



Access and Quality thematic group notes  
*7<sup>th</sup> November – Save the Children in Uganda*

## **Introduction**

The Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU) is a national coalition of civil society organisations who work together on joint advocacy to improve education in Uganda. This document outlines notes made at the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Notes**

### Welcoming

FENU secretariat welcomed participants and explained the aims of the meeting. The main purpose was to round up and finish what we have been able to do over 2013 but also plan for next year so that we are more focused and don't lose time as this was the last meeting of the year.

### Update on ESSR

FENU secretariat gave an update on the Education and Sports Sector Review (ESSR). At the last meeting the group spent time discussing what recommendations civil society should take to the ESSR on access and quality issues. The agreed recommendations were incorporated into a booklet called 'FENU civil society contribution to ESSR' which outlined civil society's recommendations to the ESSR. Every delegate at the ESSR received a copy of this booklet. FENU also produced a series of 7 posters to highlight some of the key advocacy messages. These were displayed at the ESSR and many ministry and district officials took copies.

This year FENU was unfortunately not given time to present the recommendations, and FENU were only given two invitations to attend, despite the secretariat asking for more so that representatives from the membership could be there.

The outcomes from the ESSR are not yet clear. The final aide memoire and critical undertakings have not been circulated and there seems to be some uncertainty within the Ministry of Education on the way forward. There was talk of a Ministry retreat to further refine the way forward, but it has not been confirmed and funds may be an issue.

FENU secretariat will continue to try to find out what is happening and how civil society can feed in, and will keep the membership updated.

### GPE update

The group were updated that Uganda's final submission to the Global Partnership for Education is being considered at the moment and a decision will be communicated imminently.

### Teacher payroll update

The brief showed process of what happens at every stage of the payroll. Members were urged to give any feedback on the briefing. It was agreed that FENU secretariat would circulate a quote for how much it would cost to print this briefing for the UNATU conference taking place in December so that organisations can consider if they can contribute.

### Special needs and inclusive policy

Geoffrey from USDC updated the group on the work being done on special needs and inclusive education. He let the group know that FENU and USDC had met with the assistant commissioner for special needs and inclusive education to discuss where the policy had got to. The policy has got stuck in the Ministry due to problems of funding around how to fund its implementation. USDC also updated the group that there may be a possibility of the special needs working group being rejuvenated and a meeting to discuss this will be taking place shortly.

#### What next?

This year we have focused on a number of issues including quality public education week, special needs and inclusive education and teacher payroll. It is therefore important to think now what we want to focus on next year.

Participants discussed what issues they felt we should focus our advocacy work on next year and the following were highlighted as being particularly important:

- EFA
- MDG
- Global Action Week ( disabilities )
- Youth education
- NAPE Report
- Literacy enhancement
- Numeracy
- Teacher quality at the training institutions
- Innovation
- More advocacy on SNE
- Moving education from basics(Quality education)
- Education accountability
- Position of FENU( raising the profile) from the ground networks
- Education budget
- Including disabilities in our programmes

#### Reporting back to the AGM

FENU secretariat asked for a representative from the group to report back to the FENU AGM on the 28<sup>th</sup> Nov to give a short update on what the group has been working on over 2013. Jenipher from War Child Holland kindly offered to feed back.

#### Working groups

FENU secretariat explained that next year we want to have more involvement in the Ministry of Education working groups, where important decisions are made. One way forward would be to have two individuals from different organisations as ‘FENU representatives’ for each working group. They would be responsible for attending the working groups and feeding back to the membership on what happened. Participants felt this was a good idea and the following organisations are either already involved or expressed an interest in being involved:

- Basic education (SAVE, World Vision, Maendeleo Foundation, AYPI , Interaid)
- Teacher education (AYPI)
- BTVET (Stromme foundation, War child Holland)
- ECD (SAVE)
- Gender taskforce (Ka Tutandike)
- Non formal (SAVE)
- Teacher education (SAVE)
- Secondary (PEAS, NCDC, Concern Girl Child)

#### Feedback questionnaires

Participants were asked to fill out questionnaires on FENU's work over 2013 so that FENU can learn and improve in the future.

#### **Action Points**

Action points	Responsible person/ organization
Small meeting to discuss way forward SNE working group	Anya, USDC, World Vision, NCDC, SAVE
Set up a meeting with some key members of parliament (UPFQE) on special needs and inclusive education	Anya, FENU secretariat
Approach new vision on publishing the process of teacher pay role in the Muwalimu pullout	FENU secretariat,
Discuss budget at the next meeting	Anya,
Add 'please confirm' to bottom of e-mails about meetings	FENU secretariat.

**World Vision will host the next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014**