



## Gender thematic group

Notes from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013

### Introduction

The Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda is a national coalition of civil society organisations working to bring about education rights in Uganda. This document outlines Gender notes made at the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at FOWODE. The meeting mainly discussed two issues: The re-entry of child mothers and recommendations to the ESSR (Education and Sports Sector Review due in September)

### Notes from the meeting

#### 1. RE- ENTRY OF CHILD MOTHERS

The group discussed the issue of re-entry of child mothers into schools.

- The group noted that though the issue of child mothers is crucial, it is not included in the current gender policy. The gender policy outlines that pregnant mothers have the right to sit national examinations but does not include the re-entry of child mothers.
- The group agreed that pushing for inclusion of the issue of child mothers into the existing gender policy is better than creating a new policy on re-entry of child mothers. This is because there are various policies which are never implemented yet creating a new policy takes a lot of time.
- The group noted that it is important to collect stories of child mothers for more awareness and visibility. The group agreed that human interest stories will highlight the plight of child mothers and could be published in the media, FENU publications, and the gender eye. The group agreed that it is important to note the target group before choosing the effective media. The group also noted that during collection of the human interest stories, child protection rights should be considered.
- The group noted that though policies are important, other stakeholders like parents and communities are crucial. Parents with negative attitudes keep child mothers away from school.
- The group agreed that research is very important as it promotes evidence based advocacy.
- The group discussed the importance of looking at the gender issue in the broader picture. The group suggested that child fathers should be included as some of them escape from school in fear of imprisonment. It was agreed that to support child mothers and prevent young girls from getting pregnant, men and boys should be included in the fight instead of only focussing on the women and girls. It was suggested that child mothers could be changed to “child parents”

#### 2. ESSR

The meeting discussed recommendations to the ESSR.

John (FENU) explained to the group that in preparation of the ESSR, FENU is in a process of developing positions and making recommendations to MoES. The group was informed that due to the current budget constraint, many recommendations may not be added thus it is important to prioritise recommendations.

**PRIORITIES**

	<b>What?</b>	<b>How?</b>	<b>Who?</b>
<b>Gender taskforce- Gender desk with appropriate funding allocated</b>	<p>There should be a gender desk in all schools. This should be accessible to all including children with Special Needs.</p> <p>There is need for gender clubs in all schools. These clubs should engage both females and males equally.</p> <p>Teacher Training Institutions should include Gender course unit as a core. This will enable all teachers to gain skills to handle gender issues in schools.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) to priorities gender training in all in-service and teacher training institutions.</p> <p>The curriculum should be reformed to include the gender courses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teacher education</li> <li>➤ National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC)</li> <li>➤ Directory of Education Standards (DES)</li> <li>➤ Uganda National Examination Board (UNEBC)</li> <li>➤ CCT</li> </ul>
<b>Re- Entry of child mothers</b>	<p>MOES to include this issue in the existing gender policy.</p> <p>MoES to send out a circular on policy to all schools on re-entry of child-mothers into</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Planning Development</li> <li>➤ MoES</li> <li>➤ DLG</li> <li>➤ DES</li> <li>➤ Policy development</li> <li>➤ Gender desk</li> <li>➤ Planning department.</li> </ul>

	learning institutes.  Child mothers with Special Needs in Education should be recognized and helped.		
<b>Sex disaggregated data should be provided by each departments</b>	MoES must have all data disintegrated  Qualitative analysis of the data and reports given on gender issues.		All departments in MoES
<b>Gender sensitive budgets should be developed by every department &amp; Provision of girls' sanitary facilities</b>	A budget for gender training and awareness in schools.  A budget to support a permanent gender desk in MoES unit.  Budget to take care of gender sensitive WASH facilities that are disability friendly.	All new construction and that being renovated should be disability friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Planning department</li> <li>➤ Construction unit</li> </ul>

### Actions that came out of the meeting

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>
Members to share stories on child mothers. Send them to FENU.	FENU
Set up guidelines as a gender thematic group that can be used when partners go out in the field to research on child mothers. What should our focus be?	John (FENU), UNICEF, and Gender taskforce
Follow up and confirm on the venue for next date	John (FENU)

## **Next meeting**

The group agreed to meet on 10<sup>th</sup> October. The venue is yet to be confirmed.