A comprehensive approach goes beyond implementing an HIV and AIDS prevention curriculum in the classroom. To have a real impact on HIV and AIDS, the education sector must address the other challenges posed by the disease, including the need for workplace policies and training programmes for teachers and staff, a safe and secure learning environment for working and learning, and links to services for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. A comprehensive approach means using all means at the education sector’s disposal to promote and protect the health of students and staff, and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on the system itself.

The four main components of a comprehensive approach are:

1. Workplace policy on HIV and AIDS
   - Offering workplace education programmes to teachers and staff, protecting employees’ rights, and adopting fair personnel policies for infected and affected individuals.

2. Skills-based HIV and AIDS curriculum
   - Training teachers to implement skill-based curricula using participatory learning to enhance students’ ability to translate knowledge into positive behaviours.

3. Healthy psycho-social and physical educational environment
   - Creating a school environment that is free from stigma, discrimination, gender inequity, sexual harassment, homophobia, and violence, and which includes a zero-tolerance policy for these elements.

4. HIV and AIDS services, care and support
   - Providing treatment education, links to voluntary testing and counseling, mental health and nutrition services, access to medical care, housing, vocational support, case management, and adherence support.

References: