United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Report on the

Sub-regional Meeting on HIV/AIDS and Education for UNESCO Cluster Offices in Eastern and Southern Africa

23 - 24 October 2002, Crown Plaza Monomotapa, Harare, Zimbabwe

CONTENT

2.   Meeting Background

2.1.   Justification

The UNAIDS Inter-country team leader for Eastern and Southern Africa and UNESCO Harare Education & HIV/AIDS team met twice prior to this meeting: on 26-27 June 2002 at the Heads of Agency preparatory meeting for sub-regional collaboration amongst UNAIDS co-sponsors in Southern and Eastern Africa and on the 31st of July 2002 at the Harare Office.   The aim of the meetings was to brief each other on sub-regional HIV/AIDS initiatives and to discuss a mechanism and structure for collaboration between the UNESCO Cluster Offices and between UNESCO and the UNAIDS Inter-country team for Eastern and Southern Africa (ICT-ESA).

The meetings were prompted by the observation that the role played by Education and Culture in fight against HIV/AIDS in the Eastern and Southern African Region has been somewhat lagging behind. In response to this and in order to develop operational implementation mechanisms, the need was identified to clarify to the UNAIDS country team the roles of the UNESCO cluster offices in East and Southern Africa. The relevant offices are:

1. UNESCO Harare Cluster Office, covering Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe
2. UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Office, covering Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland
3. UNESCO Dar-Es-Salaam Cluster Office, covering Tanzania and Indian Ocean countries.
4. UNESCO Nairobi Cluster Office, covering Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda and Regional Bureau for Science.
5. UNESCO Addis Ababa Cluster Office, covering Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia.
6. UNESCO Maputo National Office
7. UNESCO Dakar Office, Regional Bureau for Education
8. UNESCO Paris

It was resolved at the meetings that UNESCO should develop a plan of its sub-regional activities on the basis of which interaction and collaboration will take place. It was agreed that UNAIDS ESA-ICT would facilitate and fund a meeting of the cluster offices to come up with a UNESCO sub-regional action plan.   It was also agreed that the meeting should dovetail with the UNESCO Medium Term Strategy for HIV/AIDS Education in Sub-Saharan Africa, Experts' Meeting, Harare, 21/22 October. As a result, half of the participants attended both meetings.

2.1.   Aim of the workshop

The aim of the workshop was to bring together the UNESCO cluster offices for East and Southern Africa and the UNAIDS ICT-ESA in order to:

- Share information on UNESCO's activities at the sub-regional level.
- Identify strategic goals and priority areas for action
- Develop an operational implementation and coordination system for collaboration.

It was hoped that such an exercise would help enhance the impact of UNESCO's contribution to the fight against AIDS in the sub-region. It should ensure adequate coverage through collaboration and avoiding duplication among the UNESCO cluster offices, whilst creating a platform that can interact and participate at the sub-regional level.

2.3.   Participation

Two people from each UNESCO Cluster Office were invited: the HIV/AIDS focal point and a relevant senior Programme Officer. Furthermore, the UNAIDS ICT-ESA team leader and the UNESCO HIV/AIDS focal point (Paris) were invited. The following people eventually attended.

Office	Participant	Title	Contact
IIEP	David Clarke	To be advised	Dj-clarke@dfid.gov.uk
UNESCO Consultant	Michael Kelly	Consultant	mjkelly@zamnet.zam
UNESCO Consultant	Barnabas Otaala	Consultant	botaala@unam.na
UNAIDS	Bunmi Makinwa	Team Leader eastern and Southern Africa	bmakinwa@un.org.za
Harare	Tirso Dos Santos	Programme Specialist Education HIV/AIDS Project Coordinator	t.dossantos@unesco.co.zw
	Arne Willems	Associate Expert - HIV/AIDS and Education	a.willems@unesco.co.zw
	Patricia Machawira		p.machawira@unesco.co.zw
	Mulekeni Ngulube	Programme Specialist Culture	m.ngulube@unesco.org
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	Ben Boys	National Programme Officer	b.boys@unesco.org
Dar-es Salaam	Sekwao Cathleen	National Programme Officer	C.sekwao@unesco.org
Nairobi	Alice Ochanda	National Officer	a.ochanda@unesco.org
Maputo	Miedema Esther	Associate Expert	E.miedema@unesco.org
Addis	Wafaa Neguede	AO and focal point for H/A	neguede@un.org
Accra	Carl Ampah	Programme Officer	c.ampah@unesco.org
Dakar	Lieke Berghauser	Associate Expert - HIV/AIDS and Education	l.berghauser@unesco.org

