

**EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FUND  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
TOKYO – APRIL 23, 2008  
MINUTES**

1. **Participants.** An EDPF Committee meeting took place on April 23, 2008 in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting was chaired by *Robin Horn, Education Sector Manager, Human Development Network, World Bank*. See Annex 1 for list of participants.
2. **Agenda and Documents.** Ahead of the meeting, the FTI Secretariat sent to Committee members the agenda and documents listed below. They were the basis for the Committee's deliberations in Tokyo.
  - a) Special funding request for Bangladesh and Pakistan.
  - b) Special funding request for Haiti.
  - c) Terms of reference for the EDPF desk review.
  - d) Draft EDPF desk review report.
  - e) Proposal to develop EDPF guidelines.
3. **Objectives.** On the basis of the agenda, the EDPF Committee:
  - a) considered approval of four special requests for EDPF resources;
  - b) reviewed the findings and conclusions of the EDPF Desk-Review report;
  - c) discussed the nature of follow up work from the EDPF Desk-Review report;
  - d) examined draft Terms of Reference for development of EDPF Guidelines;
  - e) considered the Secretariat's proposal to derive protocols for enhanced decision making by the Committee.
4. **EDPF funding requests.** Three requests were submitted ex ante: (i) Bangladesh (US\$130,000), Pakistan (US\$310,000), and Haiti (US\$500,000).
  - The EDPF Committee approved the requests for Haiti and Pakistan, with comments. Regarding Haiti, the Committee would like to receive assurances that early childhood education is linked to the implementation plan of the ESP for the primary sector, and that Government is engaged in a fundamental way.

Regarding Pakistan, the Committee would like assurances that local education groups, which include Government and CSOs endorse the EPDF proposals.

- The Committee rejected the Bangladesh request. Its rationale: (i) it is not aligned with FTI objectives, and (ii) it seems to be a simple repackaging of a previous application not approved in Dakar.
- The EPDF Committee also approved a new request for US\$500,000 for Central African Republic following a solicitation by the CAR Task Team Leader and the lead donor, who were present in the meeting. The EPDF resources will assist the Central African Republic carry out the upstream work in preparation for a Catalytic Fund application. To document the approval, the Committee established that, after the end of the meeting, a concept note would be circulated to the Committee for approval on a non-objection basis. The note, or proposal, should outline the main objectives, components and costs of the activities to be financed with the grant.
- The summary of approved requests is below.

<b>Funding Decision</b>
Approved funding of US\$310,000 for Pakistan
Approved funding of US\$500,000 for Haiti
Approved funding of US\$500,000 for CAR

5. **Regarding the conditions established by EPDF Committee members**, as a result of the interim review process adopted for the December 2007 requests, World Bank education sector managers have been asked to include, in their annual status reports to be delivered for the Oslo meeting in December 2008, a clear explanation of how the initiatives and activities comply with conditions established by the EPDF Committee for approval of selected activities.
6. **EPDF Desk Review.** As agreed in Dakar in December 2007, the FTI Secretariat commissioned a desk review of EPDF, on the basis of existing records/data. Ms. Vasconcelos presented the findings and conclusions (see PowerPoint presentation in Annex 2). The draft report was sent to all Committee members prior to the Tokyo meeting. The report was well received by the EPDF Committee, which also expressed satisfaction with the swift completion of the work. Committee members concurred that the information generated provides a robust basis for improving EPDF.
7. In light of the desk review, the EPDF Committee questioned the extent to which EPDF was meeting its objectives, as well as whether the EPDF activities underway clearly focus on the initial goals of EPDF. Several EPDF Committee members restated that local education groups<sup>1</sup> (LEG) are the legitimate source

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<sup>1</sup> Local Education Groups (LEG) include donors, civil society organizations (CSO), government representatives, and other partners, like the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

for the generation of proposals for EPDF activities; the desk review gave the impression that this principle was not being followed. Comments by Committee members, in response to the contents of the presentation of the Desk Review, are in Annex 3.

