8th National EFA Coordinators’ Meeting:
Mid-Decade Assessment Progress Review

26 February – 2 March 2007

Terms of Reference

I. Background
In January 2000, the Asia-Pacific Conference on the EFA 2000 Assessment was held in Bangkok, Thailand. At the Conference, country representatives adopted a regional framework for action which eventually contributed to the Dakar Framework for Action adopted by the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000. The regional framework called for a collective commitment to the achievement of the EFA goals.

Following the World Education Forum, UNESCO Bangkok continued to support the regional Member States by conducting regular meetings with National EFA Coordinators, under the auspices of the Sub-Regional Forum (SRF) for East and Southeast Asia.

As the preparation of National Action Plans progressed, it was agreed that draft EFA plans could be shared with other EFA National Coordinators, EFA partner agencies and experts in order to learn from others’ experiences and receive suggestions for possible improvement. A regional network was formed around the desire to share experiences and to simultaneously build capacities in EFA implementation.

With EFA National Action Plans in place, the National EFA Coordinators’ meeting has shifted its focus to provide support and assistance in EFA implementation, monitoring, evaluation and assessment as well as in the continuing process of plan revision.

EFA Mid-Decade Assessment (2006-2007)
In October 2005, the AIMS Unit, the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in cooperation with the APPEAL Unit of UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO Headquarters and the UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, organized a regional planning meeting for the assessment. The meeting brought together national EFA coordinators, education planners and statisticians and ECCE focal points from 21 countries from South, South-East and East Asia, together with subject specialists, including linguists, child development specialists, special-needs education specialists and special interest NGOs, to discuss the direction forward for national and regional assessment.

Working in sub-regional groups, the participants identified the major issues to be assessed and drafted work plans for national assessment with regard to each of the six EFA goals. Similar sub-regional workshops and meetings were held in Central Asia and the Pacific Island States.

The 2005 EFA High Level Meeting in Beijing gave opportunity for discussions on the Asia and Pacific plans and strategies for the EFA mid-decade assessment. It was agreed that UNESCO and UNICEF would join forces to assist and facilitate countries to carry out the assessment exercise and to encourage other agencies, both multilateral
and bilateral, as well as NGOs to join.

The Regional Thematic Working Group on EFA, consisting of UN partner agencies and relevant international NGOs and civil society organizations, agreed in early 2006 to provide coordinating and advisory services to participating countries in the region. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education will work jointly with regional counterparts from UNICEF on this activity. At the national and regional levels, the TWG Member Agencies and EFA Partners have been invited directly to support both the implementation of the EFA national action plans and the MDA process.

EFA Coordinators’ Network
The EFA Coordinators’ Network is inclusive to the UNESCO Asia and Pacific region, covering forty-six countries.

Twenty three countries from the South, East and South-East Asia sub-regions are regularly invited to participate in the annual meeting of the National EFA Coordinators. These are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lao PDR, Korea (Republic of), Korea (DPR), Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam.

The focus of the 2007 meeting will be on the Asia and Pacific EFA Mid-Decade Assessment in accordance with the Dakar Framework for Action, Strategy 11 and the national, sub-regional and regional outputs from activities throughout the region. Similar meetings are scheduled to take place in Central Asia and the Pacific throughout the year.

The 2007 EFA Coordinators’ Meeting is sponsored through the kind support from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO.

II. Objectives and Expected Outputs
The overall purpose of the meeting is to review draft reports on EFA MDA process at the country and sub-regional levels, to improve strategies and accelerate the MDA process and to produce a sub-regional summary of the preliminary findings on the performance of the principal stakeholders.

The specific objectives and expected outputs are:

1) Country teams:
   a) Present and review draft national MDA reports; output: revised drafts and work plan for completion of the national reports
   b) Identify major achievements since the Jomtien and the Dakar conferences; and major challenges, especially the remaining disparities and the un-reached groups in attaining EFA; output: summary sub-regional reports on preliminary findings of the MDA.

2) TWG Member Agencies and EFA Partners
   a) Present and review their respective contributions to the implementation of the EFA National Action Plans and the MDA process at national and regional levels
   b) Identify major achievements since the Jomtien and the Dakar conferences; and the major challenges, especially the remaining disparities and the un-reached
groups in attaining EFA; output: summary sub-regional reports on preliminary findings of the MDA with regard to development agencies’ role.

