

Media Advisory:
**World Bank hosts 2nd Africa Region Education Capacity
Development Workshop Country Leadership and Implementation
for Results in the EFA-FTI Partnership**

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The Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) is a global partnership between donor and developing countries to ensure accelerated progress toward the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education. In its contribution to the agenda of the partnership, of which it is a member, the World Bank hosts the Second Africa Region Education Capacity Development Workshop 'Country Leadership and Implementation for Results in the EFA-FTI Partnership', in Tunis, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training of Tunisia.

This workshop is the second in the series. The first workshop took place in Cape Town, South Africa, in July 2007, and gathered over 80 participants from Lesotho, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Uganda, and Madagascar. The workshop series aims to foster country leadership and to create a forum for national teams and donors to interact and share knowledge and experiences in the design, funding and implementation of sustainable and successful education sector plans.

Over 100 participants including 4 senior officials from the Ministry of Education, 1 senior official from the Ministry of Finance and 2 donor representatives from the **8 Sub-Saharan African countries: Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mali and Mauritania**, as well as members of the EFA-FTI Steering Committee and Secretariat, staff from the African Development Bank, representatives of the Tunisian Ministry of Education and Training, several resource persons and World Bank staff are expected at this workshop. The **Minister of Education and Training of Tunisia** will deliver the opening remarks.

Background: In spite of the progress made towards the achievement of universal primary education, today, 77 million children are still out of school, including 44 million girls. 75% of these children are in Sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. Furthermore, even in countries that made great strides in increasing enrolment in the last decade, challenges remain on quality of education. Today, about 60 countries, among them 33 from Sub-Saharan Africa, are either participating or have expressed interest in joining the FTI. The emerging landscape of donor funding for primary education poses new opportunities and challenges to these countries and donors in preparing, evaluating, implementing and monitoring a credible education sector plan. This workshop strives to respond to the need to create knowledge sharing and learning networks among countries that have already been endorsed by the EFA-FTI and those that will soon be endorsed, to ensure that they are better equipped to respond to such challenges and opportunities. Country leadership in taking advantage of the EFA-FTI will be particularly important to the success of the Initiative in achieving its goal of universalizing the completion of quality primary education for all.