

# Africa Network Campaign on Education For All

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## AFRICA NETWORK CAMPAIGN ON EDUCATION FOR ALL (ANCEFA) PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR ENGAGING THE AFRICA UNION & SUB REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

### Background

The battle for citizens' right to inclusive quality education still lingers on in Africa ten years after the 2000 Dakar World Education Forum where the six EFA goals were agreed by the international community to be realised by 2015. Although there has been notable progress in increasing access to primary education and achieving gender parity in primary education a lot still needs to be done by African governments.

According to the 2010 UNESCO Global Monitoring report (GMR), worldwide there are 759 million illiterate youths and adults, and 72 million out of school children. Current trends and efforts will still leave over 56 million out of school by 2015. In Africa there are **40 million out of school children, and over 60% are girls. The number of illiterate adults is over 160 million in Africa.** Over 70% of Young People lack opportunities to develop their skills and access sustainable livelihoods. Inadequate infrastructures, shortage of qualified teachers, and teaching and learning materials are characterising many education institutions in Africa. Many countries fail to allocate a minimum of 20% of their national budget to education, 50% of which should go to basic education and address areas like Early Childhood Development, Primary Education, Adult Literacy and Out of school youth education. Provision of secondary and tertiary education is limited to privileged few people especially those in urban areas.

The 2010-2014 Strategic plan of ANCEFA, in its second strategic priority area on "Enhancing National Accountability" has identified "strategically engaging the Africa Union and Sub Regional political and economic bodies" as one of the strategies that will influence implementation of EFA policies at country level, and accelerate quality inclusive education for all in Africa in the count down to 2015.

In 2006, the Africa Union launched the Second Decade of Education (2006-2015), which is a policy document adopted by members states to promote the right to quality education in Africa within the framework of the international human rights conventions, the EFA goals, the MDGs and the spirit of the Africa Renaissance. The Second Decade was developed following unsuccessful implementation of the First Decade of Education (1997-2006).

**There are seven areas of focus under the Second Decade of Education: These are 1) Gender and culture; 2) Education management information systems; 3) Teacher development, education and training; 4) Tertiary education, 5) Technical and vocational education and training; 6) Curriculum, and teaching and learning materials, and 7) Quality management.**

**Under the AU Second Decade, the AU Commission is mandated with** political oversight functions, advocacy at national and international levels, coordination of the regional economic communities, management of the continental education observatory, the organization of biannual review conferences, and the publication of continental overview reports.

On the other hand, **Regional Economic Communities are charged with** coordination and monitoring of country-level activities, development of regional programmes and projects, facilitation of regional consultative meetings, provision of country and regional reports to the AU Commission, and publication of region-specific reports.

On their part, **Member States National Authorities** (governments through education ministries and agencies and civil society) are expected to undertake direct implementation of Decade programme, in the overall context of national education and development agenda; exchange of experiences and collaboration with countries within and outside the region, national level monitoring and reporting to national and regional coordinating bodies (AU Second Decade, 2006, page 4).

ANCEFA considers that working with the AU could help address some of the structural and systemic weaknesses that lead to the slow implementation of the EFA programmes at country level.

Since the launch of the AU Second Decade of Education, ANCEFA has not had systematic and formalised working relationship with the Africa Union over the Second Decade. ANCEFA has worked with AU through informal relationship, and participation in meetings, upon invitation. There has been weak communication with AU, its sub committees and regional bodies. This has resulted in disjointed input in international platforms involving AU and sub regional meetings, and weak influencing of national and international policies on education. Further this has resulted in education not being high on the political agenda of the Africa Union and member strategies. For instance, Education missing from AU 2010 priorities according to speech by New AU Chair President Dr Mutharika of Malawi and not emphasized by Previous Chair. The consequence of this is that there is little pressure by the national governments exerted on it by AU and sub regional bodies to deliver on education commitments.

This concept proposes strategies that will hopefully ensure ANCEFA closer engagement with the AU through the relevant Commissions and working groups at continental level, and focal points at sub regional and country levels. ANCEFA looks forward to a stronger and sustained partnership with the Africa Union, that will help facilitate increased two way communication, joint program activities, and active involvement in formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies and policies meant to promote inclusive education for all across the continent.

## **THE PROPOSED STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGEMENT**

The following section, introduces proposed strategies which ANCEFA would like to implement in order to efficient and effectively engage the African Union and associated structures to promote EFA in Africa in the next five years (i.e. 2010-2014). The strategies are described below:

