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Welcome to the EFA Africa electronic Bulletin

EFA funding process

To finance EFA by 2015, the various estimates made by agencies of the United Nations System (UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank) place the mark between 7 and 15 billion US dollars per annum. Considering EFA as their n° 1 priority, the structures of the UNESCO headquarters, BREDA and field offices in the Sub-Saharan African region, provided at least 10,000 US dollars, in 2001/2002, to national teams in charge of preparing national EFA action plans in each of the forty-six countries in addition to resources deployed to organise technical support missions and the regional forum and sub-regional forums. It is worth mentioning that in the field, the other agencies of the United Nations System which sponsor EFA (The World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP) as well as bilateral and multilateral organisations, NGOs and the civil society organisations provide direct contributions to the activities relating to the elaboration of EFA action plans.

Within this framework, the Inter-Governmental Francophone agency signed an agreement with BREDA to assist about twenty French-speaking African countries in the preparation of their EFA action plans upon their request.

The recent World Bank initiative «EFA fast track» which is an accelerated EFA financing modality for thirteen African countries (*Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia*) is an illustration that "no countries seriously committed to Education for All will be thwarted in their achievement of this goal by lack of resources". At the bilateral level, the assistance provided to the education sector in Mozambique by Denmark and the World Bank, by 60 and 71 millions US dollars respectively, deserves to be mentioned as an example.

What is most important for African countries is for them to prepare credible plans to use as the major tool of dialogue with technical and financial partners with a view to mobilising internal and external resources required implementing the EFA objectives by 2015.

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MEETINGS

Conference of Education Ministers and Experts of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Conference of Education Ministers and Experts of the ECOWAS Member States will take place September 20-25, 2002 in Dakar, Senegal. It will be held in two phases: a meeting of the education experts on September 20-23, followed by one of the Ministers of Education, September 24-25.

The main objective of the conference, in which 16 Ministers, 32 experts and the partners to educational development will participate, is to examine and ratify the ECOWAS protocol on education and training, and the convention on the accreditation and equivalency of the degrees delivered in the ECOWAS member States. The meeting of the experts will elaborate the action plan to be integrated in the protocol on education in consideration of the harmonization and synchronization of the objectives of the Decade for Education in Africa, those of Education For All (EFA) and the New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD) to ensure coherence in the strategic planning of human resource development within ECOWAS. Also, four “fast track” projects will be examined and approved by the Ministers. These are: (i) teacher training by the means of distance education; (ii) science, technology and vocational training; (iii) girls education and the strengthening of FAWE offices in West Africa and (iv) HIV/AIDS preventive education.

At the end of the conference it is expected that: (i) The objectives of Education for All, those of the Decade of Education in Africa, the Millennium Development Goals and NEPAD will be synchronized and harmonized with the aim of having an integrated Plan of Action for the ECOWAS Protocol on Education; (ii) the four projects described above will be ready for implementation and (iii) sub-regional cooperation in education will be strengthened.

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COUNTRY ACTIONS

Preparing an EFA Plan of action in Angola: Promises kept

After the World Forum on Education for All (Dakar 2000) the Angolan government set up a national EFA committee in order to prepare the national EFA forum, reactivate and co-ordinate the NAP/EFA formulation process.

There were various successive stages, which can be summarised, in the following points:

- Sept 2001: preparation of the first version of NAP/EFA, and approval of the basic law on the education system and the integrated strategy for the improvement of the system.
- Nov 2001: organisation of a series of consultations extended to civil society, social partners, EFA sponsors and other public and private institutions.

- April 2002: organisation of seminars to sensitise the public and involve EFA sponsors in the National EFA Forum preparatory process.
- May 2002: consultations at provincial level, discussions and analysis of EFA strategies.
- July 2002: organisation of new enlarged consultations to discuss the EFA action plan with a view to its final approval.
- August 2002: National Education Forum to validate the Angolan NAP/EFA.

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South African report on progress with the national action plans for EFA since 2000

There has been progress in the Ministry of Education in laying the legislative and policy framework for making sustained interventions in: Policy development around inclusive education; Early childhood development; Infrastructure development; Adult education and training; HIV/AIDS in education; Consolidating poverty targeted funding; Curriculum reform and implementation.

As well as this, there is the national Ministry's Tirisano programme (a 5-year strategy from 1999 to 2004) which focuses on literacy and adult education, inclusive education, HIV/AIDS interventions, gender equity, further education and training, infrastructure development, early childhood development, and institutional and administrative effectiveness in all education sub-sectors.

South Africa's national strategic plan is determined by national priorities but influenced by international development goals (such as EFA, Millennium, and NEPAD goals) with local amendments and additions. The strategic plan will be released in the next few weeks and will form the basis of the country plan for education.

Challenges :

- ?? Institutionalising and strengthening the monitoring and evaluation framework for education provision (including EFA) at national and sub-national level.
- ?? Consolidating the efforts at reducing barriers to quality education. The impact of poverty on education and training and human resource development as a whole is a problem in a country where poverty levels are unacceptably high. Quality improvement is a priority in the system especially with the deepening impact of poverty and HIV/AIDS on the socio-economic situation in South Africa.
- ?? Strengthening management and governance of the system at national, provincial and local level.

