



## ***Inter Agency Task Team on Education***

Established in March 2002  
Convening Agency: UNESCO

Education – both in the form of schooling and in the form of learning opportunities made available through a wide range of channels – provides the knowledge and personal skills to prevent contracting HIV/AIDS. Education also contributes to alleviating the conditions that facilitate the spread of the disease: poverty, ill health, violence and abuse (particularly against girls and women). Beyond this, it can create the conditions of understanding and tolerance that are needed to improve the situations of those who are vulnerable and/or sick, and therefore contribute to an environment that will limit spread of the disease.

The urgency of the educational response, and the relative recency of the epidemic mean that more needs to be known about what works and why. The educational response needs to be moved out of scattered, piecemeal activities to system-wide policies and action. To do this, evidence needs to be collected and shared. Advocacy, as in all other areas, needs to be carried out at every level. Monitoring of results and longer term evaluation needs to be expanded so as to provide the policy guidance that will be needed for a long-term effort.

### **Purpose and intended outputs**

The task team focuses on mobilizing commitment to preventive education and acting as a catalyst for the exchange of information about what is known, what is available, and what still needs to be known about how education can be most effective in mitigating the effects of the HIV/AIDS crisis: reducing vulnerability and impact, and interrupting transmission.

The task team has a three-pronged approach:

examining and strengthening existing tools for monitoring and evaluating education system responses to the crisis;  
identifying weaknesses in responses and focusing attention and action on ways to overcome the weaknesses;  
analyzing what is known and what needs to be known, in order to strengthen information and materials exchange and to stimulate research and evidence-based policy-making.

## Membership and functioning

Current membership includes all UNAIDS cosponsors, Academy for Educational Development(USA), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Department for International Development (U.K.), Development Cooperation Ireland, Education Development Centre (USA), Education International, European Commission, Ford Foundation, Ireland AID, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and USAID. Some experts serve in their personal capacities.

All institutional members finance their own participation in meetings, and contribute in kind to the development of outputs. The IIEP provides the secretariat and the services of the Coordinator. Other costs to date have been covered by contributions from UNAIDS Secretariat, CIDA, USAID, and UNESCO.

## Outputs

***HIV/AIDS and Education: A Strategic Approach*** available electronically in three languages and endorsed (with logos on cover) by all members. Published copies available on demand.

An overview of indicators for monitoring HIV/AIDS and Education strategic approach. Under development.

***Accelerating the Education Sector Response to HIV/AIDS in Africa*** see website <http://www.schoolsandhealth.org/HIV-AIDS&Ed/HIV-AIDS&Education-Accelerate.htm>

Readiness Survey of national level policy and practice in education and HIV/AIDS in 100 countries

Policy paper on quality education and HIV/AIDS, in final stages of preparation.