8. As a means to stimulate a strategic discussion about the future of EPDF, in light of the conclusions that emerged from the desk review, the FTI Secretariat presented a list of 22 items (Annex 4). The EPDF Committee members preferred not to discuss during the meeting how to further strengthen EPDF. Rather, they decided to take time to develop their inputs for such a discussion. The Committee agreed to send to the FTI Secretariat (c/o Ms. Vasconcelos), by May 31, 2008, written considerations, positions, proposals, etc., about the strategic future of EPDF.<sup>2</sup>
9. **EPDF Approach Paper.** A number of members expressed their interest in having the Secretariat propose, for their consideration, ways to increase the likelihood that EPDF results become more aligned with FTI objectives. In light of the findings of the EPDF desk review, as well as the reactions of the EPDF Committee to these findings, the Secretariat will prepare a draft approach paper, with proposed options for improving the strategic focus of EPDF. Additionally, the approach paper will draw extensively from the EPDF guidance paper developed by EPDF committee members in Oslo in 2007.
10. This paper would, first, reiterate EPDF policies and principles. Then it will raise issues, present options and their rationale, discuss pros and cons, and suggest course of actions. The EPDF Committee also requested the Secretariat to compare the tradeoffs across options (in terms of costs, ownership, speed of execution, and quality), and implications of potential changes. All efforts will be made to introduce indicators, with benchmarks, of the effectiveness of EPDF. This draft approach paper is expected in late July 2008. As always, the Approach Paper will be submitted to the EPDF Committee for review and, hopefully, eventual approval. The approach paper will be the basis for the EPDF Guidelines (see below).
11. **Guidelines.** To facilitate and improve the quality of communication, about EPDF, to stakeholders, the Secretariat proposed, and the Committee approved, the development of EPDF Guidelines (more or less equivalent to the Catalytic Fund guidelines). The guidelines will be a communication package spelling out the rules of EPDF, particularly processes and procedures. They will consolidate into a single document the key features of EPDF. This information is now dispersed in emails, concept notes, minutes, etc. The audience will be the LEG, which includes governments and the WB, plus other stakeholders interested in EPDF. Its purpose is to communicate key information about EPDF.

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<sup>2</sup> Ms. Vasconcelos mentioned that she had drafted very preliminary considerations and proposals, based on the EPDF desk review, about how to further strengthen EPDF. The EPDF Committee members stated that they would like to receive a copy of this preliminary rough draft.

12. The Guidelines are a step towards improving the strategic focus of EPDF. Their development will follow the Terms of Reference delivered to the Committee as part of the pre-meeting package. The EPDF Committee approved the Terms of Reference. Once developed by the Secretariat, the draft Guidelines will be reviewed by the EPDF Committee and other relevant FTI constituencies. Once all revisions are completed, the Guidelines will be submitted to the EPDF Committee for approval.
13. The Approach Paper and, consequently, the EPDF Guidelines will reiterate the EPDF principle that all country-specific proposals ought to be generated by the Local Education Group (LEG). The core role of LEG in EPDF is at the center of the demand-driven principle of EPDF. This principle should be fully enforced even before the Guidelines are finalized. In preparing both the Approach Paper and the Guidelines, the FTI Secretariat will count on technical assistance and advice from the EPDF Committee.
14. **Decision Making Protocols.** The Secretariat also brought up the possibility that it could propose protocols to increase the expediency, quality and efficiency of the decision making practices of the EPDF Committee meeting. The Committee cleared the proposal.
15. **Chairing.** Before adjourning the meeting, the Chairperson asked whether a different arrangement for chairing of the EPDF Committee is desirable. He suggested that the Secretariat prepares a brief thought piece on the rationale for a changing or for keeping the status quo. This item will be included in the draft protocols cited above.
16. A chart with key decisions and tasks, with due dates, are on the next page.

**Decisions by EPDF Strategic Committee in Tokyo  
April 2008**

<b>Agreed Task / Deliverable</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Final Audience</b>
<p><b>Desk Review follow up</b></p> <p>EPDF Committee members send to FTI Secretariat their reactions, positions, proposals and considerations re “EPDF Way Forward”, on the basis of the EPDF desk review</p>	May 31, 2008	Format to be chosen by each person	<u>Internal:</u> Committee members and FTI Secretariat
<p><b>Approach Paper</b></p> <p>On the basis of the aforementioned inputs, plus other documents, FTI Secretariat to prepare draft approach paper, for review and eventual approval by Committee</p>	July 31, 2008	EPDF policies, principles, options for strategic decisions by Committee, their rationale, trade offs, other strategic elements	<u>Internal:</u> Committee members and FTI Secretariat
<p><b>EPDF Guidelines</b></p> <p>FTI Secretariat to draft guidelines for review by Committee and eventual approval</p>	CY'08	EPDF processes, procedures, requirements, decision making, and the like; it is a communication package.	<u>External:</u> EPDF users and beneficiaries
<p><b>Decision Making Protocols</b></p> <p>FTI Secretariat to prepare draft protocols, aimed at increasing expediency and transparency of EPDF meetings; draft to be reviewed and, eventually, approved by the EPDF Committee</p>	CY'08	Options for improving contributions, including actual decision making; will include possible different chairing arrangements	<u>Internal:</u> Committee members and FTI Secretariat

