



# Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education For All



**No. 3 - March 2008**

## **Tackling exclusion through education sector plans**

In November 2007 a discussion was held in Paris involving representatives of the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All, the UN Girls Education Initiative, the Inter Agency Task Team on HIV/AIDS and the EFA flagship on disability. The purpose was to begin a process of developing a tool on equity and inclusion which could be of assistance to governments in the process of developing and reviewing education sector plans.

During the Paris discussions it was said that governments sometimes had little idea of who the excluded children were, where they were and the primary reasons for exclusion. Encouraging governments to look systematically at the out of school population and barriers to education could be an important step in helping to develop policies and strategies to reach excluded children. The groups that participated in the joint discussion agreed to continue work with a view to having a tool available by April 2008.

## **EFA High Level Group supports focus on equity and inclusion**

The concluding statement from the EFA High Level Group meeting, held in December 2007, recognized that achieving the EFA goals requires reaching children who have hitherto been excluded from basic education opportunities. It proposed steps to be taken during 2008 and beyond, to be led by governments at country level in partnership with civil society and other stakeholders. These steps include a mapping to determine the characteristics of excluded groups, and their circumstances and needs. This information can support development of more inclusive educational policies. The statement

said that such a mapping could also include a costing of what is needed to reach marginalized groups effectively. The concluding statement also called for improved policy frameworks to address post-primary learning opportunities for in-school and out-of-school youth through equitable access to quality learning opportunities, including non-formal education, literacy, technical and vocational education and training, and life-skills programmes.

## **UN General Assembly discussion on child labour and education**

On 18 December 2007 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Rights of the Child" (A/RES/62/141). This resolution calls upon Member States to translate their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour into concrete action. It also calls for action to immediately eliminate the worst forms of child labour and to promote education in this regard, including the creation of vocational training and apprenticeship programmes, and the integration of working children into the formal education system. The General Assembly also decided to continue the consideration of this agenda item at its 63rd session (2008) and to focus section III of the resolution on the rights of the Child on "Child Labour, with a special emphasis on its causes, including poverty and lack of education".

## Global Action Week, April 21-27 2008

This year's Global Action Week, organised by the Global Campaign for Education, will build on the previous theme of the right to education, calling for an end to all forms of exclusion from quality education. On April 23 this year, children and adults from all over the world will be attempting to break the world record for the Largest Simultaneous Lesson. This event is taking part in over 85 countries.

For more information visit: [http://www.campaignforeducation.org/action/2008/action\\_2008.html](http://www.campaignforeducation.org/action/2008/action_2008.html)

## EFA Global Monitoring Report: Progress being made but many still excluded

The number of children starting primary school has increased sharply since 2000, there are more girls in school than ever before, and spending on education and aid has risen. That's the good news, according to the sixth edition of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report. But on the down side, poor quality, the high cost of schooling and persisting high levels of adult illiteracy are undermining the chances of achieving education for all by 2015. The report indicates that primary school enrolment increased by 36% in sub-Saharan Africa and 22% in South and West Asia between 1999 and 2005. Governments in 14 countries abolished primary school tuition fees, a measure that has favoured access for the most disadvantaged. Girls still account for 60% of out-of-school children in the Arab States and 66% in South and West Asia.

The EFA report identifies the main challenges: reaching the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, improving learning conditions, and increasing aid. On reaching the disadvantaged, the report considers strategies required to address the requirements of particular groups of excluded children, including child labourers. It says that the remaining out of school children usually share a number of common characteristics: they are disproportionately female, rural, poor or from ethnic or linguistic minorities.

The report and additional information is available at: [www.efareport.unesco.org](http://www.efareport.unesco.org)

12 June

## World Day Against Child Labour

Since 2002, June 12 each year has been commemorated as the World Day Against Child Labour. For the World Day 2008 the theme is **Education: The right response to child labour**. Participation of a wide range of partners in supporting the World Day is encouraged.

Given the positive links that can be made between access to quality schooling and reducing the obligation or necessity for children to work, the focus on education and skills is an opportunity to build wide support for the World Day among UN agencies and programme partners.

The ILO is providing a range of resources to support national and local activities on World Day. Key promotional materials to be produced include:

- A World Day poster
- A short World Day brochure on the theme of child labour and education
- A press release that can be used for distribution to the media.

These resources and more information available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/WDAL/2008>

## Annual report from the EFA Fast Track Initiative

The FTI's 2007 report *Quality Education for All Children: Meeting the Challenge* says that most of the 32 countries whose education sector plans have been endorsed through FTI are on track to have all 6 year olds enrolled in grade one by 2010. The report identifies key factors driving success as: increasingly effective domestic policies (such as abolishing fees and reducing repetition), countries devoting more of their own resources to basic education, external aid becoming more effective, and countries strengthening capacity to improve the education sector.

The report also points to a lack of progress in a number of areas. It says that child labour is a severe obstacle to EFA in many countries and points to the need to strengthen quality as well as improving access.

