Putting Educational Equity on the Fast Track:

Strategies to achieve equity in education —
the only path to EFA

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May 2, 2009
Impact of Education

1. Lowered fertility rates
2. Reduced infant and maternal deaths
3. Less child labour
4. Increased GDP
5. Less vulnerability to external shock
## Projected School Age Population 2000-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Change (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIS (former Soviet Union)</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Asia</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>+41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fast Track Initiative

- Global partnership between developing countries and donors to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal completion of quality primary education by 2015

- More than 30 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies

- All low-income countries are eligible for technical and financial support from the FTI

- Education strategies of 37 low-income countries are currently endorsed
Fast Track Initiative – How it works

FTI Compact on Mutual Accountability

**Low-income countries**
- Develop sound education programs
- Strong domestic support to education
- Demonstrate leadership for implementation

**Donors**
- Mobilize additional resources
- Make aid predictable
- Harmonize procedures
- Align with national education program
Equity Lens for Learning

• Learning goals from equity perspective
• Gender as intensifier of marginalization
• Early-grade reading as a tool to address early dropout
• Assessment to focus on within-country differences
• Teacher recruitment and training
EFA-FTI Funding

**Catalytic Fund**
- Multi-donor trust fund managed by World Bank
- Funding in form of grants to help fill the financing gap for countries with limited donor support
- $1.5 billion pledged by 18 donors
- $1.4 billion allocated to 30 low income countries

**Education Program Development Fund (EPDF)**
- Multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank
- $106 million pledged by 11 donors for 2005-2010
- US$ 75 million allocated to about 60 recipients
Strategies to Achieve Equity

• Giving operational definition to education as a human right
• Equity and inclusion in Education Sector Plans
• Bottom-up interventions
• Focus on funding to schools and communities
• Progress in aid alignment and harmonization through implementation of Paris Declaration Principles
Practical Interventions & Funding

- School fee abolition policies
- Conditional cash transfer mechanisms
- Cross-sectoral approach (health, nutrition, poverty)
- Teacher training in special needs education
- Creation of databases and conducting surveys
- Funding to schools and communities
- School feeding
Successes

• Globally, **28 million more children enrolled** between 1999-2006 in all FTI countries

• **15.2 million more children enrolled in African FTI countries** between 2001-2006

• At present rates, **27 FTI countries will achieve a primary completion rate of 80% by 2015**
International Partnership

FTI Partnership designed tools:

• to **promote equity and inclusion** and mainstream HIV and Aids in education sector **strategies** in cooperation with international partners

• to **support preparation and revision of ESPs** by Ministries of Education and local donor groups

• for donor revision of ESPs for **FTI endorsement**
Country-Level Partnership

One country, one education strategy, one process

- FTI partner countries are responsible for including the needs of vulnerable groups in the Education Sector Plans
- Strengthened country level process through local education group to promote equity
- Interventions to reach out-of-school children, such as school feeding or school health programs
Special Needs of Fragile States

• More than **38 million out-of-school children** live in conflict affected countries

• **Chronic challenges** require support to **develop institutions** and **scale up service delivery** while working toward a fully comprehensive approach to the education sector

• **Financing mechanism** to provide financial support that can be disbursed quickly, is predictable and yet flexible enough to address urgent needs within the country

• New financing window created under the leadership of UNICEF called the **Education Transition Fund**
Conclusion

• Strengthen partnerships to promote equity and inclusion

• Increase capacity of governments to deliver education services meeting educational needs of all children

• Support countries toward working to a fully comprehensive approach to the education sector

• Improve data on out-of-school children

• Improve access to education and quality of learning

• Increase aid predictability

• Practical and quick policy responses in crisis
Your help is requested

- Push for **increased and predictable financing**
- Pay attention to whether funding **addresses the most marginalized**
- Track overall progress
- Push us to move faster, smarter
Thank you

For more information please visit:

www.education-fast-track.org