

Kenya

Since 2005, UNESCO Nairobi's efforts to support national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS have been guided by the [EDUCAIDS Framework for Action](#). In a country with an HIV prevalence rate of 7.8% and 2.4 million orphaned children - more than half of whom have been orphaned by the epidemic - UNESCO has primarily been supporting the Ministry of Education (MoE) to mainstream HIV and AIDS at all levels across the education sector.

Activities

Within the framework of EDUCAIDS, UNESCO has provided specific support:

- To the MoE, for the elaboration of the Education Sector Policy on HIV and AIDS (in partnership with USAID). The policy development process brought together a wide range of stakeholders including the Teachers' Service Commission (TSC) and the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT). UNESCO supported its dissemination to all teacher training colleges and all 3,600 secondary schools in Kenya.
- For the sensitisation and capacity-building of education managers in primary and secondary schools, teacher training colleges, and universities (public and private).
- For the development of workplace policy guidelines on HIV and AIDS for the education sector.
- For analysing the implications of a [Country Case Study](#) - published under the auspices of the UNAIDS IATT on Education - which reviewed issues of coordination, harmonization and alignment in relation to development partners' support to education sector responses in Kenya. An EDUCAIDS country coordinator was recruited to take forward its recommendations, including for generating effective partnerships and improving coordination efforts among partners.



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Children at a primary school in Korogocho, one of the largest slums in Nairobi, Kenya

Lessons Learned

- The adoption of a sector wide approach (SWAp) has been useful for mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme, where HIV and AIDS is now identified as a main priority along with other major investment programmes.
- Since free primary education was introduced in 2003, school fees have been abolished, thus reducing the burden on orphans and vulnerable children. However, there is still an urgent need for more support to this group.
- More efforts are required to train a significant number of teachers on HIV and AIDS, including to address their own needs in relation to prevention, treatment, care and support. Likewise, if education on HIV and AIDS has been infused in the school curriculum, some recent data suggest that life skills orientated approaches need to be strengthened in order to endow young people with the necessary knowledge and skills to avoid exposure to HIV infection.
- For EDUCAIDS to contribute more effectively to the overall response, there is a strong need to improve coordination among key stakeholders in the education sector, including between the MoE and the different AIDS Control Units (ACUs) that are in place at various levels sector-wide.