

Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU)

Training Course on GPE Engagement Process Fair Way Hotel 12th – 16th Dec., 2012.

Background



The Global Partnership for Education is a platform for collaboration at the global and country levels. Through the Global Partnership for Education compact, developing countries commit to design and implement sound education plans while donor partners commit to align and harmonize additional support around these plans. Funding is channelled through existing bilateral and multilateral channels and also through the Global Partnership for Education, which supports countries with insufficient resources to implement their sector plans.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) fund focuses on accelerating progress toward the core education for all of universal primary education including:

- I. Expanding early childhood education,*
- II. Providing free and compulsory basic education for all,*
- III. Promoting learning and life skills for young people and adults,*
- IV. Increasing adult literacy,*
- V. Achieving gender parity and gender equality,*
- VI. and Improving the quality of education.*

The fund provides support to developing-country partners through: the Education Plan Development Grant which provides support for redeveloping/revising education sector plans; program implementation grant which supports the implementation of a three-year program that contributes to implementation of the *Education Sector Plan* that is embedded in Uganda's poverty reduction strategy and the program development grant which provides support for the design of a program that will be financed by the GPE.

The Global Partnership for Education is not only about financing: it helps donors and developing country partners work together to ensure that education aid is better coordinated and more effective, based on countries' own education strategies. The Global Partnership for

Education's strategy for 2011-2014 prioritizes increased support for fragile states, learning outcomes and quality education, and girls' education.

The Process in Uganda

In July 2011, Uganda became eligible for a grant from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Fund (GPEF) as support towards achieving the MDG of Universal Education For All and gender parity in education. The development partners, in consultations with the Government of Uganda endorsed the nomination of World Bank to act as the Supervising Entity for the grant of about USD 100M.

The preparation process for the application of the grant was started in March 2012 with a scoping/identification mission that among other things held extensive discussions with officials from MoES, line agencies, Education Development Partner Group and Aid Liaison, MoFPED which were preceded by a field visit to various schools and a primary teacher training college in Jinja district.

After consultations and field visit, the mission issued an aide memoire which also identified the GPE project Objective as ***“improving the quality of basic education with particular emphasis on improving literacy and numeracy”***. In addition, they also indentified the GPEF Grant's objective as- ***“improving the learning environment in schools through provision of key infrastructure; strengthening capacity for delivery of quality teacher training; ensuring provision of certain minimum package of learning materials to all public schools & teacher training colleges; and, to strengthen capacity of Government systems for education service delivery”***.

Based on the above Aide Memoire, the supervising entity (World Bank) drafted a Project Concept Note (PCN). The PCN was reviewed internally by the World Bank, however it was not fully agreed upon by the Education Development Partners (EDP) and Civil Society Organisation (CSO's). This hindered the application process and as a result the process was restarted.

Progress

The coordinating Agency (EDP Chair – Belgian Embassy) paid a visit to FENU on October 16th and subsequently FENU submitted a list of investment priority areas on the 21st October, 2012.

A harmonization workshop was conducted on 7th November, 2012. Participants were drawn from the Ministry of Education and Sports; Education Development Partners; Civil Society Organizations; Foundation Bodies; and Representative of District Education Officers (See workshop report)

To date a drafting committee has been put in place to refine the proposed investment priority areas arising out of the harmonization workshop. This will form the GPE Aide Memoire upon which Uganda will be granted USD 100 Million in three years.