Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of education sector responses to HIV & AIDS in West and Central Africa:

Integration of HIV sensitive indicators in national Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)

Regional Training Workshop on Integration of Core Global Indicators on Education and HIV&AIDS into Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) Questionnaire

(Dakar, Senegal, 3-5 December 2014 - TBC)

1. Background and rationale

Education contributes to knowledge and personal skills that are essential for HIV prevention. In countries with a generalized HIV epidemic, the education sector also contributes to mitigating the impact of AIDS on students, education personnel, their families and communities. Monitoring and evaluating the role of education in the response to the HIV epidemic is important for countries to improve the quality of their education sector policies and school-based programmes.

However, the education sector’s ability to collect data effectively and use evidence to improve its interventions varies across countries. One of the reasons was the lack of clear understanding and harmonized definition of indicators. To address this problem, UNESCO working with a number of governments and agencies and the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education have developed a limited number of 15 internationally recognized indicators that can be used to measure the education sector response to HIV and AIDS. It is hoped that these will provide a common approach to Education’s monitoring and evaluation of its HIV policies and programmes.

The indicators, listed in Annex 1, have been developed through an extensive review of existing indicators, international and regional consultations and field testing by a number of ministries of education. Detailed information about the indicators, and the process for their development, field test and validation, can be found from the UNESCO publication Measuring Education Sector Response to HIV and AIDS: Guidelines for the construction and use of core indicators (referred as the Guidelines hereafter).

The Guidelines also provide detailed information about reasons for using each of the indicators; methods for collecting the data and measuring it; and guidance for interpreting the data, including how to analyse data from various indicators and draw conclusions in terms of potential changes in policies and programmes in the education sector.

Of the 15 core indicators recommended by the Guidelines, eight indicators (Indicators 1-8) are recommended for all countries to use for monitoring and evaluation of the education sector response to HIV and AIDS; and seven indicators (Indicators 9-15) are recommended for countries with a generalized HIV epidemic.

Endorsed by the UNAIDS IATT on Education in February 2013, the indicators are recommended for use by countries in various regions, in particular for the integration within Education Management Information Systems (EMIS). The EMIS is traditionally the main (or unique)
sustainable source of data on education and then constitutes the most appropriate and sustainable source for collecting data on education sector responses to HIV & AIDS.

The new indicators were pilot tested in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Caribbean. Countries involved in the pilot committed to incorporating some of them in their EMIS from 2014; significant progress has already been made in some countries such as Tanzania and Zambia and a roadmap has been agreed on by all SADC countries to use most indicators by the end of 2015. Experience shows that provision of technical support to ministries of education contributes to a smoother inclusion of indicators into EMIS.

In West and Central Africa (WCA) the indicators have not been presented yet to ministries of education and other education stakeholders, let alone integrated into EMIS, leaving the region without standardized methods to acknowledge the education sector contribution to the HIV response. This workshop is therefore proposed to initiate the process of integrating HIV-sensitive indicators in EMIS for WCA countries in order to improve the monitoring and evaluation of education sector responses to HIV and AIDS.

2. Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop is to initiate the process of using the core global indicators in selected WCA countries in order to monitor and evaluate the education sector response to HIV and AIDS, either through the integration of some of the indicators in the Annual School Census (ASC) questionnaire or through specific school-based surveys.

Specific objectives are:

- To present the core global indicators, the process that led to their development and validation by the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education, and how they are used in other countries
- To build the data collection capacities of EMIS personnel and key stakeholders to use core indicators on education and HIV and AIDS for which data could be collected through the EMIS ASC.
- To strengthen capacities of EMIS personnel and key stakeholders to collect and construct core indicators based on data collected through school-based surveys (SBS).
- To provide technical guidance to EMIS personnel in order to plan for the production of quality data through ASC. Precisely, an orientation guidance for those who produce data (school directors, regional office, etc.) will be prepared on how important, useful and employed their data collection tasks are.

