

## **Global and Regional Activities (GRA) Program**

The GRA program provides support for initiatives and programs that address Education for All (EFA) Fast Track Initiative's (FTI) thematic areas and demonstrate their ability to enhance the capacity of country and regional level institutions/organizations to support EFA FTI country partners to meet their education goals.

Global and regional initiatives are intended to address the following development objectives.

- Strengthen capacity of country and regional level entities to develop, implement, and/or monitor sustainable national education sector programs.
- Enhance understanding of key priorities through research and practice and increase the impact of investments in education, drawing on innovations, evidence, and global good practices in these areas.
- Improve knowledge sharing between and among EFA FTI partners through the systematic provision of services and products that enlighten, engage and energize partners to apply new knowledge and evidence-based good practices to resolve education challenges.
- Improve Partnership accountability by strengthening availability and quality of data.
- Strengthen South-South networks and partnerships.

The three thematic areas for the GRA program cycle 1 (2011-2013) are:

- Learning outcomes
- Out of school children
- Education financing

Eligible activities to be funded by the program are:

- Research and dissemination
- Technical workshops
- Development of innovative partnerships and networks
- Technical Assistance
- Study tours
- Interventions to inform scale up

The GRA program will be prepared and implemented as follows:

- ❖ The EFA FTI Secretariat's Global Good Practice (GGP) Team will write issues papers that describe (a) "state of the field", who is doing what, where, and how, and good practices to be shared, scaled up, etc; (b) "gaps" in knowledge and practice at the country and regional level that need to be addressed as well as the results needed and expected (outputs and outcomes) from new activities to fill those "gaps", and (c) particular eligible activities or sets of eligible activities needed to address each priority theme. These papers will be used as the main inputs for the stakeholder consultation (*April*).
- ❖ A stakeholder consultation with EFA FTI constituency representatives will take place via email and the EFA FTI website will be used as the main source for dissemination. The consultation will enable EFA FTI partners to provide comments on the issues papers and to finalize outputs and outcomes for potential GRA funded activities (*May-June*).
- ❖ Based on the outcomes of the stakeholder consultation, the EFA FTI Secretariat will develop Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for specific GRA programmatic activities in each thematic area. All RFPs will fund concrete activities from the eligible activities list. RFPs will be results-oriented and will identify the specific outputs and outcomes that the EFA FTI Partnership wants to support. The EFA FTI Secretariat will issue the RFPs as widely as possible. Each activity or set of activities will be implemented by a Supervising Entity (SE) which will act as a funder and may on-grant or on-contract to other entities. It is expected that SEs will be official bodies such as bilateral donor agencies or multilateral technical or financial agencies (*June-September*).
- ❖ The GGP Team will review all RFPs and will set up an External Quality Review (EQR) panel/committee to review the proposals. When the EQR process is completed, the EFA FTI Secretariat will review the comments from the EQR, request clarifications and or adjustments in the proposals, as appropriate, and make recommendations for final approval by the EFA FTI Board of Directors (*September-October*).
- ❖ The EFA FTI Secretariat will negotiate transfer agreements for GRA implementation. After the approval by the EFA FTI Board of Directors, the World Bank, as the Trustee for the EFA Fund, will negotiate transfer agreements with the SEs. First allocations will start in November 2011. Activities will be funded for two years (*September-November*).

In 2013, another consultation process will be implemented to identify three new thematic areas.