Project Title: Strengthen capacity of the education ministry to effectively respond to the HIV & AIDS epidemic; a project of the Global Initiative on Education and HIV/AIDS (EDUCAIDS)

1.1 Beneficiary country: Jamaica

1.2 Time Frame: July 2006-June 2008

1.3 Amount request from JFIT: USD226,000. The project will be co-financed in cash and kind by the Government of Jamaica (USD250,000), as indicated in Budget, page 10, and other International Development Partners (Global Fund and JICA) (USD560,000).

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<tr>
<th>JFIT</th>
<th>226,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other IDPs</td>
<td>560,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gov’t of Jamaica</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,036,000</td>
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1.4 Implementing Agency: Ministry of Education, Youth & Culture (MOEYC)

1.5 UNESCO Sector/officer responsible: Education Sector; Mr. Paolo Fontani, Education Programme Manager, UNESCO Office for the Caribbean

1.6 Summary: Jamaica was selected as one of the four countries to be included in the EDUCAIDS initiative. The project will address the need to further build the capacity of the Ministry of Education, Youth & Culture, Jamaica, to fully mobilise the response of the sector to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. To contribute to the achievement of the MDGs for education & HIV/AIDS through containment of the HIV epidemic and the reduction of stigma and discrimination in respect of those infected and affected, Component 1 will provide support for strategic planning through commissioning research in critical fields, preparation of the first-ever costed five-year strategic plan (2006-2010), and training in the use of the strategic plan in development of MOEYC annual corporate plan and annual work plans for each regional office. Component 2 will support professional development of key officials in programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, including overseas study visits for selected members of the MOEYC health promotion team to learn from best practices elsewhere. Component 3 will support provision of instructional resources, including a youth-friendly version of the MOEYC HIV policy and a training manual for MOEYC officers and education administrators. This component will also support establishment of regional HIV/AIDS resource centres at each of the six regional offices of MOEYC. Activities will include research, policy & strategic plan formulation, course design, training, publication and resource centre establishment. Key results will be a costed 5 year education sector strategy for 2006-2010, key officers of MOEYC health promotion team qualified and capacity of administrators of teachers colleges and schools to implement HIV/AIDS policies
strengthened, and publication of a youth-friendly policy materials and a manual for training of MOEYC officials and heads of tertiary educational institutions.

1.7 2. Background/Context

2.1 Developmental context

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ), in its medium-term socio-economic framework, planned for universal access to primary schooling for both boys and girls and improved performance, and improved quality of HIV/AIDS prevention services (GOJ Revised Social Policy Matrix, 2005-08, September 2005). The two objectives are linked. International experience, particularly from Africa, has demonstrated a strong relationship between increasing HIV prevalence and reduction in access to, and quality of, basic education. This project strengthens the Government’s implementation mechanism for HIV/AIDS education through the education sector, and in so doing will contribute to the country’s response to the epidemic and to the sustainability of the education sector itself.

2.2 Need for the project

The Government requested follow-on investment to strengthen the HIV/AIDS Response Team which was established through the support of the UNESCO JFIT-CBHR 2004-05 project, Education Sector Capacity-Building for HIV/AIDS Response in Jamaica (552JAM1000). The final report for this project, prepared in December 2005, is attached (Annex 1). The project has been viewed by the Government of Jamaica as contributing significantly to the enhancement of the response of the country’s education sector to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As a result of the project, a strong team has been established comprising a total of 15 staff, eight recruited locally and seven volunteers recruited from Japan.

The functionality of this team was reviewed in February 2005 - after one year in operation - and was judged to be indispensable by the evaluator, Claudette Chambers. The specific ways in which the capacity needed to be strengthened were proposed by consultant David Clarke who was engaged in August 2005 to review holistically the response of Jamaica’s education sector in preparation for the formulation of this proposal. The final report of the latter consultant, entitled The Response of the education sector in Jamaica to HIV and AIDS (December 2005) is also attached (see Annex 2 - Final Version of this Report expected December 31, 2005).

Most assistance allocated to MOEYC over the past five years has been for programme implementation, the exception being the establishment of the post of HIV/AIDS Coordinator with the initial support of UNICEF in 2002-03. Other assistance - with the exception of the UNESCO JFIT-CBHR project, has not be earmarked for building capacity of the education sector to respond effectively to the epidemic. The UNESCO Management Team for the Global Initiative on Education, HIV & AIDS (EDUCAIDS) recognised the potential of Jamaica as a model, and indicated that consideration would be given to a follow-on project also funded by JFIT-CBHR that would consolidate and strengthen mechanisms put in place for the sector.
During the latter part of 2005, UNESCO has received requests from other member states in the Caribbean to share information on Jamaica’s HIV/AIDS Response Team through study visits and documentation. A follow-on project will therefore benefit not only Jamaica, but also other member states of UNESCO in the region and - through EDUCAIDS - beyond.

The Government of Japan, through JICA and JOCV, has been - and continues to be - a major co-financier in establishment of Jamaica’s HIV/AIDS Response Team, through provision of quality volunteer support. JICA evaluated its support in early 2005 and determined that the initial two-year initiative was highly successful and a model worth replication. As a result, JICA and the Government of Jamaica have agreed to a further set of volunteers to be placed in post for two years, 2006-08. The proposed follow-on JFIT-CBHR project will therefore not only benefit the response of education in Jamaica, but will also ensure greater effectiveness of the Japanese volunteers attached to the HIV/AIDS Response Team.

2.3 Institutional framework

The institutional framework is fully described in the situation analysis (Annex 2). Its first section describes the education sector in Jamaica and the second section gives an analysis of the response of this sector to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Essentially, one portfolio in Jamaica (Education, Youth & Culture) has responsibility for sector policy and legislation and the provision of public education at all levels. Within this Ministry, immediate responsibility for the HIV/AIDS response lies with the “HIV/AIDS Response Team” that reports to the Deputy Chief Education Officer. With the assistance of UNICEF, UNESCO, JICA and the first Global Fund allocation to Jamaica between 2002 and 2005, a team of health promotion officers has been established at HQ and in the six administrative regions of MOEYC, headed by an HIV/AIDS Coordinator, a position funded by the Government of Jamaica since 2004.

2.4 Strategic framework

The proposed project is consistent with and will contribute to the Jamaica HIV/AIDS/STI National Strategic Plan for 2002-2006, outlined in Annex 2. More importantly, the follow-on project will contribute to the formulation of the new national HIV/AIDS strategy for Jamaica covering 2007-2012, through interaction between the processes of formulation of education sector strategy (see section 3, below) and the new national strategy, plans for development of which are at an initial stage. Similarly, the proposed JFIT-CBHR project will not only contribute to realisation of the current Caribbean regional strategy (2002-06) but will contribute to a stronger presence of the education sector in the new regional strategy that is also to be developed during 2006 for the period 2007-12

It is also likely that the national education sector strategy for Jamaica that will be developed under the proposed project will be the first such HIV/AIDS response strategy for education to be developed for an Anglophone Caribbean country and will provide a model for other countries to replicate. As a result, the proposed
2.5 Related international assistance

Other international assistance to MOEYC, Jamaica, anticipated for 2006-07 is as follows:

- UNESCO, through its regional Caribbean project funded by UBW, referred to above, will support advocacy, policy development and capacity building, and will include Jamaica among its target countries.
- UNICEF will provide assistance for programmes to be implemented by the HIV/AIDS Response Team in the areas of HIV policy dissemination and HFLE implementation.
- JICA/JOCV will provide six junior volunteers and one senior junior volunteer to support implementation of the work plan of the HIV/AIDS Response Team.
- MOEYC, through its grant from the Global Fund, will provide salary support for the seven health promotion officers and for procurement of instructional resources.
- MOEYC, through the GOJ/World Bank Loan, will provide support for specific activities of the HIV/AIDS Response Team.

