

### **Box 3.3 Focusing Resources on Effective School Health (FRESH)**

Education for All (EFA) is about getting all children into school and keeping them there. Poor and disadvantaged children are the ones whose participation is most compromised, by ill health and malnutrition. FRESH is a multicountry, multipartner program launched at the April 2000 World Conference on EFA, aimed at forging cross-sectoral linkages between education and health sectors. There are now 22 projects in the Africa region that include a school health and nutrition component using the FRESH framework. Conceived as an effective program to respond to a need, it is beginning to increase the efficacy of other investments in child development, promote better educational outcomes, and achieve greater social equity, while also being cost effective. Highlights of FRESH follow:

- It helps countries develop the school health components of social sector projects, emphasizing health-related school policies, provision of safe water and sanitation, skills-based health education, and school-based health and nutrition services.
- It allows an international exchange of information on school health and aims at a common vision of school health among development agencies.
- It serves to accelerate implementation of HIV/AIDS- and malaria-prevention activities in the education sector.