**Background**

The national mid-decade assessment aims to identify problems, issues, policies and strategies of education reform to ensure that education will reach the unreached groups. This will be followed by a mid-term review of national education policy against the findings of the national assessment report to better formulate appropriate policies for attaining EFA by the year 2015.

The theme of the assessment is “reaching the unreached”, focusing on quality and equality in access and participation in achieving each of the six goals of EFA.

The current lead coordinating agencies in support of the assessment are UNESCO and UNICEF. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO and other agencies, including the bilateral organizations and NGOs, are especially welcome and indeed acutely needed, to join this concerted support to national assessments.

**Objectives**

- To assess progress and gaps in the monitoring and achievement of the national and global targets and goals of Education for All
- To identify disparities and inequities within national education systems
- To review and critically assess problems, issues, policies, strategies, actions and success stories of EFA in various sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific and disseminate this broadly
- To identify those countries in greatest need of support to achieve the EFA goals and the types and levels of support they require
- To build capacities of national institutions and stakeholders to regularly monitor and assess the EFA goals
- To better formulate appropriate national policies, within education and multisectorally, for attaining EFA goals and the MDGs by the year 2015

**Focus**

Quality education is unevenly distributed across sub-national target groups in the region. It is necessary to focus the upcoming assessment on reaching the unreached. Participating countries in the region will be encouraged to undertake **statistical analysis** using methods and tools for the analysis of sub-national disparities looking at various unattained goals and unreached target groups. It will focus on the disparities in access to various levels of quality education across various strata and groups in society, in particular the following:

- Religious, linguistic, and ethnic minority groups
- Caste, socio-economic classes and other social stratifications
- Women and girls
- Persons with disabilities
- Residents of remote areas/border regions
- Undocumented people, non-citizens, non-registered residents
- Migrants, refugees, displaced persons and their children
- The extremely poor

The assessment should also address concerns such as gender inequality, HIV/AIDS and other issues which cut across all segments of society.
Activities

2006
- **First Quarter**: Prepare and distribute general guidelines and background concept paper; regional strategy meeting and launch of national assessments
- **Second Quarter**: Advisory and technical assistance missions and national workshops
- **Third Quarter**: Distribution of technical guidelines and proposed national report outline;
- **Fourth Quarter**: Sub-regional capacity building workshops and peer review of draft policy reports, data compilation and analysis workshop
- Draft national data and policy analysis reports

2007
- **First Quarter**: Regional EFA Coordinators/EFA MDA meeting; penultimate draft national reports (technical working document) and initial draft of regional synthesis report
- **Second Quarter**: Final national reports approved and released by governments
- **Third Quarter**: sub-regional peer review of draft sub-regional synthesis reports
- **Fourth Quarter**: regional synthesis report

2008
- Mid-term regional policy review

The role and responsibilities of the Regional Thematic Working Group on EFA

The Regional Thematic Working Group (TWG) on EFA, consisting of UN partner agencies and relevant international NGOs and civil society organizations, will provide coordination and advisory services to countries in the region participating in the EFA mid-decade assessment.

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