2.6 Primary beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries will be 50 better trained MOEYC officials at HQ and regional levels, inclusive of managers of selected key institutions, who have responsibilities related to the Ministry’s response to HIV/AIDS. In addition, persons infected with or otherwise affected by HIV/AIDS will benefit from the wide-scale distribution and utilisation of the youth-friendly HIV/AIDS policy. Teachers and students in educational institutions throughout the country will benefit directly as a result of the development of manuals and resource centres through which quality materials will become more easily accessible by schools. **As the majority of young people are in educational institutions, the project will benefit the education of youth in healthy living in the medium to long term.** Further, the education sector in Jamaica is dominated by girls and women in secondary and tertiary levels and in the teaching profession; the project will therefore **impact particularly on the healthy (sexual) lifestyles of women.** MOEYC is working with UNESCO on the Greater Involvement of Persons Affected (GIPA) by the epidemic in education programmes, and this principle will be applied in implementation of the new project (see report on December 2005 meeting, Annex 6).
2.7 Secondary beneficiaries

In the longer term, the population of Jamaica will benefit as a result of the improved capacity of the education sector to respond effectively to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through provision of effective prevention education and the reduction of stigma and discrimination.

3 Logical Framework

Logical framework attached.

4. Project coordination

4.1 Coordination arrangements

The project will contribute to the Global Initiative on Education and HIV/AIDS (EDUCAIDS), and will therefore benefit from input from UNESCO HQ and lessons learned from other field offices involved in this initiative.

As the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean is located in Jamaica, and UNESCO is a key member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the UN Theme Group (UNTG) on HIV/AIDS for Jamaica, coordination with other UNAIDS partners is assured. JICA’s Caribbean Office is also based in Jamaica, so coordination with JICA input is also assured; the cooperation between UNESCO and JICA in the programme has been viewed by JICA as a model for replication elsewhere and is the subject of a video produced in 2005. UNESCO Kingston has strengthened its own implementation capacity in late 2005 with a strengthened education sector and administrative support team.

Moreover, MOEYC established in 2004 a donor coordination mechanism for its HIV/AIDS programme, and the new JFIT-CBHR project will strengthen MOEYC capacity to coordinate and deliver and monitor activities funded by various IDPs. There will therefore be no overlap or duplication in respect of activities proposed for the proposed JFIT-CBHR project, as it has been designed after a thorough situation analysis. Through development of a medium-term strategic plan under the JFIT-CBHR project, the HIV/AIDS response of the education sector will also be integrated with the national plan for the same five year period, resulting in greater coordination of the Government’s overall response.

The MOEYC HIV/AIDS Team will also benefit from capacity building delivered across the Caribbean region through the CARICOM/IDB/UNESCO capacity Building Technical Cooperation project for the response of the education sector of the region, which is funded under the Japan Special Fund facility of the IDB. As Jamaica is ahead of the other seven beneficiary countries under this TC, it will benefit from specialised training opportunities but not from country specific components of this operation. There will be no duplication of objectives or investment between the regional TC and the Jamaica EDUCAIDS project proposed herein. Likewise, JICA support is indirect, through volunteer attachments, and in no way duplicates the proposed project. The three separate aspects of Japanese Government support (via IDB, via JICA and via UNESCO)
will be coordinated at the local level by the Ministry of education, with continuing support from UNESCO.

4.2 Counterpart support capacity

MOE provides a strong institutional framework, good office space at HQ and at regional level, telephone communication and transportation for officers, reputable financial services, and quality technical support. As demonstrated by its near 100% performance (implementation, expenditure results) in the recently concluded 2004-05 JFIT-CBHR project, MOEYC has the capacity to effectively implement the proposed project. During the course of the 2004-05 project, there was a personnel change for the post of HIV/AIDS Coordinator and this was accomplished without disruption to multiple project activities. The project management unit maintained the account for the project in US Dollars as specified in the agreement with UNESCO, and fully accounted for monies advanced.