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## Annex 1 List of Participants

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TITLE	PROFESSIONAL TITLE	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	Email
AHETO-TSEGAH	Charles Yaw	Mr.	Acting Director	Ministry of Education Science Sports, Planning Budgeting Monitoring and Evaluation Division - Ghana	charlestsegh@yahoo.co.uk
ALEXANDROV	Roman	Mr.	Deputy Head, Division for Multilateral Cooperation and International Organizations	Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation	aleksandrov@mon.gov.ru
ANDRIESEN	Joost	Mr.	Director of Cultural Cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - The Netherlands	joost.andriessen@minbuza.nl
ANRAKU	Keiko	Ms.	Development Policy Division, International Bureau	Ministry of Finance - Japan	<a href="mailto:keiko.anraku@mof.go.jp">keiko.anraku@mof.go.jp</a>
APIADU-AGYEN	Kwame Agyapong	Mr.	Planning Officer & Development Partners Coordinator	Ministry of Education Science Sports, Planning Budgeting Monitoring and Evaluation Division - Ghana	wajabs@yahoo.com
APPADU	Kaviraj	Mr.	Senior Programme Officer	SIDA Sweden	<a href="mailto:Kavirai.appadu@sida.se">Kavirai.appadu@sida.se</a>
BAKSH	Shaik	Mr.	Minister of Education	Ministry of Education - Guyana	<a href="mailto:Shk_baksh@yahoo.com">Shk_baksh@yahoo.com</a>
BALMES	Jean Claude	Mr.	Manager of the Education division	French Development Agency (AFD)	<a href="mailto:balmesic@afd.fr">balmesic@afd.fr</a>
BANGAY	Colin	Mr.	Education Adviser	DFID - UK	<a href="mailto:c-bangay@dfid.gov.uk">c-bangay@dfid.gov.uk</a>
BASHIR	Sajitha	Ms.	Senior Education Economist	World Bank	<a href="mailto:sbashir@worldbank.org">sbashir@worldbank.org</a>
BEGUE	Alberto	Mr.	Education Expert	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION	colaboradores.aba@maec.es
BEKKERS	Angela	Ms.	Communications Officer	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:abekkers@educationfasttrack.org">abekkers@educationfasttrack.org</a>
BENVENISTE	Luis	Mr.	Human Development Sector Coordinator	The World Bank - Thailand	<a href="mailto:lbenveniste@worldbank.org">lbenveniste@worldbank.org</a>
BERMINGHAM	Desmond	Mr.	Head, FTI Secretariat	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:dbermingham@educationfasttrack.org">dbermingham@educationfasttrack.org</a>
BERRYMAN	Linken Nymann	Ms.	Adviser	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Norway	
BLUNDELL	Charlotte	Ms.	Education Adviser, Education Thematic Group	AusAID	<a href="mailto:charlotte.blundell@ausaid.gov.au">charlotte.blundell@ausaid.gov.au</a>
BOWLES	Cameron	Mr.	Director, Education Thematic Group	Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)	Cameron.Bowles@ausaid.gov.au
BUCHERT	Lene	Ms.	Chief, Section for Inclusion & Quality Learning	UNESCO	<a href="mailto:l.buchert@unesco.org">l.buchert@unesco.org</a>
BURNETT	Nicholas	Mr.	Assistant Director-General for Education	UNESCO	<a href="mailto:n.burnett@unesco.org">n.burnett@unesco.org</a>
CAO	Xiaonan	Mr.	Sr. Education Specialist	East Asia & Pacific Region, The World Bank	<a href="mailto:xcao@worldbank.org">xcao@worldbank.org</a>
CHAIBOU ABOU	Aminata Maiga Hamil	Ms.	Presidente	Conseil de l'Observatoire des Indicateurs de l'Education	colombedangao@yahoo.fr / rosen@intnet.ne
CHRISTENSEN	Olav	Mr.	Senior Public Finance Specialist	EFA FTI Secretariat	ochristensen@educationfasttrack.org

