Concept Note

Revising FTI Processes

April 2010

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

As FTI reforms take shape, many of the Partnership's key documents require revision to reflect new ways of doing business. The Country Level Process Guide has been revised to offer clearer, shorter guidance to partner countries and to reflect emerging new practices.

The purpose of this note is to explain what is new about the Country Level Process Guide, what further work is needed, and to flag up issues included in the Guide which are currently under discussion.

WHAT'S NEW

Many of the 'new' elements in the guide are included as proposals and require approval.

- *Submitting interim education plans* for countries with low capacity or affected by emergency situations.

- *The single fund approach.* A separate note on the single fund explains in more detail how this will work.

- *PACE.* A separate note on PACE explains in more detail how this will work. A key element, though, will be 'resource centers' which will provide technical capacity and information services to partner countries wanting to use this facility.

- *Responsibility for appraisal of an education plan moves from the Local Donor Group to the Local Education Group.* We suggest using external technical assistance to carry out the appraisal on behalf of the Local Education Group in order to promote an objective assessment. This formal shift reflects what is already happening in many countries and emphasizes the need for collaborative discussion and agreement on a plan's strengths and weaknesses. The Coordinating Agency maintains the key role in coordinating the appraisal.

- *The Local Donor Group is broadened out to include civil society organizations* as appropriate. We now refer to this group as the Development Partner Group (catching up with many of our partner countries).

- *The quality assurance process is extended upstream* to include a 'light touch' review of the education plan and appraisal/endorsement by the FTI Secretariat.

- *Acknowledging that some partner countries already have robust plans* and can appraise and endorse these. The previous Process Guide assumed that countries do not have an education plan and that plan development (Step 2 in the FTI Process) would be needed.

- *Reporting procedures* have been modified to shift more responsibility to the Local Education Group. But much more work is needed to flesh out reporting procedures and formats in the context of the EFA single fund.

FURTHER WORK

Further work will be needed to:

- *Operationalize the EFA FTI Fund* including developing funding eligibility criteria for capacity development or lesson learning activities, funding formulae, and clarifying reporting requirements and whether/how NGOs can act as Supervising Entity.

- *Operationalise PACE*, including through resource centers and regional activities.

- *Elaborate guidelines for interim education plans.*

- *Elaborate FTI external quality review* processes for plan appraisal and endorsement and requests for EFA FTI financial support, in part based on a forthcoming review of the existing EQR process.

- *Ensure all FTI documents are revised to reflect changes to FTI processes*. In particular, the FTI Appraisal Guidelines need to be reviewed and revised, in part to include countries in crisis and transition situations. The Progressive Framework will need to be adapted to all countries.

- *Agree reporting and broader accountabilities* among key stakeholders, in particular the Supervising Entity and Local Education Group.

KEY ISSUES

- *Scope of FTI.* This is scheduled for discussion at the May meeting.

RISKS RELATED TO CHANGES IN FTI PROCESSES

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategies
'Change fatigue'. Introducing new procedures into a process that has been constantly evolving may not be well welcome.	Medium	Medium	1. Establish a representative consultation group 2. Develop effective communication strategy
FTI Secretariat lacks capacity to implement reform in a timely manner.	Medium	Medium	1. Recruit five new staff for the Country Support Cluster 2. Prioritize key reforms 3. Consultants

TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

What	When	Who	Additional Support	Detail
Draft FTI work plans finalized	May 2010	FTI Secretariat		
Consultations	June 2010	FTI Secretariat	FTI Partners	
Agree TORs for Resource Centers (RCs) and launch procurement process	June 2010	FTI Secretariat	Small number of LEGs; other FTI Partners	
Develop EFA FTI Fund templates and reporting procedures	May 2010	Consultant	Country Support Team	
Single Fund preparation; revision of Appraisal Guidelines and Progressive Framework	April-August 2010	FTI Secretariat	WB Consultants	Develop templates including annual funding requests; annual reporting. Define what activities are eligible for funding
Begin recruitment of 5 new country support staff	July 2010	Country Support Cluster		