

BURUNDI

Since EDUCAIDS was launched in Burundi in 2005, the UNESCO Nairobi Cluster Office and UNESCO Bujumbura have provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education to develop an Education Sector Policy on HIV and AIDS. Additional efforts have focused on life skills, capacity-building and strengthening the role of young people in the HIV and AIDS response.

Activities

Within the framework of EDUCAIDS, UNESCO Bujumbura has worked in close partnership with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as with community-based organizations and local authorities.

Specific accomplishments in Burundi include:

- Design of a comprehensive module on life skills and HIV and AIDS under UNICEF's lead and in close partnership with UNFPA, UNAIDS, civil society organizations and the National AIDS Council;
- Through financial support from the Japanese government, training of 60 peer education trainers and 720 youth peer educators on the life skills module and provision of supplies and teaching materials to youth centres;
- Development of an educator code of ethics and conduct on HIV and AIDS in the workplace and sensitisation of teachers' unions;
- A regional youth workshop on HIV and AIDS, gender and human rights for the Great Lakes countries of Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic of Republic of the Congo in April 2007. ROADSIGN, a regional youth network, was launched at the workshop and will implement activities throughout the three Great Lakes countries;
- Strengthening of the skills of key personnel from education ministries of the above three Great Lakes countries, through their participation in a UNESCO-organized, sub-regional capacity-building workshop addressing education sector responses to HIV and AIDS held in May 2007.



Ceremony for peer education trainers in Kayanza Province of Burundi

Lessons Learned

EDUCAIDS has proven to be a valuable entry point for strengthening the education sector response to HIV and AIDS as well as contributing to the achievement of Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, EDUCAIDS has helped align key partners and deepen collaboration among agencies and programmes addressing HIV and AIDS and young people. Working closely with local authorities and other partners in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities has promoted ownership of EDUCAIDS. Progress in Burundi to develop EDUCAIDS has also benefited from actively working with other Great Lakes countries.