CRAISSATI	Dina	Ms.	Senior Adviser, Education	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:dcraissati@unicef.org">dcraissati@unicef.org</a>
CRON	Hélène	Ms.	Programmes Officer for Central African Republic	UNESCO office for Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad	<a href="mailto:h.cron@unesco.org">h.cron@unesco.org</a>
DHERSIGNY	Alain	Mr.	Head of education bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - France	<a href="mailto:Alain.Dhersigny@diplomatie.gouv.fr">Alain.Dhersigny@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
EDINGER	Kristian	Mr.	Senior Technical Adviser	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<a href="mailto:kriedi@um.dk">kriedi@um.dk</a>
FAYE	Cheryl Gregory	Ms.	Sr. Education Officer	UNGEI - UNICEF	<a href="mailto:cfaye@unicef.org">cfaye@unicef.org</a>
FRY	Lucia	Ms.		GCE	<a href="mailto:lucia.fry@gmail.com">lucia.fry@gmail.com</a>
FYLES	Nora	Ms.	Senior Education Advisor	Canadian International Development Agency	<a href="mailto:Nora_Fyles@acdi-cida.gc.ca">Nora_Fyles@acdi-cida.gc.ca</a>
GACOUGNOLLE	Luc	Mr.	Education Economist	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:lgacougnotte@educationfasttrack.org">lgacougnotte@educationfasttrack.org</a>
GOTUR	Manorama	Ms.	Senior Operations Officer	The World Bank	<a href="mailto:mgotur@worldbank.org">mgotur@worldbank.org</a>
HAYASHI	Makiko	Ms.	Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Japan	<a href="mailto:makiko.hayashi@mofa.go.jp">makiko.hayashi@mofa.go.jp</a>
HENEVELD	Ward	Mr.	Program Officer	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	<a href="mailto:wheneveld@hewlett.org">wheneveld@hewlett.org</a>
HORN	Robin	Mr.	Education Sector Manager	The World Bank	<a href="mailto:rhorn@worldbank.org">rhorn@worldbank.org</a>
IGARASHI	Kazuyo	Ms.	Special Advisor	Japan International Cooperation Agency	<a href="mailto:igarashi.kazuyo@jica.go.jp">igarashi.kazuyo@jica.go.jp</a>
KAMP	Melissa	Ms.	Officer, Education Thematic Group	Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)	Melissa.Kamp@ausaid.gov.au
KANO	Takehiro	Mr.	Senior Coordinator, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Japan	<a href="mailto:takehiro.kano@mofa.go.jp">takehiro.kano@mofa.go.jp</a>
LOBO	Manuel	Mr.	Adviser	Ministry of Education and Culture - Mozambique	<a href="mailto:lobo@mec.gov.mz">lobo@mec.gov.mz</a>
MAMANE	Abdou	Mr.	President	ROSEN - GCE NIGER	<a href="mailto:.lokokoabdou@yahoo.fr">.lokokoabdou@yahoo.fr</a> / rosen@intnet.ne.nl
MATTHEWS	Máire	Ms.	Senior Development Specialist Education	Irish Aid	<a href="mailto:Maire.matthews@dfa.ie">Maire.matthews@dfa.ie</a>
MEHRA	Palak	Ms.	Resource Management Officer	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:pmehra@educationfasttrack.org">pmehra@educationfasttrack.org</a>
MESEN	Michelle	Ms.	Consultant	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:mmesen@educationfasttrack.org">mmesen@educationfasttrack.org</a>
MIYACHI	Orie	Ms.	Official, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Japan	<a href="mailto:orie.miyachi@mofa.go.jp">orie.miyachi@mofa.go.jp</a>
NEMOTO	Yoichi	Mr.	Director of the Development Policy Division, International Cooperation Bureau	Ministry of Finance - Japan	<a href="mailto:yoichi.nemoto@mof.go.jp">yoichi.nemoto@mof.go.jp</a>
NIELSEN	Dean	Mr.	Member, Evaluation Oversight Committee (OEC) for the FTI external evaluation	EOC	<a href="mailto:jdnielsen@comcast.net">jdnielsen@comcast.net</a>

