

Two examples are the West and East Africa Networks on Accelerating the Education Sector Response to HIV/AIDS.

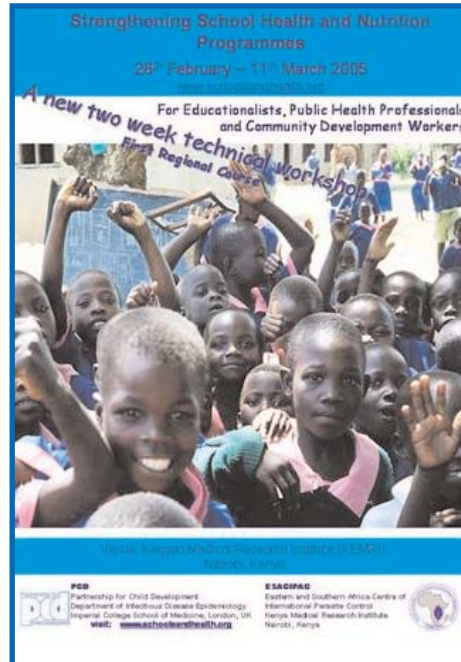


In addition, PCD manages a School Health Mailing List that serves as a forum for debate and acts as a contact point for interested organisations and individuals throughout the world. (Contact Dr Celia Maier at c.maier@imperial.ac.uk).

Training

PCD provides short course training around the world for educationalists, public health professionals and community development workers. Workshops provide an up-to-date, comprehensive introduction to concepts and current practice in improving the health, nutrition and education of schoolchildren. Issues of management and implementation of programmes are addressed that respond to country-specific needs. Participants are enabled to strengthen their skills, keep in touch with latest research and knowledge, form new partnerships, exchange experiences, enhance their existing SHN activities and use a results based planning process to develop or strengthen existing SHN implementation plans and training manuals. (For more information contact Mr Richard Suswillo r.suswillo@imperial.ac.uk)

...Supporting research, providing information and training.



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...Improving the education, health and nutrition of all school-age children and youth in low income countries

Supporting School Health and Nutrition Programmes

.....Providing a better future for today's children

The Partnership for Child Development (PCD) is an organisation committed to improving the education, health and nutrition of school-age children and youth in low income countries. Based at London's Imperial College Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, the organisation helps countries and international agencies turn the findings of evidence-based research into national interventions that benefit millions of children around the world.

Healthy children learn better and school health and nutrition (SHN) programming is recognised to improve not only children's health and nutrition, but also their learning potential and life choices, both in the short and long term.

Technical

PCD lends technical assistance, training and support to SHN (FRESH) programmes in low income countries around the world. Our work is based on over ten years of operational research in SHN programming, monitoring and evaluation. In recent years, a major focus of our activity has



Tablet pole being used to estimate drug dosage for bilharzia by height in a school in Zambia.



Children sharing health education at school.

been assisting educators and health professionals to work together to help schools respond to the threat HIV/AIDS poses to education, health and poverty alleviation.

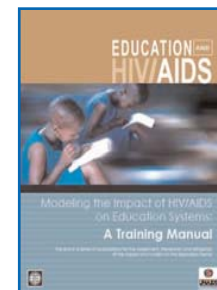
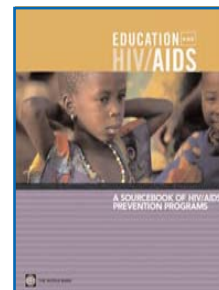
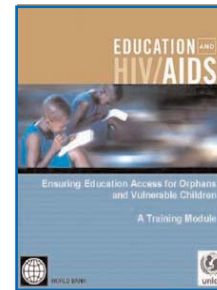
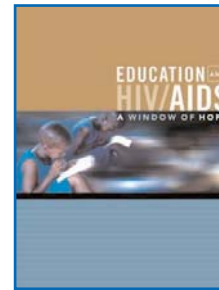
PCD supports Ministries of Education and Health, donor agencies and Civil Society in their efforts to develop systematic and sustainable SHN programmes that can be effectively monitored, evaluated and taken to scale (for example, Zambia, Eritrea and Kenya).

We have developed strategies and practical field tools to aid in cost effective implementation of SHN programmes. These include 'low tech' innovations, such as a tablet height pole for delivering correct drug doses; 'high tech' innovations such as using Geographical Information Systems to assist in the effective targeting of treatment; and planning and management tools.

FRESH (Focusing Resources on Effective School Health) is an inter-agency initiative developed by UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank, launched at the Dakar Education Forum, 2000, which incorporates the experience and expertise of these and other agencies and organizations (including PCD). The FRESH Framework captures best practices from programme experiences for the design and implementation of effective school health and nutrition programmes.

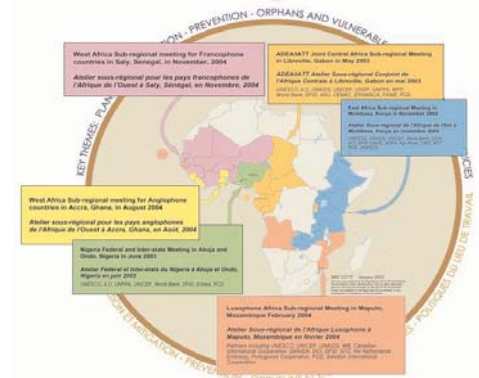
We provide technical support to the Interagency Task Team on HIV/AIDS and Education Working Group (IATTEWG) to "Accelerate the Education Sector Response to HIV/AIDS" (Accelerate Initiative). To date, the IATTEWG has supported over 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa in developing and implementing effective strategies and plans. The task team is now expanding its activities in South, Central and SE Asia.

We have also played a key role in the development of seminal documents on this issue, including the World Bank and UN agency publications: "Education and HIV/AIDS: A Window of Hope"; "Ensuring Education Access for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)"; "Modelling the impact of HIV/AIDS on Education Systems" and "A Sourcebook of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs" (see www.schoolsandhealth.org).



Research

Our research has demonstrated the educational benefits of school health interventions: deworming increases children's learning potential, iron supplementation improves attention in class and malaria treatment improves general cognitive function and increases school enrolment for girls, whilst all these interventions improve school attendance.



The Accelerate Initiative: sub-regional workshops in Africa

Moreover, our operations research has also helped pioneer new ways to deliver these interventions in a cost effective manner. Current research programmes are investigating ways to improve the effectiveness of life skills based HIV/AIDS prevention education in schools; assessing the educational benefits of intermittent preventive malaria treatment and; investigating the long term outcomes of children treated at school for malaria or worm infections.

Information

PCD is a major resource centre for school health and nutrition. We have developed and administer the school health web site which is supported by the World Bank, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID and others (www.schoolsandhealth.org). The site includes a searchable database of SHN programmes, technical information and resources about school health and nutrition, a bibliography and more than 180 downloadable documents. A section of the website is dedicated to providing up to date information about HIV/AIDS and education including downloadable documents, a global calendar of relevant activities and regional network pages allowing exchange of information and communication between partners.