Country Paper Preparation Guidelines

1. Introduction

With four years left to 2015, there is a sense of urgency for countries and EFA partners to scale-up efforts to achieve the six EFA goals within the target date. Knowing how much progress has been achieved so far will give an indication of how far or close countries are to the 2015 target and what kind of interventions are needed to accelerate progress.

Globally, the sense of urgency is echoed in the Jomtien Statement issued at the close of the Tenth Meeting of the High-Level Group on EFA held on 22-24 March 2011 in Jomtien, Thailand. “Let us join hands and substantially hasten our efforts in that pursuit [of meeting the EFA goals],” said the statement, endorsed by Ministers of education and other high-ranking national education officials, and senior representatives of multilateral and bilateral organizations, civil society groups, and private sector organizations involved in education.

In support of countries to scale up efforts to 2015, the 12th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators to be held in Seoul from 25 to 28 July 2011 will focus on facilitating information exchange among countries on EFA progress, challenges and good practices. The meeting will also be a forum to plan with countries and partners on how to accelerate progress towards 2015 and specific support needed for this. Discussions will focus on planning to scale-up efforts to speed up progress to 2015, financing education, improving the overall quality of education through innovative approaches, strengthening the relevance of education through lifelong learning, and garnering support for EFA monitoring and evaluation.

The country papers will serve as references for discussion during the meeting and also as inputs to the End-of-Decade Notes on EFA Progress for each EFA goal. Thus the country papers should clearly state where the country stands now vis-à-vis the EFA goals and what is being done to accelerate progress to 2015. Please see below the proposed outline for the paper.

2. Structure of the Country Paper

The following is the recommended country paper structure:

I. Summary of Progress in Meeting each EFA goal (maximum 4 pages)
   
   • This section could be based on an update from the country paper prepared for the 11th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators held in November 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand, or the latest national education/EFA progress report
   
   • At the end of the analysis for each goal, there should be a clear statement on whether the goal can be achieved or not by 2015, and if not, identify the three major barriers to achievement

II. Specific measures undertaken to accelerate progress towards 2015, including reaching the unreached and marginalized groups in education (maximum 10 pages)
• Include in this section, specific efforts undertaken by the country to accelerate progress including improvements in national EFA coordination structures and education/EFA data collection systems and the use of data for decision-making, strengthening donor coordination, addressing marginalization in education, improving the overall quality of education through innovative approaches, strengthening the relevance of education, etc.

III. Identification of areas where specific support is needed to accelerate progress towards 2015 (maximum 6 pages)

• In this section, specify what kind of support is needed to scale-up efforts to 2015, including in planning and finance, the use of innovative approaches to improve quality of education, addressing inequalities and marginalization, monitoring and assessment, public-private sector partnerships for education, implementation of new legislation that could pave the way for the achievement of specific EFA goals or all the goals, etc.

IV. Annex(es): Countries may attach case studies or more detailed information on specific policies or good practices related to section III

Country representatives are requested to send the paper to the Regional EFA Secretariat by 11 July 2011 (see contact details below). Below are the proposed background documents to be used as main references for the preparation of the country paper:

• Country papers on EFA progress prepared for the 11th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators held in November 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand:  
  http://www.unescobkk.org/education/efa/efacoordinatorsmeetings/11efacoordmeeting/

• The EFA Mid-Decade Assessment country and sub-regional reports
  http://www.unescobkk.org/education/education-units/efa/mda/nationalreports/
  http://www.unescobkk.org/education/education-units/efa/mda/sub-regionalreport/

• The latest national EFA assessment report, if available

• National education statistics report from the country and from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics

• Outcomes/recommendations of the 10th Regional EFA coordinators meeting held in May 2009
  http://www.unescobkk.org/education/education-units/efa/mda/efacoordinatorsmeetings/11efacoordmeeting/

• Jomtien Statement, Tenth Meeting of the High Level Group on EFA, March 2011
  http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all/international-cooperation/high-level-group/10th-meeting-jomtien-thailand/

The length of the paper should be 15 – 20 pages in A4 size, single space. Relevant documents may be annexed or attached separately.

3. Submission of Country Paper

Please send the country paper by email or fax not later than 11 July 2011 to:

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