NIELSEN	John	Mr.	Head of Technical Advisory Services	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<a href="mailto:johnie@um.dk">johnie@um.dk</a>
ODA	Katsuki	Mr.	Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Japan	<a href="mailto:kasuki.oda@mofa.go.jp">kasuki.oda@mofa.go.jp</a>
OMORI	Koichi	Mr.	Communications Associate	World Bank Tokyo	<a href="mailto:komori@worldbank.org">komori@worldbank.org</a>
OUMER	Fuad Ibrahim	Mr.	State Minister	Ministry of Education, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	<a href="mailto:fuadharari@yahoo.com">fuadharari@yahoo.com</a>
PINTO	Nancy	Ms.	Trust Fund Coordinator	The World Bank	<a href="mailto:npinto@worldbank.org">npinto@worldbank.org</a>
PROUTY	Robert	Mr.	Deputy Head	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:rprouty@educationfasttrack.org">rprouty@educationfasttrack.org</a>
ROMERO	Marta	Ms.	Technical Expert Programme Aid	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	<a href="mailto:marta.romero@aacid.es">marta.romero@aacid.es</a>
ROSE	Philip	Mr.	Head Education Policy Team	DfID	<a href="mailto:p-rose@dfid.gov.uk">p-rose@dfid.gov.uk</a>
SAKHAROVA	Valeria	Ms.	Program Director	Academy of National Economy under the Government of the Russian Federation	<a href="mailto:valeria@anx.ru">valeria@anx.ru</a>
SCHMIDT	Caroline	Ms.	Consultant	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:cschmidt@educationfasttrack.org">cschmidt@educationfasttrack.org</a>
SCHRAEN	Pierre	Mr.	Attaché de coopération éducative	Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle Ambassade de France - CAR	<a href="mailto:Pierre.schraen@diplomatie.gouv.fr">Pierre.schraen@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
SEIM	Olav	Mr.	Director, EFA Donor relations	UNESCO	<a href="mailto:o.seim@unesco.org">o.seim@unesco.org</a>
SHAHEEN	Khawla	Ms.	Chief, ED/EFA	UNESCO	<a href="mailto:k.shaheen@unesco.org">k.shaheen@unesco.org</a>
SIEBES	Ronald	Mr.	Policy Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands	<a href="mailto:dco-oo@minbuza.nl">dco-oo@minbuza.nl</a>
SOMAN	Kouassi	Mr.	SR. OPERATIONS OFFICER	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:ksoman@educationfasttrack.org">ksoman@educationfasttrack.org</a>
STRUDWICK	Jerry	Mr.	Senior Education Specialist	Education Sector, the World Bank	<a href="mailto:jstrudwick@worldbank.org">jstrudwick@worldbank.org</a>
TAN	Jee-Peng	Ms.	Adviser- Education - Africa Region	World Bank	<a href="mailto:jt看@worldbank.org">jt看@worldbank.org</a>
TANIGUCHI	Kasushige	Mr.	Special Representative to Japan	World Bank Tokyo	<a href="mailto:ktaniguchi@worldbank.org">ktaniguchi@worldbank.org</a>
TASHIBU	Ushio	Mr.	Advisor, Development Finance, Development Policy Division, International Bureau	Ministry of Finance - Japan	<a href="mailto:ushio.tashibu@mof.go.jp">ushio.tashibu@mof.go.jp</a>
TOBIASSEN	Hildegunn	Ms.	Adviser	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	<a href="mailto:hio@norad.no">hio@norad.no</a>
VAN HEMELDONCK	Beatrix	Ms.	Minister Plenipotentiary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium/Development Cooperation Department	<a href="mailto:beatrix.vanhemeldonck@diplobel.fed.be">beatrix.vanhemeldonck@diplobel.fed.be</a>
VAN ROEMBURG	Rebekka	Ms.	Policy Advisor Research Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands	<a href="mailto:dco-oo@minbuza.nl">dco-oo@minbuza.nl</a>
VASCONCELOS	Alcyone	Ms.	Senior Education Specialist	EFA FTI Secretariat	<a href="mailto:avasconcelos@educationfasttrack.org">avasconcelos@educationfasttrack.org</a>
WELMOND	Michel	Mr.	Lead Education Specialist	World Bank	<a href="mailto:mweldon@worldbank.org">mweldon@worldbank.org</a>