3. Meeting outcomes

3.1. Agenda and expected outputs

Time	Topic + expected outcome	Speaker/Facilitator
Day One		*Chaired by A. Willems*
8.30-9.00	Welcome and introduction: Introducing participants and meeting objectives. *Expected Outputs (EO): Meeting objectives clearly understood.*	UNAIDS/UNESCO
9.00-9.30	UNESCO HIV/AIDS and Education Regional Strategic Framework. Summary of the outcomes of the regional meeting 23/24 October. *EO: participants have a broader picture of UNESCO's regional approach in the area of HIV/AIDS and Education*	Prof. Kelly and Prof. Otaala
9.30-10.00	Discussions	
	Tea break	
10.30-11.30	Short overview Cluster Office HIV/AIDS Programmes. *EO: Participants have a better understanding of the Cluster offices' activities.*	All Clusters
11.30-12.30	HIV/AIDS Sub-regional programming and cooperation. *EO: Participants are clear on what exactly sub-regional programmes are, the role of ICT-ESA, the role of co-sponsors in the sub-region, and the areas where UNESCO could step up efforts.*	UNAIDS ICT-ESA
	Lunch	
14.00-16.30	UNESCO's role and responsibilities at the different levels of operation: Regional, Clusters and National level. *EO: UNESCO's modes of operation better understood*	UNESCO Group work
17.00 – 18.00: Screening of the documentary "Disclosure", dance and HIV/AIDS education.		
Day Two		*Chaired by P. Machawira*
08.30-10.00	Identify truly sub-regional action areas *EO: based on the information shared in the morning, participants agree on and prioritize action areas and activities.*	UNAIDS/UNESCO Facilitated by D. Clarke
	Tea break	
10.30-11.30	Identify truly sub-regional action areas (continued)	UNAIDS/UNESCO
11.30-12.30	Select and conceptualise project areas *EO: Steps and mechanisms defined leading to the development of concrete project documents*	UNESCO
	Lunch	
14.00-15.30	Select and conceptualise project areas (continued)	UNESCO
15.30-16.00	Next steps	
16.00	Close of meeting	T. Dos Santos

3.2. Day one

Chair: Arne WILLEMS
Rapporteur: Esther MIEDEMA

Session 1

The background of this meeting and its objectives were addressed by Tirso dos Santos, programme specialist education, UNESCO Harare. Participants introduced themselves and Bunmi Makinwa, team leader of the ICT-ESA, expressed his expectation of the meeting: a better understanding of UNESCO's work in Eastern and Southern Africa in order to identify how UNAIDS can support UNESCO in fulfilling its mandate.

Session 2

Lieke Berghauser, Associate Expert - HIV/AIDS and Education from the UNESCO Dakar Office provided the participants with information on the "UNESCO Medium Term Strategy for HIV/AIDS Education in Sub-Saharan Africa, Experts' Meeting", Harare, 21/22 October. This meeting was convened to review the first draft of the 'UNESCO Regional Plan for HIV/AIDS Education in Sub-Saharan Africa'. Whilst the review exercise was successful, the challenge of ownership of the Regional Plan remains. It was agreed that all participants would receive the second draft of the document for further commenting.

Prof. Kelly of the University of Zambia (together with Prof. Otaala of the University of Namibia, contracted to develop the 'UNESCO Regional Plan for HIV/AIDS Education in Sub-Saharan Africa') gave a presentation on the major issues discussed and decided upon during the experts' meeting (see Annex 1). The discussion that followed the presentation raised some new issues and these were captured by the two consultants and should reflect in the second draft of the Regional Plan.

Outcomes

▌ Process of the development of the 'UNESCO Regional Plan for HIV/AIDS Education in Sub-Saharan Africa' and the role of UNESCO Cluster Offices in ESA clarified.
▌ Vision, major issues, basic principles, goals and priority areas of the Regional Plan are clarified and discussed.
▌ Solid strategic framework provided, facilitating further brainstorming viz. priority actions and activities for the ESA sub-region.
▌ Increased ownership of the Cluster Offices in the development of the 'UNESCO Regional Plan for HIV/AIDS Education in Sub-Saharan Africa'.

Session 3

During this session all UNESCO Offices represented at the meeting gave an overview of their activities in the area of HIV/AIDS. Detailed country presentations are compiled in Annex 3. The main points of the presentations and the discussion that followed are:

- A lot of activities are being undertaken, in most cases with limited financial and human resources.
- Only UNESCO Harare has full-time employed personnel focusing on HIV/AIDS in ESA region. The other offices deal with HIV/AIDS related programmes "on top of many other duties".
- All UNESCO Offices actively participate in the UNAIDS Thematic Groups of their respective countries.
- The different UNESCO Offices of the ESA region each have specific problems that need to be addressed in order to deal with HIV/AIDS adequately.
- In all UNESCO Offices there are one ore more HIV/AIDS initiatives running with a strong interface between culture and education.
- A concern was raised on the importance of translating to local languages messages for HIV/AIDS preventive education as this ensures better impact.