For more information visit: <http://www.education-fast-track.org/content.asp?ContentId=1144>

## New publications and information

### New from ILO – Consolidated good practices in education and child labour

This new compendium of good practices draws on the experience of ILO-IPEC field projects and their efforts to withdraw children from child labour or to prevent child labour. It looks at various approaches including work with teachers, non formal and transitional education, use of school based and community monitoring, and skills training programmes.

Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=6449>

### New from UNGEI – Lessons from Africa and case studies from East Asia

The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) recently launched a new publication *Making UNGEI Work: Lessons from Four African Countries*. It reports on programmes in Burundi, Lesotho, Uganda and Zambia.

For more information visit: [http://www.ungei.org/resources/1612\\_1630.html](http://www.ungei.org/resources/1612_1630.html)

Another recent publication *UNGEI case studies in East Asia: Towards equal opportunities for all: empowering girls through partnerships in education* introduces seven good practice case studies from East Asia on programmes addressing the educational needs of girls. A number of the case studies relate specifically to tackling child labour through education.

For more information visit: [http://www.unicef.org/eapro/activities\\_7017.html](http://www.unicef.org/eapro/activities_7017.html)

### New from UNESCO – Education of girls living on the streets

This new study *L'éducation des jeunes filles en situation de rue* looks at the situation of children living on the streets, often in dangerous situations, and often exposed to exploitation. Based on a case study in Guatemala, it looks at the situation of girls living on the streets. It shows how education can provide a way of taking children out of the cycle of poverty in which they have found themselves.

Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001547/154718f.pdf>

### ILO magazine – Focus on child labour

The latest issue of the ILO magazine *World of Work* has a special focus on child labour. It contains an overview of developments and progress during the past 10 years. It also includes articles dealing with child labour in agriculture and mining, and information on education and training responses to child labour.

Visit: [http://www.ilo.org/wow/PrintEditions/lang--en/docName--WCMS\\_090161/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/wow/PrintEditions/lang--en/docName--WCMS_090161/index.htm)

### Report on the World Social Situation 2007

The United Nations launched the *2007 Report on the World Social Situation: The Employment Imperative*. The report contains an overview of developments relating to child labour. It says that in recent years political consensus on the need to eliminate child labour has increased, and the issue has received significant attention in the United Nations intergovernmental processes. However, it points to the fact that at national level effective mobilisation within Ministries has yet to occur in many countries. It says that a crucial component of interventions to eliminate child labour is access to social programmes including free education and training.

Available at: [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/docs/rwss07\\_fullreport.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/docs/rwss07_fullreport.pdf)

### New from USAID – Guidance document on programming for street children

*Building Bridges to mainstream opportunities*, reviews experience from a number of programs for street children. The author focuses on the importance of carefully analyzing the population of street children, targeting program interventions effectively, keeping a focus on community and family reintegration, and tracking results.

Available at: [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADK188.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADK188.pdf)

## World Bank – School to work transition impact surveys

In November 2007, the World Bank sponsored a workshop to review a program of impact evaluation in youth school to work interventions. The program aims to build evidence of what works in assisting poor youth in low income countries to make a successful transition from school to work by measuring the impact of promising cross sectoral interventions across a range of countries. Poor youth in low income countries often drop out of basic education at early ages and once they become young adults, have no means of gaining the professional, educational and life skills they need to break out of poverty and become productive adults. Evidence shows that un- and underemployed youth are more likely to turn to risk-taking behaviours which can lead to various negative outcomes.

For more information visit: <http://go.worldbank.org/BT4486WI50>

### Newsletter from the Understanding Children's Work project

The January 2008 issue of the UCW Newsletter is now available. It includes information on child labour research in Zambia and proposals for country research cooperation in Mongolia and Viet Nam.

For more information visit: <http://www.ucw-project.org>

## Network for policy research, review and advice on education and training

NORRAG (Network for Policy Research, Review and Advice on Education and Training) is a network supported by DFID, committed to encouraging critical analysis of international development especially in the field of education and training through a network of researchers, policymakers, donor agencies and NGOs. NORRAG News (NN), a digital newsletter is produced twice per year. It has a large number of papers, focusing on policy implications of research findings and/or on the practical implications of new policies formulated by multilateral agencies or donors.

The next issue (May 2008) will be on "Education for sustainable development? Or The sustainability of education investment?".

For more information or for registration to receive the newsletter visit: <http://www.norrag.org/registration.php> or <http://www.norrag.org>

## International Conference on Education – Theme of inclusive education

UNESCO's International Conference on Education will be held in Geneva during November 2008, with a theme of inclusive education. The aim is for the Conference to look in a broad way at issues of exclusion from education and the policies and approaches that can help promote inclusion.

For more information visit: <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/policy/ice.htm>

### Mailing list and further information

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this bulletin please contact [quinn@ilo.org](mailto:quinn@ilo.org)

### GTF contacts in member organisations

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