# Fast Track Initiative

A global partnership to achieve Education For All

WRIGHT	Cream	Mr.	Associate Director and Global Head of Education	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:cwright@unicef.org">cwright@unicef.org</a>
YOSHIDA	Kazuhiro	Mr.	Associate Professor	Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE), Hiroshima University	<a href="mailto:yoshidak@hiroshima-u.ac.jp">yoshidak@hiroshima-u.ac.jp</a>

**Annex 2**  
**Powerpoint Presentation made at the EPDF Committee Meeting**

## **Fast Track Initiative**

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### **EPDF Desk Review of Activities and Allocations**

EFA FTI Secretariat  
EPDF Committee Meeting, Tokyo, April 23, 2008

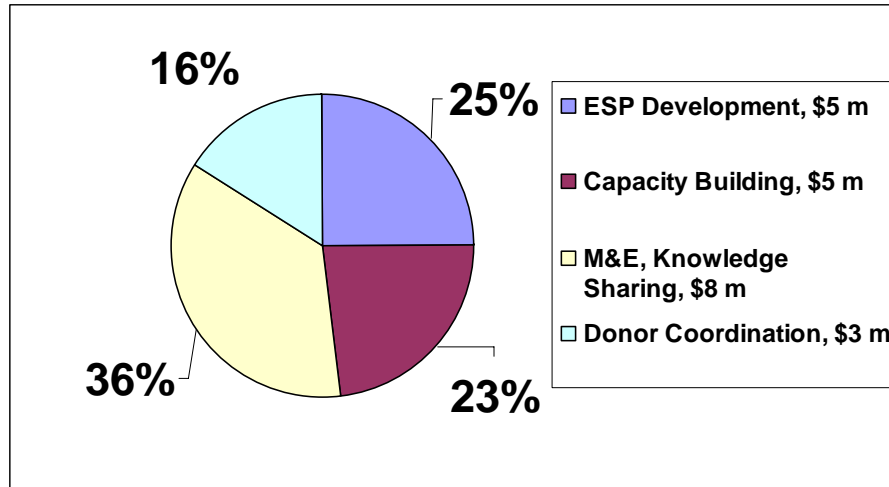


### **EPDF Desk Review: Main Findings**

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- Aggregate level analysis supports some concerns voiced by donors in Dakar, 2007
- Great variations by regions re. choices, strategic focus, regional/ single-country activities, reporting

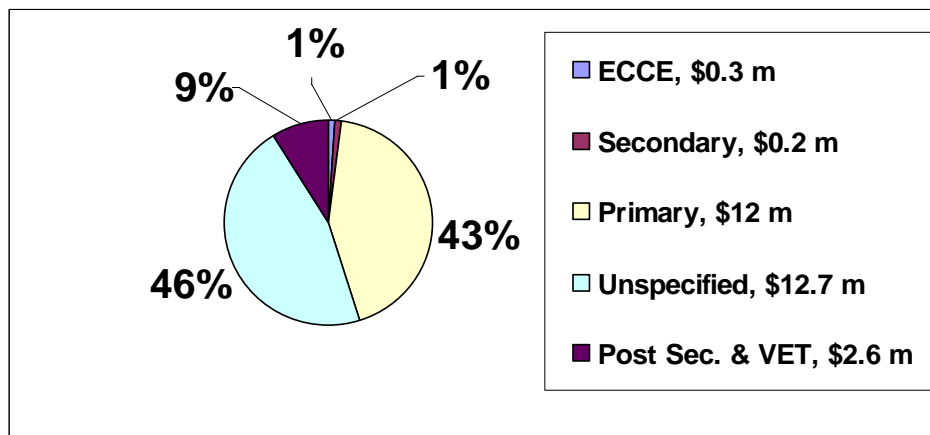
### Allocations by EPDF Objectives (%) funds 2005-07 (AFR, EAP, LAC)



