



Fast Track Initiative

A global partnership to achieve Education For All

**EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FUND
(EPDF)**

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

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Prepared by the FTI Secretariat

**Education for All (EFA) – Fast Track Initiative (FTI)
Education Program Development Fund (EPDF)
Interim Progress Report**

Objective and content

This report provides an interim update on the implementation of EPDF grants and the actions taken on the decisions made in December 2008 in Oslo. The regional progress reports and the new funding requests are only available on a yearly basis and therefore not included in this update. After the Copenhagen meeting, the documents presented will be posted on the FTI website (www.education-fast-track.org).

Financial Execution

Since the inception of EPDF, US\$69.25 million have been allocated to the six World Bank regions and US\$6.5 million to the GCE, in total US\$75.75 million. Contracts have been signed for 52 percent (US\$39.5 million) of the funds. To date, about 47% percent has been disbursed (US\$35.4million). Total disbursement has increased by US\$6.6 million since the last update in December 2008, when the figure was US\$ 28.8 million. See Table 1 below for details.

TABLE1. Allocations and Disbursement as of March 31, 2009

Signed Donor Pledges

(US\$ thousands)

Region	Allocations	Disbursements	Expenses Incurred
Sub-Saharan Africa	41,220	22,038	23,535
East Asia & Pacific	8,510	2,917	3,668
Europe & Central Asia	3,210	1,194	1,312
Latin America & Caribbean	3,850	2,209	2,479
Middle East & North Africa	2,690	1,496	1,727
South Asia	9,770	5,582	6,775
GCE	6,500	0	0
TOTAL	75,750	35,435	39,495

Source: FTI Secretariat.

Projected Finances

To date, the EPDF has received pledges amounting to US\$114 million. So far, US\$75.75 million has been allocated to activities managed by the six WB regions. US\$38.5 million is available for new allocations by the EPDF Committee.

Donors and Pledges

The EPDF has eleven donors. Table 2 summarizes donor pledges and payments received as of the end of March, 2009.

TABLE 2. DONOR PLEDGES March 31, 2009

Signed Donor Pledges		In US\$ millions						
Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010-13	Total 2005-2010	Received
Australia				1.06	1.72	1.63	4.41	1.06
Canada	-	3.4	-	-	1.62	6.48	11.50	3.40
France		1.74	2.00	2.10	1.74	-	7.58	5.84
Ireland		0.95	1.06	1.40	-		3.41	3.41
Japan	-	-	1.2	-	-	-	1.20	1.20
Luxembourg		1.30	0.91	1.2		-	3.45	3.45
Netherlands		1.5	6.0	6.0	-	-	13.50	7.5
Norway	4.87	30.0	6.5	1.3	-	-	42.68	42.68
Russia	-		1.2	2.0	1.0	1.0	5.20	3.20
Sweden		2.6	-	3.6	1.2	2.4	9.80	6.2
UK	0.94	4.96	4.96	0.7	-	-	11.55	11.6
TOTAL	5.81	46.45	23.84	19.39	7.28	11.51	114.28	89.49

Source: FTI Secretariat; exchange rates as of March 31, 2009.

Alignment with in-country processes

The World Bank has developed guidelines for the applications made by the regions covering the process to implement the allocations made by the EPDF Committee. The guidelines provide a greater role for local education groups (LEG). Concretely World Bank task team leaders are asking the coordinating agency to provide a letter stating that the activities have been agreed by the LEG before an proposal can be processed by the World Bank regions. The guidelines for the Africa region have been used as a model for this achieving more clarity on the involvement of the LEGs as well as providing clear linkage between objectives and the strategies of the EPDF. These guidelines are posted on the FTI and WB websites.

Reporting Framework

To provide more transparency on the activities supported by EPDF and to enhance the monitoring of EPDF activities against planned results the Secretariat and the Bank has been working on identifying outputs of EPDF financed activities that would be appropriate for sharing more broadly. A second round of search for additional outputs will be carried out in April and May, 2009 to make the list more comprehensive. The list of activities and the documentation for the outputs and results have been linked and a web-site is under construction for easy availability. The website will be presented during the meeting in Copenhagen.

Funding Requests from the World Bank

As mentioned US\$10.75 million was approved to the World Bank in the EPDF meeting in December 2008. All proposed activities have been revisited to ensure full alignment with in-country processes; this has gone well and there is general satisfaction that the process has become much more demand-driven and locally owned. The World Bank will not come back with a request for additional funding until it is satisfied that LEGs have become an integral part of the process, and that the systems have been sufficiently developed to ensure alignment and ownership going forward. The coming period should provide some transition to EPDF 2 and as a consequence, a virtual round of applications is proposed beginning mid-2009. The World Bank has requested that the closing date of

the current EPDF be extended to mid-2011 to ensure a smooth transition to EPDF2. Any un-committed funds can be transferred to the new EPDF2 around mid-2010.

GCE proposal

A revised project proposal has been made to reflect the decision of funding activities until mid-2010 and to elaborate and clarify on the results framework and the implementation arrangements. GCE has prepared the documentation for the selection of the three regional agencies and three financial management entities that will be involved in the implementation of the project. A grant agreement between GCE and the Bank is likely to be ready in May 2009. The Bank and GCE began working on the revised proposal in February, but the changes to the project proposal and the fiduciary assessments have taken longer than anticipated.

UNESCO proposal

The proposal from UNESCO has already been commented by members of the committee and a revised version sent out. A possible change of the administrative agreements for EPDF to allow this proposal could be made at the same time as the request for extension.

Task Team on a new EPDF

Australia will present the concept note for a new EPDF on behalf of the task team established in Oslo.