

OVERALL SUMMARY REPORT:

Africa Sub-Regional HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshops

April 2007 – Anglophone Workshop
May 2007 – Lusophone Workshop
June 2007 – Francophone Workshop

In mid-2007, UNESCO organized a series of sub-regional workshops in Africa to build the capacity of field staff and partner agencies (ministries of education, UNAIDS Cosponsors and civil society organizations) to address the impact of HIV and AIDS on the education sector. The workshops provided a forum for participants to share experiences and lessons learnt with one another, increase their understanding of key strategic documents and tools, and build their capacity to plan and implement comprehensive education sector responses to HIV and AIDS. Three language-specific workshops took place: a workshop conducted in English for Anglophone African countries, a workshop conducted in French for Francophone African countries and a workshop conducted in Portuguese for Lusophone African countries.

This document provides an overview of the workshops. Additional documentation from each workshop is available for those seeking more information.

WORKSHOP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Africa Sub-Regional HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshops were organized and facilitated by UNESCO's Section on HIV and AIDS in partnership with UNESCO regional and country offices. The workshops were part of UNESCO's ongoing efforts to continue and deepen strategic action on education and HIV & AIDS in the context of Education for All and the newly revised UNESCO Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS. Financial support for the Lusophone and Francophone workshops was provided by the Japanese Funds in Trust (JFIT).

The workshops focused on achieving the following objectives:

- Improving the capacity, skills and teamwork among UNESCO and key partners in the HIV and AIDS response;
- Reviewing and further developing comprehensive national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS, building awareness and understanding of EDUCAIDS and identifying and prioritizing areas for follow-up action; and
- Refreshing and strengthening participants' skills in particular technical thematic areas related to universal access, including prevention education and treatment education.

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

In total, over 100 individuals from 21 African countries attended the workshops. Participants at each workshop included a combination of UNESCO and National Commission staff working on education and HIV & AIDS; ministry of education personnel; representatives from UNAIDS and UNAIDS Cosponsors such as ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO and the World Bank; and civil society organizations, including associations of people living with HIV (PLHIV). The table below summarizes when and where each workshop took place and the countries that were represented.

ANGLOPHONE WORKSHOP	LUSOPHONE WORKSHOP	FRANCOPHONE WORKSHOP
Lusaka, Zambia 23-27 April 2007	Maputo, Mozambique 21-25 May 2007	Bamako, Mali 18-22 June 2007
Participating Countries		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Botswana ■ Kenya ■ Namibia ■ Nigeria ■ Swaziland ■ Tanzania ■ Zambia ■ Zimbabwe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Angola ■ Guinea-Bissau ■ Sao Tomé and Príncipe ■ Mozambique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Burkina Faso ■ Cameroon ■ Central African Republic ■ (Republic of the) Congo ■ Côte d'Ivoire ■ Guinea ■ Madagascar ■ Mali ■ Niger



Anglophone Workshop Participants



Lusophone Workshop Participants



Francophone Workshop Participants Engaged in Discussion

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

Building awareness and understanding of key operational tools were important aspects of the workshops. Participants reviewed and discussed UNESCO's Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS and the EDUCAIDS Framework for Action. As a result, capacity to use these documents to guide planning in-country was improved.

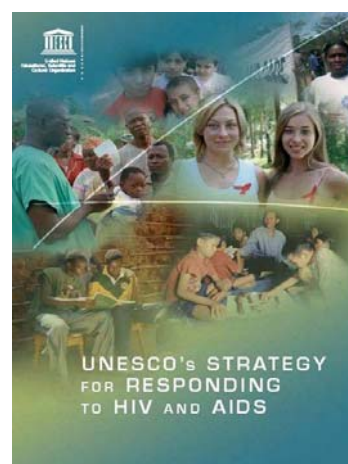
Each workshop also included skills-building sessions on a limited number of technical topics such as prevention education, treatment education, integrating HIV into the curriculum, and socio-cultural approaches to HIV and AIDS. These subject-specific sessions focused on helping participants strengthen their knowledge and skills around particular thematic areas relevant to HIV and AIDS education.

UNESCO'S STRATEGY FOR RESPONDING TO HIV AND AIDS

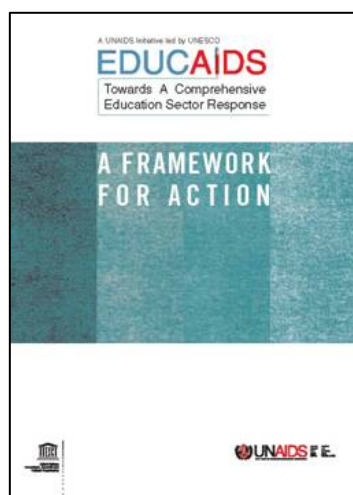
UNESCO's global strategy on HIV and AIDS is the result of extensive consultation throughout UNESCO, including input from all of UNESCO's sectors, as well as from a wide range of institutes, regional bureaux and field offices.

The strategy outlines five core actions within UNESCO's response and reflects:

- The guiding principle of working towards universal access to prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and
- UNESCO's mandate under the UNAIDS division of labour as the lead organization for HIV prevention with young people in educational institutions.



THE EDUCAIDS FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



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 national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS.

The EDUCAIDS framework outlines components of a comprehensive education sector response including the need for quality education; educator training and support; accurate and culturally appropriate content, curriculum and learning materials; policy, management and systems; and the use of various approaches and entry points.

Participants worked in country teams to apply the EDUCAIDS framework to their national context. Country teams discussed the situation in their country, assessed current action in light of the EDUCAIDS components and identified key priorities for action.

EXCHANGING COUNTRY EXPERIENCES AND RESPONSES

The workshops provided a forum for country delegations to share experiences, lessons learnt and future plans with one another. During each workshop, participating countries presented an overview of the current HIV and AIDS situation in their country and examples of specific programmes and actions addressing HIV and AIDS. These presentations provided a foundation for discussing shared challenges and identifying promising practices. During the Lusophone and Francophone workshops, field visits were also made to local HIV and AIDS programmes, thus providing an additional method for stimulating learning and dialogue.

It was clear that there was a large diversity among countries in terms of overall contexts, HIV prevalence, and the level and scope of education sector responses. Nonetheless, there were also a number of issues that many countries had in common such as:

- Lack of adequate information about the epidemic
- Limited human and financial resources to address HIV and AIDS
- Poor harmonization and coordination of activities and programmes
- Insufficient monitoring and evaluation of the impact of HIV on the education sector and education sector responses to HIV and AIDS

While some countries have articulated education sector plans and policies on HIV and AIDS, others are in earlier stages of initiating policy development. Countries that are further along in the planning and implementation process were able to share their experience with others. The involvement of UNESCO Brasilia in the Lusophone workshop was a valuable opportunity to draw on Brazil's extensive HIV and AIDS programming experience, as well as a noteworthy example of South-South partnership which has continued beyond the workshop.

IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Over the course of each workshop, country delegations identified key areas requiring follow-up action in order to advance their national education sector response to HIV and AIDS. The specific country priorities differed, but the following were among the most common:

- Conducting assessments of the impact of HIV on the education sector and situational analyses of the education sector response in order to guide planning
- Development, implementation and evaluation of education sector HIV and AIDS policies as well as workplace policies and programmes
- Provision of teacher training and support in HIV and AIDS education, including development and dissemination of appropriate teaching and learning materials
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation of plans and programmes
- Mobilisation of key stakeholders and establishment of strategic partnerships

In addition to the management and planning priorities articulated by countries, there were also key technical areas in which participants expressed a need for more guidance. A number of Francophone countries were eager for technical support on the integration of HIV and AIDS into curricula. Countries in East and Southern Africa noted a desire for more assistance in the area of treatment education. Overall, there was a great deal of interest in socio-cultural approaches to HIV and AIDS, but interpretations of these approaches vary and countries require additional support in putting them into practice.

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

- The Africa Sub-Regional HIV and AIDS Capacity-Building Workshops were an important step in building capacity among Anglophone, Lusophone and Francophone African countries to intensify education sector involvement in national HIV and AIDS responses. However, it is evident that there is a need for additional capacity development and support, especially in the areas of assessment, policy development and implementation, teacher training, and monitoring and evaluation of education sector responses to HIV and AIDS.
- Country delegations and ministries of education in particular must strive to follow through on the priorities identified during the workshops and engage in more strategic actions on HIV and AIDS.
- The EDUCAIDS Framework for Action proved to be a valuable tool for stimulating thinking and building support for education sector responses to HIV and AIDS. UNESCO must continue to develop and improve the EDUCAIDS Framework for Action as well as clarify and support its implementation. The forthcoming dissemination of EDUCAIDS support tools, country snapshots and revisions to the framework are part of ongoing efforts to help translate EDUCAIDS as a conceptual framework into tangible action at the country level.
- It is critical that all education stakeholders commit to improved coordination and harmonization of actions addressing HIV and AIDS, young people and education. UN agencies in particular must work to initiate, model and maintain strategic partnerships.
- Improving the relevance and sustainability of the education sector response calls for broader support for civil society collaboration and meaningful involvement of young people and groups of people living with HIV and AIDS in agenda-setting and decision-making.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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 the Section for HIV and AIDS at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France (aids@unesco.org) or visit www.educaids.org.

The following workshop documents are available upon request: concept note, agendas, list of participants, country presentation slides, full workshop reports and summary workshops reports. Please note, the full reports and presentation slides are in the working language of each workshop (English, French or Portuguese). Summary workshop reports are only available in English at the moment, but translations are planned.

For additional information on EDUCAIDS please refer to the following key materials:

UNESCO's Strategy for Responding to HIV and AIDS

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

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>

EDUCAIDS Country Snapshots

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=39177&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html