3



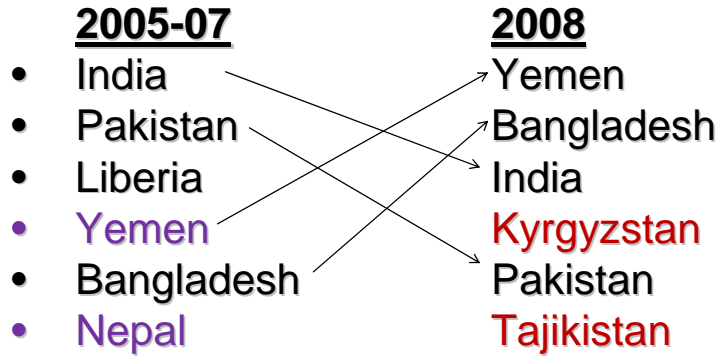
### Allocations by Level of Education (%) 2005-07 (LAC, AFR, EAP)



4

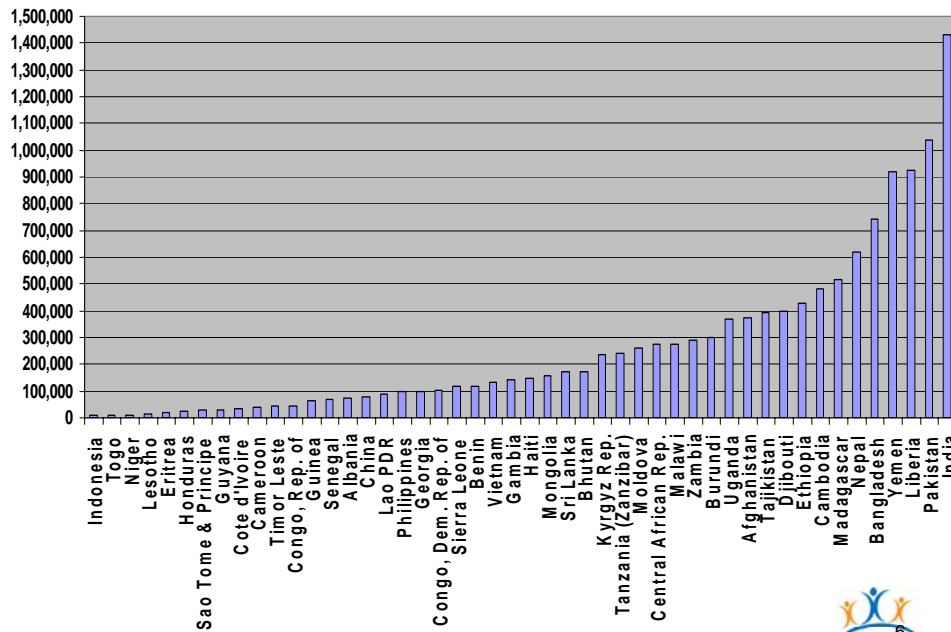


## Largest 6 EPDF Recipient Countries



26 out of the 48 EPDF funded countries received less than USD 150,000

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## **Responsiveness to EPDF Priorities I**

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### **1 Linkage to EPDF objectives**

YES ... to at least one objective

### **2 Scope of activity**

(a) **78%** of activities are **single-country**;

(b) receive **39%** of all EPDF funding;

(c) refer mainly to **objectives # 1,3,4**

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## **Responsiveness to EPDF Priorities II**

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### **3 Primary education**

**43%** of allocations and **52%** of all activities are linked to primary

### **4 IDA-eligible country**

IDA countries account for **99%** EPDF funding for country-specific activities

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## **Responsiveness to EPDF Priorities III**

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### **5 Fragile States**

- **41%** EPDF recipient countries are **fragile states**
- receive **28%** of country-specific funding

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### **Example: Sub-Saharan Africa**

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- **60%** of total EPDF funding (05/ 08)
- **50%** of world's out-of-school children
- **50%** of IDA-eligible countries
- **62%** of fragile states

10



## Responsiveness to FTI Thematic Areas of Special Interest

### **BUT...**

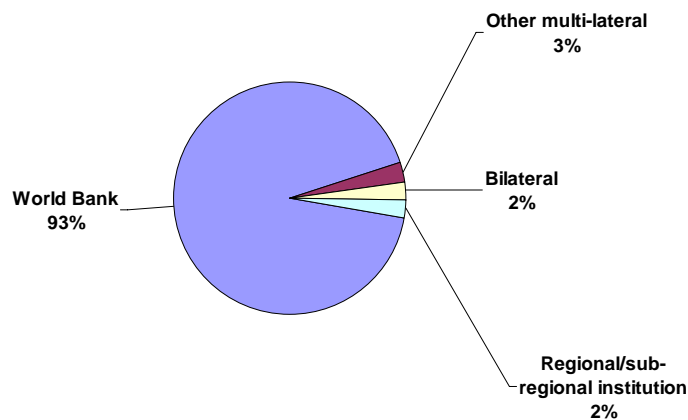
Activities give NOT sufficient attention to

