

July 15, 2009

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A Note from Bob Prouty, Acting Head, EFA – FTI Secretariat

Dear partners,

The EFA – FTI Partnership is in full swing in taking the resource mobilization campaign for the FTI trust funds forward. Over the course of the summer the FTI Secretariat, in collaboration with the Co-chairs of the FTI Board, will be contacting our friends and partners on how we can work together to have a successful replenishment campaign. All suggestions and comments with regard to the resource mobilization effort are very welcome.

One important aspect in our effort to obtain new funding for the EFA – FTI is continuously working on the performance of the trust funds and most notably on the rate of disbursement of the Catalytic Fund. I am pleased to note that we have passed the 500 million USD mark in disbursements and have managed to speed up the signing of the grant agreements by 6 months. Almost all legal agreements around the Oslo allocation decisions have been signed and we expect to process the first disbursements very soon.

Some of you have been asking about progress in finalizing the Education Transition Fund, intended for providing support primarily to conflict-affected countries. We have recently been notified by UNICEF that it will not be able to host this fund. We will be working in close collaboration with partners over the coming weeks to seek an appropriate solution to take the ETF forward without further delay. We will keep you informed of further developments as information is available.

Hope to be in touch with you on short notice.

Bob Prouty, email: prouty@educationfasttrack.org

The Education for All – Fast Track Initiative Establishes a New Board of Directors on July 1, 2009

The EFA - FTI partnership has a new expanded Board of Directors as of July 1, 2009. Members of the Board of Directors include the private sector, new donors, developing partners and civil society organizations that will build on and expand successes of the EFA – FTI to get millions of children into school. The Board represents the partnership and provides overall policy guidance and coordination.

The Board of Directors has 17 members and consists of representatives of four developing countries (Burkina Faso, Moldova, Guyana, and Mozambique), six donor countries (Australia, Denmark, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom), four international agencies (UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the European Commission) and three civil society organizations: two member organizations from the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and the World Economic Forum Global Education Initiative.

An independent chairperson for the Board is expected to be announced shortly.

For more information, please contact Michelle Mesen of the EFA – FTI Secretariat, email: mmesen@educationfasttrack.org

Please send suggestions regarding
this newsletter to:
Abekkers@educationfasttrack.org
or Akonate@worldbank.org

EFA – FTI in the Spotlight: International Support for the Replenishment of the EFA – FTI Trust Funds



G8 Members during the 2009 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy
G8 website/Ansa photo by Maurizio Brambatti

After the successful launch of its resource mobilization effort in April 2009, the EFA – FTI is now gearing towards the implementation of the replenishment action plan. Key development partners have expressed support and are calling for filling the financing gaps of the FTI trust funds.

The G8 countries, during the recent G8 summit in l'Aquila, Italy, reiterated their support for the EFA – FTI as a good practice for aid effectiveness. They approved the current reform process and indicated their commitment, along with other donors, to a unified approach to mobilize predictable bilateral and multilateral resources to fulfill the financial shortfall estimated by the FTI at US\$1.2 billion over the coming 18 months.

A few weeks earlier, on June 24, 2009 at the UN Conference on World Financial and Economic Crisis in New York, UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon called for 'filling the resource gaps left in the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative in order to ensure universal access to primary education'. Progress in education rates in EFA – FTI supported countries were highlighted in the latest ONE/DATA report while ODA levels for education are declining. The ONE/DATA campaign is asking the G8 to ensure that the two multi-donor trust funds administered by the EFA – FTI (CF and EPDF) are adequately resourced, so that new countries can overcome short-term financing gaps and enhance their national education plans. For the DATA 2009 report, please see the website: <http://www.one.org/international/datareport2009/>

Liberia Holds First Education Sector Review

The Liberian Ministry of Education together with its Education Development Partners (EDPs) successfully organized the country's first post-war Education Sector Review on June 23-24, 2009. The review provided an overview of the status of the implementation of the Liberian Primary Education Recovery Program (LPERP), demonstrated how the LPERP is supporting the national poverty reduction goals, addressed challenges and contributed to the completion of the ten year Education Sector Plan, expected later this summer. Significant achievements toward meeting LPERP goals include the rehabilitation of two Rural Teacher Training Institutes and the graduation of the first cohort of primary school teachers since 1989, the provision of 1.2 million textbooks that will reduce the textbook-pupil ratio from 27:1 to 2:1 nationwide, and the contracting of 40 schools that will be built and ready for the upcoming school year. These activities have been funded through the Liberian Education Pooled Fund (LEPF) established in May 2008 to support the implementation of the LPERP. The LEPF is an alternative funding mechanism responding to the enormous needs of a post-conflict country, aligned with the principles of EFA-FTI and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. It is supported by UNICEF and the Open Society Institute/ Soros Foundation with more than USD 16 million.

The LPERP was endorsed by the EFA-FTI Partnership in April 2007.

The final report of the Education Sector Review will be soon available on the FTI Liberia webpage at www.education-fast-track.org. It can be requested from the Deputy-Minister for Planning, Research and Development of the Liberian Ministry of Education at: moe.planning@yahoo.com

*New guidance notes
for teachers in fragile
states – Page 3*

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Guidance Notes on Teacher Compensation in Fragile States

In fragile states, situations of displacement and post-crisis recovery, teachers are often unpaid or not paid at all. Inconsistent and inadequate compensation often lead to low levels of teacher motivation, high levels of teacher drop out, teacher shortages, and social unrest.

