

ZIMBABWE

EDUCAIDS was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education as well as the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Culture, UN agencies and civil society in 2006. The EDUCAIDS Framework for Action has been a useful tool for initiating a coordinated sector-wide response to HIV and AIDS. The UNESCO office in Harare serves as a cluster office for Southern Africa supporting the countries of Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Activities

Zimbabwe's EDUCAIDS efforts were begun with national events and various side meetings involving partners such as UNAIDS, UNICEF and the Education Working Group. EDUCAIDS activities are grouped in three areas: 1) strategic planning and policy development, 2) advocacy and information sharing, and 3) educator training and support. Main activities include: development of a draft EDUCAIDS national framework, advocacy campaigns in schools, pre- and in-service training of teachers on HIV and AIDS education.

In Zimbabwe, the following key results are expected:

- An approved national EDUCAIDS framework
- Leadership and visibility through the UNESCO Chair on Education and HIV & AIDS at the University of Zimbabwe
- Strengthened capacity of educators-in-training to respond to HIV and AIDS
- Scale-up of HIV prevention activities in schools in partnership with the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)
- Information sharing with key stakeholders through the EDUCAIDS newsletter



©UNESCO Harare. EDUCAIDS advocacy campaign to promote HIV and AIDS activities with learners in schools

The following activities are planned for 2007-08:

- An interagency collaboration between UNESCO and ILO in order to strengthen HIV and AIDS workplace programmes in the education sector
- A partnership with the Zimbabwe Network of Positive Youth to encourage their involvement in HIV and AIDS activities planned by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education
- A capacity-building workshop for education sector staff in order to promote universal access to prevention programmes, treatment, care and support. This is a key follow-up activity resulting from an EDUCAIDS regional capacity-building workshop in Lusaka in April 2007.

Lessons Learned

- The EDUCAIDS Framework for Action serves as a mechanism to promote a coordinated and comprehensive education sector response to HIV and AIDS. Gaining support for EDUCAIDS has been a stepwise process involving two separate ministries, the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.
- Developing a communication product for EDUCAIDS can be very beneficial to stakeholders. The monthly EDUCAIDS Newsletter produced by UNESCO Harare has generated demand for more information on the profiled events such as training opportunities.
- EDUCAIDS in Zimbabwe has fostered close collaborations with UN agencies, government, and civil society, involving partners such as ILO, the Zimbabwe Network of Positive Youth and the UNESCO National Commission.