Outcomes

- Participants have a better understanding of what colleagues are doing in their respective countries.
- It was agreed that there is **not enough** staff in the UNESCO Offices in ESA to deal with HIV/AIDS related programmes adequately.
- It was agreed that the financial resources to support HIV/AIDS programmes are ridiculously low in almost all UNESCO Offices in the ESA region.
- Need identified for coordination of HIV/AIDS programmes in the ESA region.

Session 4

The UNAIDS Team leader gave a presentation (see Annex 3) on the ICT-ESA structure, human resources and specific (sub-regional) roles, responsibilities, modes of operation and main activities. He also clarified some of the existing funding mechanisms, in particular the GFATM and the UBW. Other important points that emerged from the discussion are:

- ICT-ESA has so far been unable to identify whom to liase with in UNESCO for matters that concern the ESA sub-region.
- ICT-ESA regularly joins the regional or sub-regional management meetings from other UNAIDS co-sponsors. Not so with UNESCO.
- ICT-ESA has 12 professional staff, but no specific staff member that deals with education only.
- The mapping exercise done by ESA-ICT, in which the activities of the UNAIDS co-sponsors are being analysed show that UNESCO's activities have no truly regional or sub-regional dimension, that most activities are done individually

(without collaboration with other cosponsors) and that there is a striking lack of coordination between UNESCO activities in the sub-region.

- UNESCO is virtually absent in the sub-region in discussions aimed at assisting Governments, in particular the Ministries of Education, to develop project proposals in order to access the GFATM.
- UNESCO has the smallest budget from the UBW funds (2002/2003) and there will be no increase for the period 2004/2005, despite the many proposals submitted.
- UNESCO seems to be trapped in a vicious circle of under-funding. Poor performance in the past, insufficient programme specialists, not being an implementing agency and the lack of funds for HIV/AIDS activities, all seem to contribute to the impasse in which UNESCO finds itself viz. funding.
- Other agencies such as UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and WB have taken over specific educational areas (curriculum development, education policies, Life Skills Education, etc.) that should actually be the priority areas of UNESCO.

Outcomes

- Increased understanding of the role and responsibilities of the ICT-ESA, its functioning and its readiness to support UNESCO in further sub-regional programmes.
- Prior to this meeting, there was no collaboration between UNAIDS and UNESCO at the sub-regional level.
- Strong feeling that UNESCO has to be considered for UBW funding on criteria other than the funds they are putting in currently in order to get out of the vicious circle of under-funding.
- Need identified for UNESCO to establish precisely how much money (certain %) is actually spent on HIV/AIDS.
- Urgent need identified for more human resources and capacity building on HIV/AIDS and education related issues in the ESA region.
- Need identified for UNAIDS ICT-ESA to participate in UNESCO's policy formulation, planning and review of activities, especially for those related to SSA.
- Options available for UNAIDS ICT-ESA to support full time UNESCO staff for HIV/AIDS, based on cost-sharing.

Session 5

The last session of day one focused on the roles and responsibilities of the different levels of UNESCO's operations: Head Quarters, the Regional Offices, Cluster Offices and National Offices. Two groups focused on the different functions of UNESCO offices – partnerships, funding, representation, implementation, planning and reporting, and support mechanisms – and the modes of operation between the different levels. The result of this exercise is synthesised in Annex 5.

Outcomes

- There is no clear understanding of the modes of operation between the different levels of UNESCO.
- There is a lack of awareness and compliance with Circular DG/Note/02/11 of May 21, 2002 that deals with the delegation of authority to Field Offices.
- A list of suggestions was brought forward with regards to improving regional collaboration. These suggestions were discussed on day two.

3.3.   Day two

Chair: Patricia MACHAWIRA
Rapporteurs: Audrey NGOZO and Arne WILLEMS

Session 6

Day two started off with a discussion on what needs to be done in order to increase UNESCO's contribution and impact in the area to HIV/AIDS and education and how the collaboration amongst the different UNESCO offices could improve in the ESA region. Eight suggestions were made, following the group work of day one (see session 5):

- Improve Communication between offices at different levels esp. with HQ and define the channels by which this should be conducted. This could include regular updates of SISTER in order to maintain communication channels.
- Compliance with the circular DG/Note/02/11.
- Improve on staff briefing and orientation to include HIV/AIDS training as part of regular training. There should also be a briefing pack that can be sent to field staff.
- There is need for permanent senior staff at the Regional Office.
- There is a strong need for investment in human resources. Staff dedicated to HV/AIDS: at least two per cluster/national office. These should be full time and preferably stable and hence be less depending on Associate Experts.
- Develop and implement UNESCO HIV/AIDS workplace policy for all categories of staff.
- UNESCO Management meetings should focus on HIV/AIDS as a priority agenda and should involve UNAIDS and the relevant co-sponsors.
- Strengthen leadership at Field Office Level through training and selection.

