13th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators: The Big Push
26-27 February 2013
Bangkok, Thailand

Preparation Guidelines

Country Report on the Status of EFA and Best Practices on EFA Acceleration

1. Introduction

With three 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 what has worked or has not worked at the country level so far in our efforts towards achieving EFA goals will give us an indication of what kinds of targeted interventions are needed to accelerate progress.

Globally, this urgency is echoed in the Final Statement issued at the close of the Global EFA Meeting (GEM) held from 21 to 23 November 2012 in Paris, France. Ministers, heads of delegations, leading officials of multilateral and bilateral organizations, and senior representatives of civil society and private sector organizations reaffirmed the need for political will combined with targeted approaches and continued financial investment to reach the hardest to serve and to overcome bottlenecks.

In support of countries to speed up efforts to 2015, the 13th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators: The Big Push to be held in Bangkok from 26 to 27 February 2013 will assume an analytical and practical approach towards the identification of appropriate steps and actions for EFA acceleration in the region. The meeting will facilitate discussions and information exchange among countries on the detailed aspects of innovative and promising EFA practices that enabled some countries in the region to demonstrate positive results. The meeting will engage participants in group exercises to identify bottlenecks, prioritized actions, and feasible and sustainable interventions that will contribute to each country’s draft national EFA acceleration outline.

As the final target date for EFA draws nearer, countries will be engaged in reviewing their EFA experience and achievements. In order to support the national reviews of EFA, the meeting will be a forum where participants will be able to learn about conducting the national EFA review.

Alongside accelerating progress and preparing for national EFA reviews, there is a need to start looking ahead. Today’s world has evolved greatly since the 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar and is facing multi-faceted and rapid changes, challenges and opportunities, which have implications for education. As international, regional and national consultations have started to discuss the post-2015 development agenda, this meeting will provide an opportunity for countries to voice their reflections and needs for education beyond 2015 and contribute to the shaping of the future of education within the broader development agenda from a regional perspective.

The meeting will also cover other pertinent topics such as financing education, improving the overall quality of education through innovative approaches and maximizing on partnerships for effective EFA acceleration interventions.
The country reports will serve as references for discussion during the meeting, to inform the forthcoming country case studies on innovative EFA acceleration practices that will be conducted by UNESCO Bangkok in close collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices and respective national counterparts in 2013, and to inform and contribute towards the post-2015 education agenda. Thus the country reports should clearly state where the country stands now vis-à-vis the EFA goals, best practices that have proven to accelerate EFA progress, and countries’ educational needs and suggestions to include in a post-2015 education agenda. Please see the proposed outline for the report below.

2. Structure of the Country Report

The following is the recommended country report 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 12th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators held in July 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea 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 bottlenecks to achievement

II. Specific measures undertaken to accelerate progress towards 2015, including reaching the unreached and marginalized groups in education. Countries are encouraged to share innovative practices that have been scaled up or have the potential for scaling up (maximum 4 pages)
   - Include in this section, specific efforts undertaken by the country to accelerate progress. This may include 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, alternative learning arrangements, partnership mechanisms, new legislative measures, increased financing/funding options, strengthening the relevance of education, etc.

III. Specific actions countries plan to take between now and 2015 to achieve the unmet EFA goals (maximum 2 pages)
   - In this section, give a description of the prioritized actions countries plan to take between now and 2015 as part of their efforts to address specific bottlenecks concerning EFA.

IV. Key areas for future education and the post 2015 agenda (maximum 2 pages)
   - In this section, identify a.) Key areas of emphasis for education for the future at national level based on present development trends b.) Key areas of education to be included in a post 2015 agenda c.) Country perspective on the role of education in the overall development agenda.
V. Identification of areas of technical support needed to accelerate progress towards 2015 (maximum 1 page)

- In this section, specify what kind of support is needed to scale-up efforts to 2015. This may include planning and finance, the use of innovative approaches to improve the quality of and access to 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.

VI. 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 report to the Regional EFA Secretariat by 11 February 2013 (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 12th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators held in July 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea: http://www.unescobkk.org/education/efa/efacoordinatorsmeetings/country-reports/


- 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 11th Regional EFA coordinators meeting held in November 2010

- Communiqué of the 11th Asia-Pacific National EFA Coordinators Group (November 2010) to the EFA High Level Group Meeting (March 2011)  

- Jomtien Statement, Tenth Meeting of the High Level Group on EFA, March 2011  

The length of the paper should be 10-13 pages in A4 size, single space. Relevant documents may be annexed or attached separately.


Country representatives are requested to send the report to the Regional EFA Secretariat by email or fax not later than 11 February 2013 to:

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