HIV/AIDS .....	A - 1%;	F - 5%
Gender.....	A - 3%;	F - (--)
Costs & Financing .....	A - 4%;	F - 1%
Consensus Building .....	A - 4%;	F - 4%
Disability, Marginalized ..	A - 7%;	F - 3%

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## Executing Agency



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## **No Reporting on ...**

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- Involvement of Local Donor Group and Government
- Downstream ESP Support
- Post-Workshop Follow-up

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## **Open Questions ...**

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- \$\$\$ w/out ESP?
- studies for ESP?
- Countries w/out EPDF?
- ??

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## Way Forward

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1. Options
2. Trade offs
3. Further Analysis
4. Design Changes
5. Role of FTI-S
6. Decision-making
7. Costs

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## Thank you

For more information

please contact:

[avasconcelos@fasttrackinitiative.org](mailto:avasconcelos@fasttrackinitiative.org)

or visit:

[www.education-fast-track.org](http://www.education-fast-track.org)



### **Annex 3**

## **Summary of reactions to EPDF Draft Desk Review Report**

EPDF should be what it was intended to be; and it should again have strategic focus.

It is EPDF policy that all country-specific activities are to be generated by local education groups (LEGs), which include government and CSOs; such approach is needed to avoid supply driven proposals.

It is critical to get the right balance between country and regional-level activities.

Need for better communication with partners at the country level, as well as other stakeholders, so that there is a reversal in the fact that most stakeholders have the impression that EPDF is a World Bank fund.

More trust and authority needs to be given to in-country partners, who are the ones who should choose activities to be supported by EPDF.

Need for EPDF Committee to have a clearer consensus on how to measure results, a better accountability system that informs how funds are used, and a clearer understanding of whether EPDF is a good investment.

Need for EPDF to support countries which are the furthest away from ESP finalization and, thus, require more assistance, such as fragile states.

It is of serious concern the magnitude of the EPDF financial support for India, given that India is far away from endorsement.

Suggestion for forward planning regarding countries coming up for endorsement in 2008-09, followed by EPDF support for development of their ESPs.

Uncomfortable feeling about the large financing for unspecified reports and studies; Committee wants information about nature and content of these reports.

Need to take into account the SCLP Task Team question regarding engagement of EPDF.

Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) should play a stronger role in screening and advising on activities.

CSOs are increasingly playing pivotal roles in FTI, but to date there is no mechanism for FTI to provide direct support to CSOs. The EPDF would be a logical source of support to CSOs. A specific EPDF window to support funding to national CSO would be useful.

It is critical to continue to empower local donor groups; they know where the money is needed and how to best spend it.



EPDF faces various challenges. Two of them are: (i) how to encourage countries to pay more attention to capacity building; (ii) how to more effectively support cross-country learning and sharing.

## **Annex 4**

### **22 strategic questions**

#### **The way forward: trade offs, options, design, processes, future**

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1. change in role of FTI Secretariat?
2. line approval?
3. annual reviews?
4. EPDF guidelines?
5. matching funds?
6. no presentations?
7. communications?
8. calendar of events?
9. HQ donor in RAG?
10. screening by FTI-S?
11. quotas per priority?
12. robust M&E system?
13. more executing agencies?
14. decision making protocols?
15. composition / profile of RAG?
16. composition / profile of LDG?
17. more direction, less flexibility?
18. strategic discussion protocols?
19. proof of endorsement by LDG?
20. proof of endorsement by gov't?
21. annual priority thematic focus?
22. recipient execution of grants?

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#### **Future**

As most countries are likely to obtain endorsement over the next 15-18 months, should EPDF shift from **upstream** to **downstream** support? That is long term capacity for implementation, revisions of ESP, learning assessment, statistics – that is, CD for management of education sector. **Changes?**

- Policy reform?
- Teacher salaries?
- CD catalog / models?
- Engagement of stakeholders?
- LT institutional partnerships?
- Communications & advocacy?
- What else???