

EDUCAIDS

Country Snapshots

JAMAICA

EDUCAIDS programming was launched in Jamaica in September 2006. Within the [EDUCAIDS Framework for Action](#), activities are being implemented to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for education and HIV & AIDS, with a specific focus on the reduction of stigma and discrimination among those infected and affected.

Activities

Jamaica's EDUCAIDS efforts are grouped in three areas: 1) strategic planning; 2) professional development; and 3) the design and production of instructional resources. Main activities include: research, policy and strategic plan formulation, course design, training, production and dissemination of publications, and the establishment of a resource centre.

The initiatives undertaken since the last update in [August 2007](#) include:

- Developing a Ministry of Education (MoE) capacity-building tool for action on the greater involvement of people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS (GIPA) principles.
- Supporting the establishment of resource centres and procurement of HIV and AIDS information, education and communication materials for students and educators.
- Providing three MoE staff with scholarships to study a two-year Masters Degree in Education (Health Promotion) at the University of the West Indies.
- Drafting a training manual on the management of HIV and AIDS in early childhood institutions for early childhood practitioners.
- Drafting a toolkit to support school-based responses to HIV through establishing health advisory committees at primary and secondary school levels.
- Developing a comprehensive, costed five-year education sector strategic plan on HIV and AIDS which was finalised and endorsed by the Minister of Education.
- Supporting the capacity-building of programme monitoring and evaluation of the MoE's response to HIV and AIDS.



© UNESCO. Students at a Sexuality and Reproductive Health Exposition in Jamaica.

Lessons Learned

The involvement of senior officials within MoE at the inception of EDUCAIDS has helped to foster a sense of ownership of the framework.

In-country leadership, particularly within the MoE, must drive and advocate for the education sector response to HIV and AIDS.

Clear education sector policies and plans and managed by the MoE, help to both attract resources and assist with coordination of education and HIV-and AIDS-related activities.