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Windhoek

The UNESCO Windhoek Office has organized a Consultation for EFA Coordinators and the Secretary-Generals of the National Commissions from its Cluster Countries namely, Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, from 14 - 15 August 2002. The purpose of the Consultation was to assess the progress made in the development and finalization of the national plans of action in those countries, to share experiences and to discuss the way forward with regard to the implementation of the said plans of action.

In collaboration with the Namibian Representatives in the Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education (FAPED), the National Assembly of Namibia has organized a two-day FAPED information workshop for education Parliamentarians from 12 SADC countries, from 12 - 13 August 2002 in Windhoek. The workshop deliberated on educational issues within the framework of EFA and discussed modalities for enhancing the capacity of parliamentarians with regards to education.

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Education for All in Nigeria: Update on EFA Activities

Sequel to the Dakar Framework for Action, Nigeria has since begun to contextually analyse how to ensure that current response initiatives by government with the support of IDPs interface with the EFA goals set in Dakar.

As a result, the Federal Government of Nigeria in its efforts to facilitate EFA inaugurated the National EFA Forum in August 2001 with the objective to produce a National Action Plan that would emerge by the end of 2002. Thus, to further show the commitment of the Federal Government of Nigeria to the EFA process, a National EFA Coordination office was created within the Federal Ministry of Education and government conceded to having a member of civil society at its helm.

During the Caucus of African Ministers of Education in Paris, October 2001, Nigeria was appointed as chair of the EFA Regional Forum to maintain a high-level policy engagement at international levels.

Currently, EFA Nigeria is proposing to embark on a nationwide sensitisation exercise that will facilitate the EFA process. In May 2002 the Federal Government of Nigeria in conjunction with UNESCO celebrated EFA week. In the same month UNESCO held round table discussions with heads of business industries to discuss their role in the EFA process.

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National EFA meeting in Zimbabwe

A very successful National EFA meeting has been held in Mutare, Zimbabwe, in July 2002. Two participants were drawn from each of the nine Regional offices; one from Planning and the other from Quality Assurance. The workshop was sponsored by Unicef.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. present the draft EFA National Action Plan (NAP) to the regional staff
2. edit the draft NAP document
3. make further inputs into the NAP in the areas of HIV/AIDS, the Basic Education Assistance Module and schools in newly resettled areas
4. set up regional EFA Chapters
5. visit one rural primary school to look at aspects of quality education delivery
6. chart the way forward with respect to the completion of the NAP

There were useful ideas from the participant to improve the chapters on the six EFA goals including the logframe on same. The discussions on objective (3) were most interesting and revealing. It was acknowledged that without putting in place effective methods to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic, education for all by the year 2015 will remain a pipe dream. Following the workshop the task of incorporating the amendments into the draft NAP document will be carried out by a group of about six people.

Zimbabwe is confident that it will be able to come up with a credible, defensible and implementable NAP.

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EDUCATION IN AFRICA

G8 approves plan to boost universal education

Calgary, Canada (PANA) - 27/06/2002 - Leaders of the seven richest nations and Russia (G8) meeting in Calgary, Canada in June 2002 have approved a plan of increased aid for education to ensure that all children of school age were enrolled in school by 2015. A G8 task force has issued a report calling for increased aid to basic education for countries that demonstrate commitment to education through the right policy and devotion of at least 20 percent of government spending to education.

The report, however, left it open to donor countries to decide how much they would give. But the proposed increase is a far cry from the 25 billion dollars of new funding, which the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan said would be needed annually to put Africa on the road to prosperity. Support for Africa under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), was one of the main issues of discussion at the G8 Summit. The Presidents of Algeria, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa were in Calgary to convince the G8 leaders on the new development initiative.

Cooperation between statisticians and African EFA Coordinators

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (PANA) – 21/6/2002 – A number of experts coming from around twenty African countries have decided, when meeting in the Côte d'Ivoire in June 2002, to “enhance cooperation between statisticians and national coordinators of Education for All

(EFA). At a regional workshop the experts stated that this cooperation would lead to “ensuring a better evaluation and a more efficient follow-up to the implementation of EFA”. The cooperation is supported by the UNESCO Institute of Statistics.

According to the Secretary General of the National Commission of UNESCO in the Côte d’Ivoire, Mrs. Yao Yao, this meeting is “especially important for the African countries where the problem of illiteracy is today a major challenge as well for UNESCO, for whom the education sector is a priority”

She also stressed that “no education policy will lead to a successful outcome if it is not based on a statistical efficient and reliable mechanism - an important and indispensable tool in decision-making”.

At the meeting, that took place from 15th to 20th June 2002 in the economic capital of the Côte d’Ivoire, the educational experts also presented the Mid-term strategy for the UNESCO Institute of Statistics for the years 2002-2007.

African languages introduced in Zambian primary schools

Lusaka, Zambia (PANA) - 08/06/2002 - Zambian primary schools have since January started teaching in local languages in a bid to increase understanding of lessons among pupils and raise literacy levels. The local dialects are being used under a programme known as 'New Break-Through to Literacy' or NBTL among teachers. Zambia's education minister Andrew Mulenga explained that four ethnic languages - Lozi (Western Province), Tonga (Southern), Nyanja (Eastern and Lusaka Provinces) and Bemba for Northern, Luapula and Copperbelt regions were introduced at the beginning of the academic year.