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# Building partnerships in the education sector response to HIV and AIDS The Vietnam experience

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## **Lessons learned:**

 Focusing on the content and shared goals of education sector responses to HIV and AIDS can help overcome concerns about agency ownership and recognition in order to build and sustain effective partnerships.

# **Recommendations:**

- Integrating efforts with in-country processes is more strategic and useful than promoting a new framework which may confuse partners and may risk positioning it in parallel with what was already happening
- Mutual understanding of the nature and culture of each organization in a partnership helps to build coherence in the group and the message it communicates.
- Ownership by the Government is crucial to build and maintain its involvement and support.

# **Background:**

- Vietnam is one of the eight One UN pilot countries.
- The Joint UN team on HIV was established in 2006 in which an education cluster was formed with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNESCO.
- UNESCO introduced EDUCAIDS with government counterparts and UN partners in Viet Nam in 2006.
- EDUCAIDS, a joint initiative led by UNESCO, provides a framework for the comprehensive national education sector responses to HIV and AIDS.
- Initially the Government misperceived EDUCAIDS as a funding mechanism; others saw it as an attempt by UNESCO to own the HIV response in the education sector.





Figure 1. UN Vietnam and One UN Plan logo



Source: UNESCO Hanoi Office

# **Methods:**

- Emphasis was placed on the content of the EDUCAIDS initiative: the comprehensive education sector response to HIV
- Support to the Government was through the School Health, HIV and Education working group which sits under the Education Sector Group

### Results:

Unified support to the Ministry of Education and Training in:

### 2007

- ✓ Its contribution to the development of a concept note on education for Vietnam's proposal for Global Fund round 7
- √ A jointly organized national workshop on the education sector response to HIV

### 2008

- Establishment of Interdepartmental coordination on HIV within the Ministry
- ✓ Development of a guideline on the implementation of HIV legislation into the education sector
- Review and pilot of curricula (intra & extra) for secondary school and teacher training