

## WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Addis, Ethiopia, 12-15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2011

### Introduction

Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA), Basic Education Network (BEN) -Ethiopia and African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), in collaboration with the African Union Department of Human Resources Science and Technology (HRST) and cooperating partners, have organised a two day regional workshop on effective monitoring and advocacy for the right to quality inclusive education in Africa. The policy framework for the workshop is the 2000 Dakar EFA Framework for Action and the 2006 African Union Second Decade of Education for Africa Plan of Action. The workshop takes place at Desalegn Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 15 September 2011.

### Workshop Purpose

The *purpose* of the workshop is to draw an actionable strategy and roadmap for effective monitoring and advocacy for efficient implementation of the right to quality inclusive education in Africa. It will also define ways of strengthening mutual partnerships among African governments, civil society organisations, regional and economic bodies and the international community in ensuring citizens' right to quality inclusive education.

### Policy Framework

The workshop will refer to the 2000 Dakar Education for All Framework for Action (2000-2015) and the 2006 African Union Second Decade of Education for Africa Plan of Action (2006-2015) as key policy frameworks adopted by African governments to defend and promote the right to education that is available, accessible, adaptable and affordable for all. Other important references will include regional and international conventions, protocols, and agreements made to support the right to education. Participants will discuss progress and prospects around these policy frameworks as time draws closer to 2015 and kick-start the debate for education policy options in the post 2015 era.

### Context

Less than five years remain to implement both the 2000 Dakar EFA framework for Action and the African Union Second Decade of Education for Africa. In 2011, there is a general feeling that EFA goals will not be fully met by 2015. There is also a feeling that African Union member states have not done enough to implement the Second Decade plan of action. Consequently, the numbers of out of school children and illiterate youth and adults are very high. The 2011 UNESCO EFA global monitoring report has some startling figures for Sub Saharan Africa. At least 160 million adults are illiterate (of the world's 796 million); at least 28.8 million children are out of school (representing 43 % of global figure of 67 million); and more than 50% of those excluded are women, girls, and children with disabilities. At least 1.2 million new teachers must be recruited by 2015 (out of the world's 1.9 million).

Five years to go, 26 countries in Africa are off the track in achieving EFA by 2015. Inadequate political will, inadequate financing, and deficiencies in coordination, monitoring and advocacy are some of the challenges that have contributed to this negative status quo. In order to reverse the situation and

accelerate progress towards 2015, stakeholders need to take stock and come up with strategies that will enhance strong partnerships as well as effective monitoring and advocacy at national, regional and international levels.

Furthermore, there is also growing discourse around looking beyond 2015, considering that most countries are off track to meet the 2015 education targets. Stakeholders therefore need to generate debate on policy options for Africa to address its education gaps and excel in socio-economic development within the concept of “African Renaissance” at the core of the African Union in general and NEPAD in particular.

### **Rationale**

The forthcoming workshop will offer an opportunity for stakeholders to take stock and offer practical strategies for accelerating implementation of the 2000 Dakar Framework for Action and the 2006 African Union Second Decade of Education for Africa. There will be special attention on developing effective strategies for monitoring and advocacy at all levels. There is also a general understanding that unless there is strong partnership in the delivery of the right to education efforts to ensure that many citizens of Africa get quality basic education by 2015 will always remain a dream. The workshop will therefore strive to find strategies for ensuring strong partnerships among national governments, civil society organisations, the African Union, regional economic communities and international financing and cooperating partners. Looking ahead, stakeholders will also discuss broad education policy options beyond 2015. These will contribute to the policy discourse between now and 2015 and feed into recommendations for the final evaluation of the Dakar EFA Framework for Action and African Union Second Decade of Education for Africa.

### **Workshop Objectives**

By the end of the workshop, participants shall have:

- 1) Critically examined the progress and prospects for implementing the 2000 Dakar EFA framework and the 2006 African Union Second Decade on Education framework towards 2015.
- 2) Discussed in groups and plenary strategies for effective monitoring, advocacy and partnerships to accelerate progress towards EFA goals and AU second education decade framework by 2015.
- 3) Identified broad areas of policy discourse in the post 2015 era, following the implementation of the EFA framework and the AU Second Decade plan of action.

### **Workshop Participants**

Participants to the workshop include government representatives from ministries of education from selected countries; representatives of African Union Education and Human Resource Department; representatives of education desks of Regional Economic Communities (SADC, ECOWAS, NEPAD, and EAC); representatives of civil society organisations from ANCEFA, national education coalitions and international NGOs; and representatives of funding agencies and other cooperating partners.

## **Workshop Content**

The following topics will form the content for the workshop:

- a) *Progress on EFA and AU Second Decade (Regional & National perspectives)*
- b) *Effective monitoring and advocacy for EFA & Second Decade for Education at national and regional levels: 4 Case studies*
- c) *Broad education Policy Options for Africa beyond 2015: Panel Discussion*
- d) *The Role and Mandate of RECS in monitoring and advocacy: Panel*
- e) *Developing Strategies for effective monitoring and advocacy of EFA and Second Decade of Education from 2011 to 2015*
- f) *ACTION PLANNING: Developing a Road Map for strengthening monitoring and advocacy at national and regional levels (includes partnerships); and keeping the discourse on policy options beyond 2015.*

## **Workshop Resources**

In general, material, human, and financial resources will be required for the workshop to succeed. The following are the specific resources that will be required.

- Workshop Concept/Brochure
- Dakar EFA Framework & African Union Second Decade on Education Plan of Action
- Paper presentations & case studies by identified resource persons (from national governments, regional bodies and international NGOs)
- Group and plenary discussions
- IEC materials developed by stakeholders (some put on display)
- Stationery & supplementary materials
- Human resources: around 40 participants and resource persons from among government, civil society, regional and international organisations
- Financial resources (catering for venue and participants travel, meals and accommodation)
- The total estimated budget for the workshop is US\$55,000.

## **Expected Outcomes**

Below are the expected workshop outcomes:

- a) Developed strategies for effective monitoring and advocacy for the right to education in Africa towards 2015
- b) Defined strategies for strengthening mutual partnerships among stakeholders at various levels.
- c) Identified broad areas of education policy debate and engagement on the continent in the post 2015 era.
- d) Developed a road map for effective monitoring and advocacy for the right to education at national and regional levels
- e) After the workshop stakeholders will implement and monitor the roadmap for effective monitoring and advocacy for EFA framework and African union Second Decade for education towards 2015.