5. Project justification

The proposed project is fully consistent with JFIT-CBHR Guidelines as it provides for the capacity building of human resources in a developing country. It will contribute to the global mandate of UNESCO to assist countries to achieve the Education for All (EFA) goals and to contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic with a focus on preventive education. Through its focus on the formal and non-formal education sector, the project will impact on youth and women. The project is consistent with UNESCO’s focus on prevention education in its 2006-07 approved programme. The long term sustainability of the proposed investment is assured as the project is integrated into - and supportive of - established national structures for addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the team responsible is funded from the Government’s regular budget and through funds allocated to the Government by the Global Fund.

The Caribbean region is second in the world in terms of HIV prevalence, and Jamaica has a growing epidemic. The education sector is viewed as a window of opportunity to contain and reverse the trends, but its capacity to do so has only been developed in the last few years JFIT-CBHR contributed significantly to the initial capacity building through the recently completed project.

Detailed justification for each component and activity of the project is given in the situation analysis and recommendations that is attached to this proposal as Appendix 1.
6. Timing and Modalities for Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

6.1 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation. The objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification are given in the Logical Framework (Annex 3). Key project benchmarks are:

- Endorsement of first five year education strategy by December 2006
- Integration of HIV/AIDS response programme into MOEYC corporate plan for 2006-2007
- Completion of 2006-2007 work plans for HIV response by the six regional offices, by March 2007
- Certification of each health promotion officer by December 2007 and Masters-level training for two key officials by end of 2008
- Visits by at least three key members of the health promotion team to MOEs overseas with promising practices by December 2007
- Training of at least five officials/administrators in each MOEYC region, including the regional director, in HIV/AIDS response by December 2007
- Manual published by December 2006
- Youth-friendly policy versions published by June 2007

6.2 Responsibility for monitoring & reporting. The project includes as a critical component engagement of a M&E specialist to develop M&E for the entire HIV/AIDS response programme. This expert will be given lead responsibility to ensure that the means of verification for the proposed project are in place, undertaking the analysis and preparing reports, involving other members of the team in the process, and building the entire team’s competence in M&E.

6.3 Arrangements for stakeholder participation. Key stakeholder for this project will be (i) the regional offices of MOEYC and staff, (ii) schools, colleges and other institutions targeted by the HIV/AIDS response team, and (iii) other IDPs and NGOs who may expect enhanced programme management and monitoring. The M&E specialist will take these and other stakeholders into account in the detailed design of monitoring procedures.

6.4 Provisions in the budget for monitoring, reporting & evaluation. Provision is made in the project cost estimates for a domestic M&E expert and for on-the-job training of the team in such skills.

7. List of Equipment

There will be no procurement of equipment under this project, as necessary computer and printing equipment was procured under 552JAM1000 and is expected to be serviceable under the proposed follow-on project. In addition, the JOCV Health Promotion Assistants have been allocated computers by JICA. The team as a whole is therefore well-provided for in terms of computing equipment.

8. Budget
The JFIT-CBHR budget is attached (Annex 4). Co-financing is provided by the Government of Jamaica (cost of the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for 2 years, USD50,000), the Global Fund (cost of the HIV/AIDS Response Team of seven officers for 2 years, USD260,000) and by JICA through the provision of seven JOCV volunteers and support services (estimated at USD300,000 over two years). In addition, the Government of Jamaica provides the governance infrastructure, office space and communications services at seven locations, estimated at USD200,000 over two years.

JFIT-CBHR financing of USD226,000 will therefore be complemented by GOJ regular budget sources (USD250,000) and donor support of USD 560,000, total counterpart financing of USD810,000.

9. **Time Table**

The implementation time table is attached as Annex 5.

10. **Appendices**


**Annex 3.** Logical Framework

**Annex 4.** Budget

**Annex 5.** Implementation Time Table