESCO

EDUCAIDS

Towards A Comprehensive
Education Sector Response

Overview: The Africa Sub-Regional Francophone HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshop brought together UNESCO field staff and key partners from nine French-speaking African countries. The workshop provided a forum for participants to share experiences and lessons with one another, increase their understanding of EDUCAIDS and build their capacity to plan and implement comprehensive education sector responses to HIV and AIDS. The workshop was co-organized by UNESCO's Section on HIV and AIDS in Paris, France; the UNESCO office in Harare, Zimbabwe; and UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Education in Dakar, Senegal, with financial support from the Japanese government. This document provides a short summary of the workshop. Please refer to the full report, available in French, for more details on the workshop proceedings.

WORKSHOP GOALS

The Africa Sub-Regional Francophone HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshop, one in a series of regional workshops organized and facilitated by UNESCO's EDUCAIDS Team in partnership with UNESCO field offices, was part of UNESCO's ongoing efforts to continue and deepen strategic action on education and HIV and AIDS in the context of Education for All and the newly revised UNESCO global strategy on HIV and AIDS.

The Francophone workshop, which was funded by the UNESCO Japanese Funds in Trust (JFIT), focused on achieving the following objectives:

- Improve the capacity, skills and teamwork among UNESCO and its partners in the HIV and AIDS response;
- Review and further develop comprehensive national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS, build awareness and understanding of EDUCAIDS and identify and prioritize areas for follow-up action; and
- Refresh and strengthen participants' skills in particular technical thematic areas relevant to universal access, including prevention and treatment education.

PARTICIPANTS

Individuals from the following nine countries participated in the workshop:

- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- (Republic of the) Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Guinea
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Niger

Countries participating in the workshop were represented by a combination of:

- UNESCO and National Commission staff working on education and HIV and AIDS
- Ministry of education personnel
- Representatives from UNAIDS and UNAIDS cosponsors, including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank
- Civil society organizations, including groups of people living with HIV (PLHIV)

SHARING EXPERIENCES AND PROMISING PRACTICES

Creating a forum for participants to exchange experiences, lessons learnt and future plans with one another was a key aspect of the workshop. Delegates from each of the nine participating Francophone African countries presented an overview of the current HIV and AIDS situation in their country and shared examples of activities and programmes in education and HIV and AIDS.

Differences and Commonalities across Countries

The country presentations and discussions highlighted the differences among African Francophone countries in terms of their varying HIV prevalence rates, socio-cultural contexts, institutional situations and existence of national policies and frameworks to guide education sector action.

Despite the variations among the countries, a number of commonalities also emerged, namely:

- Difficulty in collecting adequate information about the epidemic to guide planning
- Feminization of the epidemic as well as increasing impact on young people
- Widespread stigma and discrimination
- Limited human and financial resources to address HIV and AIDS
- Lack of harmonization among development partners

Highlight on Promising Practices

During the country presentations and throughout the workshop, different interventions and approaches were discussed, including the following:

- **Cameroon** – An optional examination on HIV and AIDS in primary schools as well as in teacher training programmes
- **Côte d'Ivoire** – Introduction of HIV and AIDS into school curricula and health clubs throughout primary and secondary schools
- **Niger** – Noteworthy political commitment among education sector stakeholders
- **Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)** – UNESCO Yaoundé and the International Bureau of Education collaborated on a project addressing the integration of HIV and AIDS into curricula, resulting in a common framework for the countries concerned

Addressing the Key Role and Contribution of Non-Governmental Organizations

Workshop proceedings were enhanced by presentations from two Malian associations working to provide care and support to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in Mali: the Malian Association for the Support and Care of People Living with HIV (AMAS) and the Women's Association for the Support of Widows and AIDS Orphans (AFAS).

AMAS and AFAS representatives provided an overview of their work, including the associations' background and history, objectives, activities, achievements and challenges. The presentations were followed by a field visit to AMAS and AFAS to gain a deeper understanding of the groups' activities and to meet with other association members. The presentations and field visits generated in-depth discussions on the role and importance of working with non-governmental organizations, and in particular the need to strive for greater involvement of PLHIV in HIV and AIDS responses.

BUILDING SKILLS AND UNDERSTANDING TO SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SECTOR RESPONSES TO HIV AND AIDS

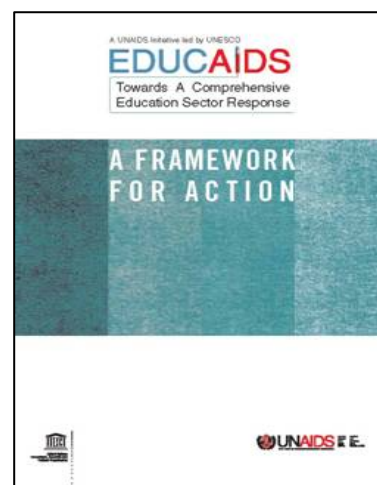
The workshop included a combination of plenary sessions, discussions and interactive activities directed at building capacity and stimulating dialogue among participants to identify challenges and actions pertaining to the education sector's role in responding to HIV and AIDS. The workshop also set out to help participants achieve a better understanding of UNESCO's Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS, clarify the respective roles of UNESCO and UNAIDS Cosponsors within the UNAIDS division of labour, and build capacity and knowledge around EDUCAIDS, the UNAIDS Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS.