Policies and guidelines on teacher remuneration for these contexts have been sketchy at best. To build upon the outcomes of a roundtable discussion at the World Bank, the INEE developed a clear set of guidance notes that help governments, donors and NGOs plan and implement an appropriate response to teacher compensation. This new publication, released in March 2009, is illustrated with examples of good practice, lessons learnt, and illustrative strategies from a range of refugee, internally displaced person (IDP), returnee and overall population contexts to assist the reader in identifying which approaches are likely to be effective in their particular situation.

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) is a global network of UN agencies, NGOs, donors, governments, teachers, students. The FTI Secretariat is an active participant in the network.

The Teachers Guidance Note is available for download on the INEE website at: www.ineeserver.org

For more information, please contact Koli Banik of the EFA – FTI Secretariat, email: kbanik@educationfasttrack.org

Consultations for the Redesigned Education Program Development Fund (EPDF)

Since its inception in 2004, the EPDF has made an important contribution towards preparing countries to join the EFA – FTI Partnership. To date, over US\$75 million have been allocated to countries (EPDF Status Report, April 2009).

In December 2008 the EPDF Committee formed a new Task Team to lead efforts to design a revised Trust Fund which takes into account the lessons learnt from the existing EPDF and the changing environment of the EFA – FTI partnership. The Task Team is led by Australia and includes members from Canada, Ireland, France, Norway, as well as representatives from the World Bank, UNICEF and the FTI Secretariat. A draft concept note on the redesigned EDPF was discussed during the Partnership meeting in Oslo, in April 2009. Following the meeting, the Task Team underwent an extensive consultation process with a representative sample group of EPDF recipient countries.

The results of this consultation will directly feed into the next Task Team meeting taking place on July 21-24, 2009.

A detailed draft of the proposed redesign will be available for circulation by September 2009.

For more information on the EPDFv2 Task Team, please contact Koli Bank of the EFA – FTI Secretariat, email: kbanik@educationfasttrack.org

More information on the EPDF can be downloaded on the EFA – FTI Secretariat website at: www.education-fast-track.org.

The complete portfolio of EPDF 'products' (studies and reports financed by EPDF) will be available through a user-friendly database on the EFA – FTI website before the end of July 2009.



Fé y Alegria Winning Prestigious Award for Inclusive Education

Fé y Alegria won the 2009-10 Juscelino Kubitschek award for its significant contribution to education for the socially excluded in Latin America. The prize is awarded annually by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). Created 50 years ago, Fé y Alegria has improved the lives of millions of children and adults. Its projects cover almost 20 countries and are executed in partnership with government and civil society. This non-governmental organization provides formal as well as informal learning opportunities that result in social inclusion. It ensures that about half a million poor children attend (formal) school. It provides teacher training and services that promote community development. Fé y Alegria has a network of more than 2,700 service units, including schools, radio stations, and distance learning centers. In 2006 alone, there were more than 1.3 million beneficiaries. Fé y Alegria is by far the most important NGO of its kind in the region. Its work directly contributes to the Education for All enterprise.

This award is the biggest by a multilateral institution in Latin America & the Caribbean. Each winner receives a prize of US\$100,000. The award honors Juscelino Kubitschek, the Brazilian president who envisioned the creation of a multilateral development institution for LAC. His vision resulted in the creation of the Inter-American Development Bank, which exists 50 years in 2009.

For more information please visit the Fé y Alegria website at: www.feyalegria.org or the website of the IADB: www.iadb.org/news

EFA – FTI News from Around the World

Burkina Faso signed a grant agreement for US\$22 million on June 29, 2009 in support of its education sector program

This First Basic Education Program Support is a US\$22 million grant funded by the Catalytic Trust Fund. It will finance operations in the education sector that will help improve access and quality of education and support the implementation of various reforms in the sector.

For more information please visit the Burkina Faso country page on the EFA – FTI website at www.education-fast-track.org

Upcoming Catalytic Trust Fund Applications

In view of the long-term replenishment of the EFA - FTI Trust Funds, the Secretariat is working with countries to assess their financing needs for the Catalytic Trust Fund applications for the next 12 to 18 months. Within this context, letters have been sent to a total of 23 FTI-endorsed and upcoming countries for endorsement, in the last two weeks of June. By mid-August 2009, the FTI Secretariat hopes to have a clear overview of upcoming funding requests.

For more information please contact please contact Palak Mehra of the EFA – FTI Secretariat, email: pmehra@educationfasttrack.org

Upcoming events

July 15 – 17, 2009: African Ministers of Finance and Education meet this week in Tunis on the theme “Sustaining the Education and Economic Momentum in Africa Amidst the Current Global Financial Crisis”. Participants to the Conference will discuss how to maintain progress achieved in the education sector over the past decade while ensuring that investments in education help sustain and accelerate economic growth and social development in Africa. The conference is jointly organized by the WB, the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) with the support of the partners of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA – FTI). For more information go to: <http://www.adeanet.org/adeaPortal/>

July 19 – 24, 2009: 16th European Conference on Reading and 1st Ibero-American Forum on Literacy, Portugal

July 20 – 31, 2009: IIEP Summer School: Rebuilding Resilience, Planning Education in Fragile Contexts, Paris

August 17 – 20, 2009: USAID Worldwide Education Forum, Crystal City, Virginia, USA