The workshop will be then expected to produce the following key outputs for countries interested in the utilization of indicators:

- Proposed revisions to ASC questionnaires that integrate recommended global indicators
- Proposed strategies/implementation plans to integrate relevant indicators in school-based surveys
- Proposed roadmap for implementation of the data collection and analysis for the new indicators through EMIS and SBS
3. **Methodology**

The programme will include participatory working sessions with country participants over 3 days, to cover the following aspects, *inter alia*:

1) Process of development of the global indicators

2) Review of the global indicators and examples of their utilisation in countries in East and Southern Africa

3) Review of EMIS ASC questionnaires in connection with indicators recommended for ASC, to identify (for each indicator):
   - What data are being collected through the EMIS ASC?
   - What questions should/can be changed? How?
   - What questions should/can be added? How?
   - What questions should/can be removed?

4) Review of data collection tools for the indicators recommended for school-based surveys, to identify (for each indicator):
   - HIV-related data already being collected through SBS
   - Opportunities and challenges for integrating the indicators in SBS
   - Recommendations for integrating the indicators in SBS

The workshop will largely be based on the UNESCO publication *Measuring the Education Sector response to HIV and AIDS: Guidelines for the Construction and Use of Core Indicators* and a Handbook on Data Collection Tools developed by UNESCO and IIEP. In addition, all country participants are required to bring the electronic version of the EMIS Annual School Census questionnaire(s) on their own laptops (at least one per country).

Participants from selected countries where progress has been made in integrating HIV sensitive indicators in EMIS, such as Tanzania and Zambia, will also serve as resource persons for relevant sessions of the workshop.

4. **Date and Venue**

The workshop will be conducted in Dakar, Senegal, from 3-5 December 2014 (dates and venue to be confirmed).

5. **Participants and Preparations**

The workshop will be convened by UNESCO, and facilitated primarily by ISU and Representatives from UNESCO’s Section of Health and Global Citizenship Education; UNESCO’s regional consultant in charge of M&E will also support the facilitation of a number of sessions.

The countries represented at the workshop will include 15 French speaking countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo) and 2 English speaking countries with a proportionally higher burden of the disease in WCA (Nigeria and Ghana). For each country, invitation shall be extended to the following personnel:

- 2 EMIS officers (preferably one from national level and the other from decentralised level)
- The UNESCO national programme officer or focal point for HIV and Health, if available
The training workshop will be technical for the most part and requires some solid expertise in EMIS and quantitative indicators from participants from ministries of education.

All country participants will be required to complete the following tasks prior to the workshop:

(i) To read carefully the *Measuring the Education Sector response to HIV and AIDS: Global Guidelines for the Construction and Use of Core Indicators*; and

(ii) To bring at least one laptop per country - with the electronic version of their respective EMIS Annual School Census questionnaires

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**Annex 1 – List of core global indicators**

Indicator 1: National Commitments and Policy Instruments (NCPI)
Indicator 2: Education institutions: rules and guidelines
Indicator 3: Life skills-based HIV and sexuality education
Indicator 4: Life skills-based HIV and sexuality education: orientation process for parents or guardians
Indicator 5: Life skills-based HIV and sexuality education: teacher training and teaching
Indicator 6: Young people: knowledge about HIV and AIDS
Indicator 7: Young people: sex before the age of 15
Indicator 8: Young people: condom use at last sex among people with multiple sexual partners
Indicator 9: Free basic support for orphans and vulnerable children – Bursary support
Indicator 10: Free basic support for orphans and vulnerable children – emotional/psychological support
Indicator 11: Free basic support for orphans and vulnerable children – social support (excluding bursary support)
Indicator 12: Educational institutions: HIV workplace programmes
Indicator 13: Orphans school attendance
Indicator 14: Education: student illness or death
Indicator 15: Education: teacher attrition rate

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1 See: [http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002230/223028e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002230/223028e.pdf)