



FENU briefing for civil society on Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

Thurs 4th April 2012

What is the GPE?

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is a collaboration of developing country partners, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, CSOs and members of the private sector who support education in developing countries.

The GPE aims to support progress towards the 'Education for All' goals through a government's education plan (in Uganda the ESSP).

What has happened so far?

Uganda became eligible for a GPE grant in July 2011. This is a grant of \$100 million to be spent over a three year period.

In November 2012 a workshop was held to define the key thematic areas that the money should be spent on. From this workshop key themes emerged including a focus on effective teachers for learning, effective schools for learning and implementation support and capacity building.

Civil society fed into this workshop and can also feed into the ongoing programme design through the local education group (LEG) which is made up of donors, civil society and the Ministry of Education and Sports. FENU secretariat is a member of LEG as are several other NGOs.

This week (2-11th April) a GPE preparation mission came to Uganda to help coordinate what activities the funding should be spent on.

What is happening at the moment?

It has been decided that four working groups within the Ministry of Education and Sports should be responsible for drafting the activities that GPE funding could be spent on. Each working group is tasked to look at certain themes and come up with activities that complement the ESSP.

Civil society involvement in defining the GPE activities is meant to be through attending the working groups when they discuss the GPE funding and feeding into the discussions.

Each working group met with the GPE mission this week. In these meetings the GPE mission shared the format (log-frame) that the activities need to follow. Each working group shared their ideas for activities. A first draft for these activities needs to be finalised by 11th April. Working group meetings have just been scheduled to take place next week on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th to define a first draft for these activities.

FENU has raised concerns with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the World Bank (the supervising entity) about this process and how civil society can be better involved. Concerns raised include the communication, consultation and timeframe. FENU secretariat is doing what it can to ensure that civil society is involved as much as possible, to help define and comment on the design of activities so that they create significant and lasting change.

How can NGOs be involved?

There are key themes that the GPE funding will focus on and each will be looked at by a working

group which will meet next week. **We would like to encourage one member of FENU to accompany the secretariat to each meeting and feed into the discussions as a representative of FENU.** Please get in contact with Anya Whiteside (anya.whiteside@fenu.or.ug, Tel: 0778130552) if you are interested in being a FENU representative at any of the meetings.

Secondly **we are keen to encourage all members to look at the thematic issues raised and think about what concrete activities would have the most impact in terms of real and lasting change for each issue.** Please feed these into the secretariat and we will try to raise them in the meetings next week.

Some of the working groups have already started putting together suggested activities and I will circulate these as soon as we receive them. There is also a log-frame for each issue which I will circulate as soon as we receive them. Possible suggestions for activities should be filled into the appropriate log-frame so they stand a better chance of being incorporated.

Below I have tried to define what the different thematic areas are, which working group is dealing with each, and when they will meet to discuss the activities. Please be aware there seem to be ongoing changes so this information may change:

Working Group	Focus Area	Meeting (TBC)
ECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECD policy review and dissemination of minimum standards Community outreach and parental awareness 	9am Mon 8 th April
Teacher Instructor Education and Training Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for pre-service In-service teacher training with special focus on pedagogical skills, literacy and numeracy content delivery Implementation support and capacity development 	10am Mon 8 th April & 11am Tues 9 th April
Basic Education Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructional materials Performance-based incentives for teachers Strengthening head teacher pedagogical and administrative support to teachers SMC training 	2:30 Mon 8 th April
Directorate of Education Standards Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School grants for meeting basic infrastructure and input standards School report cards initiatives including possible CSO involvement School supervision and data tracking system 	9am Mon 8 th April