3) All participants:
   a) Identify resources for covering required support to complete the EFA National Mid-Decade Assessment Reports and draft national action plans for capacity-building towards the national assessments; output: support matrix: who supports what in which country
   b) Prioritize topics, organization and finance plans for sub-regional and/or cross-cutting thematic studies, and identify countries that will participate in these activities; output: work plan with logical framework matrix
   c) Update all participants on the latest developments in the EFA movement through an exchange of information amongst and between participants.

Based on these presentations and peer reviews, the meeting shall produce (a) a summary report on the preliminary findings of the sub-regions and (b) strategy and resource-coverage plans for the completion of the national and sub-regional MDA reports.

III. Format
The meeting will provide a platform for national delegations, TWG Member organizations and EFA Partner agencies to engage in peer review of national progress in the conduct of the MDA and produce sub-regional summary of preliminary findings. To facilitate this process, the programme will be divided into plenary and concurrent sessions as well as breakout sessions to work on special topics for sub-regional and/or thematic studies.

National EFA Coordinators and Data analysts undertaking national EFA MDA will present draft national reports for peer review of technical assessment and identify issues and themes for sub-regional reports.

The TWG Members and EFA Partner Agencies, donors and NGOs will present and review assessment of the impact of their contributions in support of the EFA implementation and MDA process at both national and regional levels.

The medium for communication for the EFA National Coordinators’ Meeting will be English.

IV. Organizers
The Assessment, Information Systems, Monitoring and Statistics Unit (AIMS), Regional Office of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics at the Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

Asia-Pacific Programme for Education for All Unit (APPEAL), Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

V. Partners
UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
VI. Participants
The participants of the meeting will include:

National Delegations
- National EFA Coordinator, MOE (one per country)
- MDA Data Analyst (one per country)
- Gender Focal Points, MOE (one per country, from those countries participating in the UNESCO Gender in Education Network in Asia (GENIA))

EFA Partners
- Members of the Thematic Working Group on EFA, including:
  - Representatives of regional and country level UN agencies, regional and international NGOs and donor agencies
  - UNICEF Education Officers, South and East Asia Region

UNESCO Staff
- Education staff, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, UNESCO Bangkok
- Education Officers, UNESCO Field Offices, Asia and Pacific Region
- Regional UNESCO Institute for Statistics Officers
- EFA Global Monitoring Report Team

Welcomed Observers
- Members of National EFA MDA taskforce/committees, including related line ministries, the academic community, and research institutions
- Representatives from national and regional NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) supporting EFA initiatives
- National and regional media
- UNESCO and UNICEF Officers from Headquarters and from other regions
- UNESCO Officers Institutes and Centres for Education

VII. Preparatory Work by Participants
- National EFA Coordinator:
  o Report on the organization, coordination, financing and supporting partners with regard to the implementation of the EFA National Action Plan and EFA National Mid-Decade Assessment and to report on the latest draft of the EFA National Mid-Decade Assessment Report, highlighting preliminary findings on the impact of each EFA Goal on the intended target groups: achievements, disparities, identity and location of the over-achievers and under-achievers and the un-reached population; remaining analysis work plans, with input/reports from MDA Coordinators and Policy Analysts.
8. MDA Data Analyst
   - Report on the latest **MDA data analysis products**, specifically the MDA indicator templates and related tables, diagrams, maps and other graphics, disaggregated by analytical variables.
   - Situation report concerning DevInfo, data collection, compilation and data analysis related to the EFA National Mid-Decade Assessment

9. Gender Focal Point
   - Report on the activities and achievements in mainstreaming gender issues within the Ministry of Education with impact across all EFA Goals and targets, especially with regard to the under-achievers, under-privileged, disadvantaged and the un-reached populations.

10. Representative of National Civil Society Organizations (CSO) or National Council of NGOs
    - Report on the involvement of CSO in EFA implementation and in the EFA National Mid-Decade Assessment process

11. TWG Member Agencies/Organizations and EFA Partners
    - Report on their respective activities and contributions in support of (a) the implementation of the EFA National Action Plans and (b) national and regional MDA process

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**VIII. Time and Venue**

26 February – 2 March 2007

Bangkok, Thailand

Venue to be announced

**IX. Contact information:**

Please visit the UNESCO Bangkok website for more information on the 8th EFA Coordinators' Meeting at: [www.unescobkk.org/efa](http://www.unescobkk.org/efa).

Or contact:

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