The discussion further raised the following important issues:

- There is a need to agree on precise communication mechanisms between UNESCO Offices in the ESA region; the most practical approach is to share information once a concrete common action area has been identified.
- Also in the face of the communication problems, other methods such as video conferencing should be considered in order to maintain co-ordination amongst clusters.

- Another suggestion to increase the coordination was to share mission reports among clusters.
- Access to information right now is very haphazard and this needs to improve. The existing database of the Harare Office would be a very good starting point.
- Another suggestion for thematic issues there could be virtual discussion groups
- UNAIDS ICT-ESA indicated that they would be very supportive to genuine efforts that improve the coordination of Cluster activities.
- UNESCO should begin to tap more into the private sector for funds since most of the multinationals have the capacity and the network to support and approach many offices at regional and sub-regional levels.
- There are a number of mechanisms that remain under-utilized in order to ensure full time staff dedicated entirely to HIV/AIDS: (a) staff as integral part of a project proposal, (b) secondment of ministry personnel; (c) cost-sharing with UNAIDS.
- On the issue of staff training, this needs to be more action oriented and focused on the people in the field rather than the induction at the highest level.
- The issue of a comprehensive training package on HIV/AIDS and education is urgently required both for officers from the field (e.g. alongside World Bank staff) as well as ministry of education personnel.
- The idea of training should also be considered for staff that is taken on to work in various projects. In this light, it was suggested that briefing notes for such staff would be most useful so that they would be aware of the organisation's policies, the worker's rights and benefits.
- The different types of contracts and the variations viz. medical health insurance, complicate a common approach regarding HIV/AIDS in the workplace. It was suggested that the de-centralisation of the management of the MBF insurance, would allow an easier and more flexible service.

Outcomes

▶ Both the UNESCO offices and UNAIDS ICT-ESA are prepared to undertake/support concrete actions to improve communication and coordination amongst UNESCO offices in the ESA region.

▶ Participants are aware of the existence of UNESCO Harare on-line database on HIV/AIDS and Education (http://www.unesco.co.zw) with mainly documents in English as well as the BREDA database on HIV/AIDS and Education (http://www.dakar.unesco.org), with a majority of documents in French.

▶ There is a general concern for HQ's failure to come up with a central Clearinghouse on HIV/AIDS and education.

▶ It was repeated that there is an appalling shortage of staff and financial resources in the UNESCO Offices in ESA in order to deal with HIV/AIDS related programmes adequately.

▶ Both staff briefing and in-house capacity building are necessary to make UNESCO operational to face an education sector threatened by HIV/AIDS.

▶ UNESCO Harare will share their information and experience viz. HIV/AIDS programmes in the work place.

Session 7

This session was introduced by Bunmi Makinwa, who defined a truly (sub-) regional project. UNIADS uses the following four criteria to define a sub-regional project:

1. There should be at least 2 countries involved. Countries can belong to different UNESCO Clusters.
2. There should be a central coordination for the project in one office that deals with issues of responsibility, management and guidance.
3. There should be interaction between the countries and exchange of information.
4. Funding source should be one; i.e. the money may come from many sources but it should be pooled together to fund the several projects in the participating countries

Based on this information, reflecting on the eight priority areas identified during the Expert Meeting (see Annex 1, slides 8&9), and bearing in mind the activities that are currently running in the UNESCO Offices, the participants brainstormed on common priority action areas, concrete activities and ways of collaboration. The result of this exercise is reflected in Annex 5 and can be summarized into 5 main action areas:

Action area 1: **Teacher training**: this encompasses all the issue of teachers including policies, workplace issues, unions, in- and pre-service training packages.

Action area 2: **DEMMIS**: statistics collected at the district level are essential for the management of the education sector, to monitor the impact of HIV/AIDS on the sector and to evaluate specific programmes.

Action area 3: **Non – formal education** for youth and adults, with special emphasis on peer education, community-based and culturally sensitive approaches.

Action area 4: **Information sharing**: data collection, dissemination, regular meetings, virtual groups, etc. Information sharing is also critical for any research programme.

