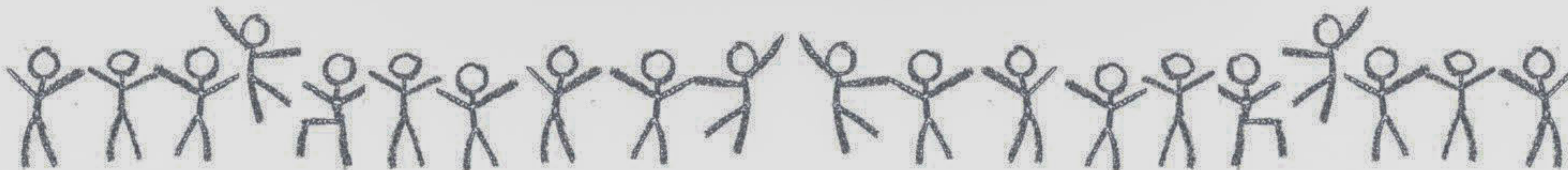


Global Action Week 2010

19-25 April 2010



Financing Quality Public Education: A Right for All



Education For All (EFA) Goals

- Goal 1:** Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children
- Goal 2:** Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to a complete free and compulsory education of good quality
- Goal 3:** Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes
- Goal 4:** Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults
- Goal 5:** Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality
- Goal 6:** Improving all aspects of the quality of education, and ensuring excellence of all so that recognised and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills

Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF)

The Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF) has taken initiative to provide support in the Fast-track Initiative (FTI) eligible countries across the world to strengthen civil society voice to influence the education policy towards achieving EFA. A regional network involved in EFA namely ASPBAE has been identified as the lead agency for the South Asia and Pacific region where Education International has consented to be involved as Independent Fund Manager. CAMPE as a national coalition of NGOs working on the EFA issues in Bangladesh has also been identified as the core partner at the national level.

Major Objective

The CSEF in Bangladesh aims to strengthen Civil Society groups including NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, Teachers' Unions, Researchers, Academia, Media and Community to strengthening accountability and advocacy with Government to its commitments for achieving EFA and facilitating equitable and sustainable basic education. Specific objectives of CSEF are to:

- Enabling civil society to help 'mobilize strong national political commitment to education, develop national action plans and enhance investment'
- Facilitating the 'engagement and participation of civil society in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies for educational development'
- Capacity building of relevant stakeholders to monitor the state performance in education that lead to strengthened GO-NGO-civil society collaboration.

GCE and Global Action Week

In April this year, children and adults from all over the world participating an international campaign with the purpose of giving every child and adult in the world the opportunity to get an education by 2015, the '1GOAL: Education for All'. 1GOAL has been launched to coincide with the FIFA Football World Cup. The aim of Global Action week is to give priority to education financing even in the face of the economic downturn.

The event is being organized by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), a coalition of charities, trade unions and citizens' groups worldwide. GCE is a civil society movement that aims to end the global education crisis. Together GCE aims to hold governments to account for their promises repeatedly made to provide Education for All. The mission of GCE is to make sure that governments act now to deliver the right of every girl, boy, woman and man to a free quality public education. Civil society organizations, trade unions, child rights campaigners, teachers, parents and students have joined together to demand universal education, since the formation of GCE in 1999, millions of people and thousands of organizations in over 100 countries have united to demanding Education for All.

Education is a basic human right and an essential factor for overcoming poverty. Education has the potential to change the world for the better and if we invest in education now, we will reap the dividends later. As President Obama said in his 2010 State of the Union Address "In the 21st century, the best anti-poverty program around is a world-class education." And we could not agree more. An illiterate person may not be able to protect oneself from life threatening illnesses or provide for one's family effectively. Literacy is also a prerequisite for full citizenship and participation in democracy and society. Yet despite this, globally, there are still 774 million adults and 75 million children who cannot read and write. The majority of those who cannot read and write are in developing countries and two thirds of the adults who cannot read and write are women and girls.

GCE international coordinates the Global Action Week on education in April, every year with a different theme. This year, 2010, the theme is **Education Financing**. The suggested slogan world wide for the Action Week 2010 is '1 Goal: Education for All'. With the campaign planned around the 2010 FIFA Football/Soccer World Cup in South Africa the GCE

Board has agreed to link a lot of the Global Action Week plans to the 1GOAL: Education for All Campaign.

Football has the largest following in the world as a single sport and so the FIFA platform provides a good opportunity to reach out to a wider public than ever before with the message that the global community must act to make Education For All a reality.

Global Action Week 2010 is taking place from 19-25 April 2010. Major programs taken over in Bangladesh included the following:

A. Programs at the National Level

- National Seminar on "Education Policy, Education Financing: Our Expectations"
- Discussion on, "Primary Education for prevention of Human Trafficking"
- "Lesson for All" and Music Campaign by popular musicians and celebrities
- Discussion on "Challenges of Ensuring Education for Marginalized Children"
- Discussion on realities and Challenges of EFA & sharing of findings of the study on 'Reality Check Bangladesh 2009' on Education
- Launching of Bangla New Year Calendar

B. Sub-national/Local Level Programs

- "Lesson for All" program on "1 GOAL: Education for All"
- Issue based Discussion Programs
- Submission of Memorandum to Ministers/ Decision Makers
- Human Chain, Rally, Courtyard Meetings, Folk Music
- Letter from the Students to Honourable Prime Minister/Policy Makers/Local MP on Education or School or any other issue related to EFA
- Essay Competition/ Story Writing Competition/ Painting Competition
- Education Fair

Global Action Week will remind everyone of the importance of allocating more resources to education to ensure that everyone gets an education. Moreover, Global Action Week is a chance for everyone including teachers, learners, parents, government representatives, sports stars and other community members to call on governments all around the world to finance education.