- 1. Workshop on AU and Sub Regional Communities' Policies on Education jointly organised by focal points of OXFAM, AA, Save the Children, OSI, GCE etc:** The rationale for the workshop will be to increase the understanding by CSOs of Africa Union Education policies and implementation mechanism. This understanding will help demystify the institution of AU and bring synergies in development and implementation of policies that will promote quality inclusive education for all in Africa. The workshop will bring together key stakeholders like ANCEFA representatives, representatives of international and local NGOs, media practitioners, education experts on the one hand, as well as officials from the Africa Union, sub regional economic communities and selected representatives from countries on the other.
- 2. Promote the implementation, monitoring and review of the Africa Union Second Decade in Education (2006-2015):** The Second Decade in Education is a key policy document that binds together Africa Union member states in the struggle for the realisation of the right to quality and inclusive education for all in Africa. One of the guiding principles for the Second decade is ensuring enhanced political support especially at national levels, but also at regional, continental and international levels. *In this regard civil society involvement in all the processes that will ensure successful roll out of this crucial strategy cannot be over-emphasized. ANCEFA therefore intends to integrate the Second Decade in its policy interventions in the continent within the ANCEFA 2010-2014 strategic plan framework, and mobilise national education coalitions to undertake advocacy initiatives that will help political support for implementation of the strategy at country level. Furthermore, ANCEFA will support policy research and review, as well as documentation and sharing of good practices for enhanced evidence-based advocacy and cross fertilisation of lessons learnt in the implementation of the Second Decade of Education among AU member states.*
- 3. Support towards National Coalitions interface with country focal points and govt officials (Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs, Parliamentary Committees, etc):** The Dakar EFA Framework for Action emphasises that the heart of EFA lies at country level. Similarly the AU Second Decade of Education underlines that national governments and member states will take central role in direct implementation of the Second

Decade, and that countries will require ensuring ownership of the strategy and integrating Second decade priority areas within the national education sector plans and development programmes. Against this background, and related to the second strategy above, ANCEFA plans to encourage and build the capacity of national coalitions to work with country AU focal points in order to influence efficient implementation of the Second Decade and all pro-EFA country policies and strategies. In addition, national coalitions will also be encouraged to undertake independent policy reviews and expenditure tracking activities and disseminate them to organs of influence such as parliamentary committees, ministerial departments, the media and donors.

4. **Interface/Courtesy meetings with AU Chairperson and AU and Sub Regional Communities' focal points:** one of the central strategies ANCEFA will employ will be ensuring strong communication with the leading organs of the Africa Union and regional economic communities. These will include paying visits to the AU Chairperson and establishing contact with heads of the various departments including the Human Resource and Social Development Departments, as well as the Communication Departments and Leaders of Thematic groups or Steering Committees. ANCEFA will aim to make its activities known to these organs and build formal working partnership (By having an agreed MOU with AU). To realise this, ANCEFA will appoint or re-assign a staff member to be focal point for building relations with Africa Union, with possibilities of establishing an office in Addis, where the AU headquarters is based.
5. **Participation in Regional/Sub Regional Sub Committees on Education:** Participation in working groups and sub committees of Africa Union and Sub regional Economic Groups will help ANCEFA make input into formulation and review of education strategies and programmes. In addition, ANCEFA also plans to be in working groups of other regional bodies that have strong working relationship with Africa Union. These include for example, ADEA and ICAE. Furthermore, ANCEFA will work to participate in crucial regional and sub regional meetings organised by ANCEFA and other continental and international organisations to review education program at continental level. ANCEFA will identify staff and member national coalitions to be involved in these working groups, and sub committees
6. **Technical support to AU/Sub regional block activities:** In order to further strengthen the partnership between ANCEFA and Africa Union, ANCEFA will provide technical, coupled with (in some cases) financial support to the EFA related activities of Africa Union and Sub regional blocks. Activities will include supporting joint review workshops for Second Decade, supporting policy reviews and research, supporting learning platforms, as well as sponsoring training of technical staff in areas such as project management, policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

ANCEFA strategy for engaging the Africa Union and sub regional economic blocks is expected to promote inclusive education for all in Africa through the following milestones:

- Enhanced partnership between ANCEFA and Africa Union
- Efficient communication through mutual sharing of education action plans/calendars
- ANCEFA will get timely intelligence to make input into resolutions for policy platforms critical for policy influencing
- Effective tracking of protocols, Agreements, and policies.
- ANCEFA visibility as a voice of CSOs in Africa
- Increased engagement by national coalitions with country based structures on EFA and AU Second Decade on Education.
- Enhanced efficiency of AU/Sub Regional blocks in Coordinating and Monitoring Country work on education

### *Budget for Engaging AU and Regional Economic Groups*

<b>Strategic Activities</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<i>Workshop on AU and Sub Regional Communities' Policies on Education jointly organised by focal points of OXFAM, AA, Save the Children, OSI, GCE etc</i>	2	1	2	30,000	120000	60,000			60,000	
<i>Promote implementation, monitoring and review of the Second Decade in Education</i>	5	1	1	10,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

<i>Support towards National Coalitions interface with country focal points and govt officials (Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs, Parliamentary Committees, etc)</i>	5	1	2	5,000	50000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<i>Interface/Courtesy meetings with AU Chairperson and AU and Sub Regional Communities' focal points</i>	5	1	1	15,000	75000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
<i>Participation in Regional/Sub Regional Sub Committees on Education</i>	5	1	2	5,000	50000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<i>Technical support to AU/Sub regional block activities</i>	5	1	1	20,000	100000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<i>Establish ANCEFA Focal Point /Desk through Policy Manager (make periodic/quarterly visits to Ethiopia)</i>										
<b>Sub-total</b>					<b>445,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>565000</b>	<b>65000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>65000</b>