EDUCAIDS – What Does it Mean at the Country-Level?

EDUCAIDS is a multi-country UNAIDS initiative, led by UNESCO with the collaboration of governments, civil society organizations and UNAIDS cosponsors, to support the development, implementation and strengthening of comprehensive national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS.

The EDUCAIDS framework outlines key components of a comprehensive education sector response to HIV and AIDS, including quality education; educator training and support; accurate and culturally appropriate content, curriculum and learning materials; supportive policies, management and systems; and the integration of varying approaches and entry points.

Participants reviewed and discussed EDUCAIDS and the EDUCAIDS framework in a plenary session and worked in country teams to apply the EDUCAIDS framework to their particular national context. Each country team discussed the situation in their country, assessed current action in light of the five key EDUCAIDS components and identified key priority areas for action.



Thematic Skills-Building Sessions

In addition to helping participants increase their understanding of key operational tools and conceptual frameworks and strategies, the workshop also included participatory skills-building sessions on technical thematic areas such as:

- **Prevention Education (Pauline Nsanze, UNESCO Bamako)**
This skills-building session reinforced the importance of taking into account the socio-cultural context when planning HIV prevention education; the value of utilizing different entry points and approaches; and the need to align messages between school, family, community and religious leaders. Participants reflected on the diverse expectations and roles of parents, teachers and young people with regards to HIV prevention education.
- **Integration of HIV and AIDS in Curricula and Treatment Education (Sandrine Bonnet, UNESCO International Bureau of Education)**
Participants discussed the strengths and weaknesses of main approaches for integrating HIV and AIDS into curricula and reviewed the themes and modules outlined in the International Bureau of Education's revised *Manual for Integrating HIV & AIDS Education in School Curricula*. The session also addressed the importance and content of treatment education.

IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRY PRIORITIES

Drawing on the insight and knowledge gained over the course of the workshop, participants from each of the nine countries identified areas for priority action in the coming months to help advance the education sector's response to HIV and AIDS in-country.

Burkina Faso

- Organize a follow-up workshop
- Set-up a multi-disciplinary, pedagogical follow-up activity
- Arrange ongoing and regular meetings among key stakeholders to ensure progress

Cameroon

- Develop a Family Life Education/Population Education kit for use by teachers
- Teacher training on the Family Life Education/Population Education module on AIDS
- School health and nutrition policies

Central African Republic

- Teacher training
- Improved internal coordination mechanisms and follow-up and evaluation of progress made
- Develop pedagogical materials such as manuals and teacher kits

(Republic of the) Congo

- Training and support for educators
- Sector policy on HIV and AIDS
- Study of the impact of HIV on the education sector
- Seek support from IBE for curriculum development

Côte d'Ivoire

- Evaluate the development of the HIV prevention policy in schools
- Provide professional development for educational counselors and health club managers
- Development of peer education, production of educational materials and awareness-raising in the workplace

Guinea

- Integration and implementation of recently developed policy in the Ministry of Education
- Identification and provision of training
- Mobilise non-governmental organizations, national commissions and various stakeholders

Madagascar

- Advocacy for EDUCAIDS
- Conduct EDUCAIDS situational analysis
- Develop education sector policy
- Capacity-building and dissemination of tools

Mali

- Authorize Ministry of Education plan
- Teacher training and training of trainers, including follow-up training and support
- Pursue partnerships and greater involvement between the Ministry of Education and groups of PLHIV

Niger

- Develop an operational framework and agreement between the three ministries in charge of education
- Situational analysis of HIV and education
- Update directory of education sector partners

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND FEEDBACK

The workshop clearly illustrated that participating countries are at different levels with regard to national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS. For instance, countries such as Cameroon and the Central African Republic have made advances in part thanks to significant support from the International Bureau of Education and UNESCO Yaoundé regarding integrating HIV into curricula. During the workshop, several other countries requested similar assistance with the integration of HIV and AIDS into curricula. Requests will be reviewed and efforts will be made to respond to country needs.

Based on the workshop evaluation, participants said that the workshop helped them achieve an improved understanding of EDUCAIDS, UNESCO's roles and the need for coordinated action on HIV and AIDS. The opportunity to exchange experiences among countries was particularly highly valued. Participants indicated that it would have been beneficial to include more national partners and expressed a general need for improved communication within UNESCO as well as with partners.



EDUCAIDS Africa Sub-Regional Francophone Workshop Participants

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

In addition to the Francophone workshop, an Anglophone workshop in Lusaka, Zambia (23-27 April, 2007) and a Lusophone workshop in Maputo, Mozambique (21-25 May, 2007) have taken place. If you would like more information about EDUCAIDS or the Africa Sub-Regional HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshops, please contact the EDUCAIDS Team at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France (aids@unesco.org) or visit www.unesco.org/aids.

Workshop documents

(available upon request):

- Concept Note
- Agenda
- List of Participants
- Country Presentation Slides
- Full Workshop Report

Key materials on EDUCAIDS:

EDUCAIDS: Towards a Comprehensive Education Sector Response. A Framework for Action

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001473/147360E.pdf>

Linking EDUCAIDS with other on-going initiatives

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001479/147916E.pdf>

UNESCO's Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001499/149998e.pdf>