Action area 5 **Orphans and vulnerable children**: to address the educational needs of orphans and children in emergency situations.

Outcomes

- Consensus reached on priority action areas.
- Participants in agreement that the best possible way of collaboration will be one that is based on a concrete and common project.

The last session of day two aimed at identifying concrete projects that could be implemented jointly. This session also discussed mechanisms of collaboration that should eventually lead to the development of sub-regional project documents.

Participants agreed that teacher training is the action area on which all UNESCO offices in ESA could initially focus. Harare, Nairobi, Maputo and Dar-es-Salaam already submitted teacher training proposals for UBW funding, while Windhoek and Addis Ababa also expressed their interest.

It was agreed to merge the submitted UBW proposal related to teacher training and to submit one common proposal. Because of the different situations in the different countries of the clusters, the proposal should not be narrowed down to a specific component of teacher training. It was agreed that the common proposal should include:

Policy and planning issues	Situational assessment, impact studies, adherence to EFA and UNGASS goals, policy review, curriculum and material development, care and support mechanisms, code of conduct, work place policies, etc.
Implementation issues	Teaching skills, coping skills, care and support facilities, overcome stigma and discrimination, logistic support for intensified training, use of material, etc.
Information and Research issues	Communication between countries; sharing of expertise, monitoring and evaluation, research areas, partnerships, etc.

All offices interested in a joint approach were to submit their contribution to Harare, who would then mould it into one proposal for UBW funding before the 7th of November 2002.

Upon approval of the proposal, the participating offices would meet again and develop concrete action plans for selected priority countries. Activities will depend on the current status of teacher training programmes in a given country, the specific needs of a country and the budget made available. UNAIDS ICT-ESA remains a supporting partner in the coordination of this sub-regional initiative.

The workshop also agreed to develop a generic project document that deals with all the other remaining priority areas: DEMMIS, information sharing, non-formal education and OVC. Each office was tasked to prepare at least one short paper (guidelines) on any of the areas and send it to David Clarke, copied to Arne Willems and Patricia Machawira.

Addis Ababa:	OVC
Dakar:	Information sharing
Dar-es-Salaam:	Teacher training
Harare:	DEMMIS
Maputo:	Non-formal education
Nairobi:	Non-formal education
Windhoek:	OVC

Maputo volunteered to develop Terms of Reference for a consultant who would be contracted to develop the generic project document. Maputo also accepted to contact relevant divisions in Paris to explore the chances of funding for this exercise. UNESCO Harare and David Clarke (IIEP/DFID) would also look into the issue.

The following tentative agenda was put forward:

Development of ToRs:	31 October 2002
Guidelines from clusters:	5 November 2002
Funding guaranteed by:	15 November 2002
Identify a number of consultants:	15 November 2002
Consultant start:	1 December 2002
Project document finalized:	1 February 2003

Overall coordination of this activity will be with David Clarke, while UNESCO Harare will provide support in the sub-region.

During this session it was also agreed that UNESCO Harare will act as focal point for one year for matters on HIV/AIDS and education in the sub-region. Its role is mainly coordination, information sharing, follow-up on recommendations, represent the sub-region wherever possible and promote the activities of UNESCO offices in ESA

Finally, Mr. Makinwa indicated that in February or March there will be a sub-regional meeting for Directors of the UNAIDS co-sponsors and ICT-ESA to discuss ways of improving collaboration amongst co-sponsors. It was agreed that it would be good to have the project document ready in time for this workshop.

Outcomes

▶ Participants identified teacher training as the most relevant and do-able area for concrete and common action.
▶ UNESCO Harare will prepare and submit a sub-regional UBW proposal on HIV/AIDS and teachers, latest 7 November 2002.
▶ UNESCO Harare has been appointed as focal point for the period of one year for the sub-region on matters relating to HIV/AIDS and education in the ESA region.
▶ Inputs and mechanisms have been agreed upon for the development of a generic project document on the priority HIV/AIDS and education areas as the participants identified them.
▶ David Clarke and UNESCO Harare will coordinate the development of such documents.

3.4. Recommendations

1. It is vital to have more regular interaction between field offices both on content and on ways of better collaboration.
2. It was recommended to consider developing a UNESCO Mobile Task Team
3. UNESCO could take a more proactive role in assisting countries to assess funds from sources such as GFATM to include HIV/AIDS in their EFA plans
4. UNESCO should reclaim areas that are within their mandate such as; OVC, teacher Training, Out of school Youth
5. In house training to mainstream HIV/AIDS in all of UNESCO programmes is important.
6. HIV/AIDS should be an agenda item on UNESCO management meetings.