

Global Education First High Level Steering Committee Meeting

Washington, D.C., 18 April 2013

EI's Actions to promote education towards and beyond 2015

Education for All/Education MDGs remain an unfinished agenda

Despite considerable progress towards the achievement of Education for All (EFA) and education MDGs, we are concerned that over 71 million adolescents and 61 million children of primary school going age (53% of them girls) are still out of school globally, that a shortage of trained teachers and adequate infrastructure means the quality of education is often unacceptably low, and that 775 million adults, two-thirds of them women, are still not literate. This clearly illustrates that education remains an unfinished agenda.

From the current debates on the post-2015 agenda it is not yet clear whether there will be a standalone and comprehensive education goal in the post-2015 development framework. EI strongly believes that free quality education for all should be a key priority in the post-2015 development framework, that education should both be a standalone goal and a key enabler for the achievement of other goals. To help spur progress towards the achievement of EFA and MDGs by 2015, and ensure that education is retained as a key priority in the post-2015 development agenda, EI has embarked on a quality education campaign.

EI's Mobilising for Quality Education Initiative

Through its Mobilising for Quality Education (MQE) Initiative, EI will mobilise its 30 million members and partner with kindred organisations across the globe to advocate for the attainment of high quality education in each country. Through the MQE Initiative, EI will also advocate for quality education to be a central part of any global post-2015 development strategy. In that regard, from next month, EI will be organizing regional workshops for its members to review EFA /MDG progress, challenges and lessons learnt and carry out EFA assessments at country level. Arising from these assessments, EI will come up with an EFA Report Card. The MQE Initiative will be launched in New York in October this year, following the MDG Summit and its launch will coincide with EI's commemoration of World Teachers' Day.

The post-2015 agenda and EI's engagement

EI believes that there can be no credible global development framework without the right to education at its core. Education enables young people and adults to achieve their potential as human beings and to contribute positively as members of society. Education is also fundamental to achieving other development goals, such as those related to health, gender equality and sustainable development.

We have developed 10 Principles we believe should guide a post-2015 education and development framework, and a proposal of an education goal, including targets and indicators. These proposals have been shared with members of the High Level Panel. EI has also engaged, and will continue to engage with UN agencies such as UNESCO, the ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and the IMF, as well as the OECD, G8 and G20, national governments and others to ensure that education is included as a key priority in the post-2015 development framework.

We fully support the Secretary General's Global Initiative on Education and hope it will help create momentum towards the achievement of EFA and education MDGs and ensure that universal free quality education will be included as a key priority and standalone goal in the post-2015 development agenda.

Susan Hopgood, EI President