

MOLDOVA

In Moldova, a life skills course that was supported and introduced into the school curriculum by the Ministry of Education and Youth (MoEY) in 2006 drew strong negative reactions, in particular among the church and parents. This environment made it particularly challenging for UN and other agencies to undertake HIV and AIDS education activities.

Activities

In late 2006, a UNESCO mission investigated the status of the education sector response to HIV and AIDS and the situation with the life skills curriculum, and elaborated a plan for supporting and implementing EDUCAIDS. After several consultations with key partners including the MoEY, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, and community-based organizations, the mission identified the need for advocacy to mobilise support from decision-makers. Lack of recognition of the education sector's key role in the response to HIV and AIDS was acknowledged.

Partners also identified gaps in educator training and support, and the need to conduct an assessment among teachers, as properly-trained teachers are crucial to provide quality HIV and AIDS education. UNESCO agreed with UNAIDS to carry out a teachers' needs assessment in order to develop plans to build their skills and capacity in the area of HIV and AIDS.

An in-country inter-agency committee, in close collaboration with the UNESCO office in Moscow (which covers Moldova as part of its remit), drew up Terms of Reference for the assessment, which include not only how to support teachers through training, but also through improved supervision, mentoring, and educational support materials. The committee then selected a national academic institute, and the assessment is underway. Results and recommendations are expected in late 2007.



Life-skills based education seminars organized for educators from child and family community centers

Lessons Learned

The EDUCAIDS Framework for Action serves as an effective entry point for mobilising the education sector in situations where there is a lack of recognition of the sector's role in responding to the epidemic. In the sensitive environment in Moldova surrounding the life skills curriculum, EDUCAIDS has been useful for promoting a coordinated approach among UN agencies and other partners.

While UNESCO does not have an office in Moldova, the UNESCO/UNICEF EFA-FTI Country Advisor who is in charge of EFA-related activities has been successful in liaising with UNESCO Moscow to build support for EDUCAIDS.