Fifth Meeting of UNESCO's Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA)

Dhaka Declaration

Preamble

With barely five years remaining to achieve the Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals, we, the representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and regional and national networks from different parts of the world, have gathered at the Fifth Meeting of UNESCO's Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 22 to 24 March 2010. We have reflected on progress towards the EFA goals, the recent financial crisis, growing marginalization and various forms of exclusion of large numbers of people, and about the collective capacities of citizens, civil society organizations and social movements to face these challenges.

Re-affirming our commitment at the Fourth Meeting of the CCNGO/EFA in Dakar, Senegal, 3-5 September 2007, to build alliances among EFA advocates and other social movements; our call to UNESCO and other United Nations agencies to harness effective support for CCNGO/EFA both in funds and human resources; our demand to national governments to keep their commitments, fully meet the obligations to fulfil the right to EFA and lead national partnerships, including civil society, to this end; and our demand to international development partners to live up to their pledges to fill the resource gaps for achieving EFA.

Recalling the declaration at the Ninth meeting of the High-Level Group on EFA in Addis Ababa, 23- 25 February 2010, about overcoming marginalization in education and increasing and enhancing effectiveness of financial and political support for education:

1. We recognize education as a fundamental human right and its role for human development and declare our conviction of the absolute importance of galvanizing and accelerating actions, resources and commitment in the countdown to 2015 and the historic responsibility that this imposes on all of us.
2. We are concerned about the slow progress and the insufficient importance given to all six EFA goals which will prevent many countries from achieving them, leaving large segments of the population marginalized and deprived of the right to education. We challenge

governments and development partners to fully honour their commitments to EFA.

3. We recommend increased attention at national and international level to neglected dimensions of EFA including the perspective of lifelong learning, effective governance in education, and education for sustainable development, recognizing their relevance to reaching marginalized and excluded groups.
4. We express serious concern at the consequences of extreme poverty, climate change, food and fuel crises and their negative impact on development and education, especially for vulnerable population groups. We emphasize that the global financial crisis and the inadequate response to its human impact further aggravates vulnerability and serious problems of inequity and exclusion that affect large numbers of people all over the world, particularly in developing countries.
5. We value the participation of civil society and social movements as an essential element of a strong, participatory and sustainable democracy and underscore the role and responsibility of national governments in building partnerships. We encourage civil society to continue and accelerate its creative efforts towards the enforcement of the right to quality Education for All.
6. We emphasize that at this time of crisis, marginalized children and youth, especially girls, must be given special attention. Efforts in advocacy and programme actions should be directed to increasing public investment for these groups, strengthening early intervention and prevention services for families, maintaining and increasing support for the most vulnerable, and intensifying efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments.
7. Recognizing the serious financing gaps to be bridged in order to meet the EFA goals by 2015, we propose the following international actions for urgent consideration:
 - increased financial support through bilateral and

multilateral aid, South-South cooperation and concessional windows from international financial institutions;

- monitoring and evaluation of the current and long-term implications of the global economic downturn for the financing of development targets in advance of the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Summit and beyond;
 - making the EFA Fast Track Initiative more effective, broaden its scope to the whole EFA agenda, including its governance and implementation process, taking into account the recommendations of the ongoing external evaluation of UNESCO;
 - an emergency pledging conference during 2010 to mobilize additional aid for EFA;
 - monitoring budgets to pick up early warning signs of fiscal adjustments that threaten education financing, with UNESCO encouraging and supporting involvement of national stakeholders including civil society and NGOs;
 - revision of loan conditions of the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions to ensure consistency with national poverty reduction and EFA priorities;
 - improving aid effectiveness and governance and challenging the narrow perspective of international and national financial establishments that neglect the human impact of the crisis. National and international NGOs have a watchdog, education and awareness-raising role in this regard which should be fully funded.
8. We value the achievements of the CCNGO/EFA since its creation in 1984 and consider that time has come for a qualitative change in its proposals and working procedures. We notably recommend the following changes:
 - Provide space to collectively analyse and understand concepts and approaches concerning new EFA challenges. In particular, we draw attention to the strengthening of the particular roles and accountability of each actor.
 - Revision of the name, process and functioning,

and enlargement of the composition of the CCNGO/EFA in order to enrich it with the new and multiple expressions of civil society that share spaces and tasks with the NGOs. Reinforcement of the representativity of the diverse organizations and regions within the CCNGO/EFA.

9. We propose to UNESCO and all other EFA partner organizations to develop new mechanisms of collecting and processing information on EFA in countries, to improve reliability, highlight opportunities and potential, and present a holistic view of progress and deficiencies, making visible the demands and proposals of the marginalized and excluded groups. We ask UNESCO, and through UNESCO other EFA partners, to foster linkages and encounters for civil society with diverse actors.
10. We ask all CCNGO/EFA members to:
 - Report the outcomes of their initiatives to increase public expenditure on education and citizen participation in EFA
 - Monitor and report on their own expenditure on education
 - Exert pressure on national governments to legislate on the right to education.

We undertake to direct our endeavours to action along the lines indicated above and to persevere in our bid to secure the right to education for all citizens.
Dhaka, 24 March 2010



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