

Editorial

At the Dakar Education Summit in April 2000, over 160 countries signed up to the Dakar Framework of Action for the delivery of Education for All (EFA) by 2015. Later that year, at the Millennium Summit, countries signed up to 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) two of which focus on the achievement of Education for All (EFA). Information on the MDG and EFA can be found within this publication.

A key departure from previous summits especially the Jomtien Summit of 1990 is the clear articulation of a role for civil society in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EFA efforts. This was in recognition of both the strong role that civil society can play and the fact that government alone cannot achieve EFA.

In order to support civil society so that they can help government achieve EFA, the British government established the Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF). The fund seeks to build the capacity of civil society organisations in 17 low-income Commonwealth countries and Nigeria is one of those countries. CEF is managed internationally by Oxfam GB, Save the Children Fund UK and ActionAid.

In Nigeria the fund is managed by ActionAid Nigeria and it has kicked off its activities with the adoption of a revised Strategic Programme of Work, award of grants to some civil society organisations and it is set to embark on an ambitious programme of capacity building over the next three years. This CEF Newsletter which is a biennial, is one of the ways in which the CEF intends to inform the public of its activities and create awareness on issues that are at the heart of the fund. We hope you find it informative.

Dr Nguyen Feese, Programme Advisor, Education and CEF Coordinator



CEF Awards initial grants to five civil society organisations in Nigeria

During the Steering Committee meeting of January 2003, the committee considered a

total of 68 Expressions of Interest (EOI). Following predefined criteria, the committee approved the disbursement of the total sum of seventy million, two hundred and eighty thousand naira only (N70,280,000) to five civil society organizations over the next three years.

The beneficiaries of the initial allocations include; Civil Society Coalition for Education for All (CSACEFA), with N42,330,000 over the next three years, Socio Economic Rights Initiative (SERI) with N 9,000,000, over three years, Pastoral Resolve with N 9,000,000, over three years, Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP) with N6,980,000 for three years and Health Development Agency (HDA) with N 2,970,000 for one year. These organizations will be carrying out work in the following areas:

Strengthening Civil Society

CSACEFA will carry out projects that will help strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to engage in policy and advocacy on education issues. It will also be involved in the design and implementation of national and local education plans and frameworks while Pastoral Resolve will strengthen the operational linkages for effective educational delivery to nomadic

pastoralists in Nigeria.

Budget Tracking

The work of both Shelter Rights Initiative (SRI) now Socio Economic Rights Initiative (SERI) and Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP) will enable local communities to monitor government spending on education both at the national and local levels.

Innovative Access

Health Development Agency will support innovative ways for civil society to ensure that all children especially girls and the most vulnerable and disadvantaged are able to access quality education by setting up community based early childhood care facilities that will enable children especially girls receive early education.

Outside these five approvals there are ten that are being considered for approval pending further work on their proposals. These include; Pastoralist Development Initiative, Children Project, Civil Society Coalition on Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE), Education Corporation Society (ECS), Center for African Settlement Studies and Development (CASSAD), Health and Development Initiative, Project Agape, Life Vanguard, Karatu Nigeria, Development Research and Projects Center (DRPC).

About the CEF

Introduction

The Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF) was launched in April 2002 to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Queen of England. The fund has a take off grant of £10 million which is to be shared among 17 of the poorest Commonwealth countries over three years. The fund is jointly managed by ActionAid, Oxfam and Save the Children Fund. Further fundraising is expected to increase the size of the fund significantly.

Expanded Strategic Programme of Work for the CEF

In August 2002, stakeholders came together to discuss and agree the focus of the CEF in Nigeria. The result was a broad Strategic Programme of Work (SPW) which guides the fund's Steering Committee in managing the fund.

The fund called for Expression of Interests (EOI) in December of 2002. Following the review of the EOIs and drawing from the emerging issues from an on going baseline study the steering committee therefore adopted a four pronged strategy for the SPW. These strategies include:

1. To promote direct engagement with government by civil society on CEF issues at various levels through **Support to projects**. In this regard grants will be given to organizations which send in proposals which meet the criteria as set out by the steering committee. Work in this area will cover;
 - Strengthening civil society capacity to engage
 - Budget tracking
 - Innovative access
2. To enhance the **quality** of civil society actors to demand and engage through **Capacity Building**: This will involve equipping civil society organizations with such skills as;
 - Policy and advocacy skills
 - Budget tracking skills
 - Encouraging gender access studies
 - Identifying the role of faith based organizations and traditional rulers
3. To promote the **engagement on Macro-economic issues**: This strategy will enable the CEF to be proactively involved in initiatives like;
 - Developing the National Education for All plans and education sector plans
 - Engagement in the PRSP
 - Addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS on education
4. To improve **awareness and information dissemination** to a wider public: This strategy will help in building awareness and establishing knowledge for wider engagement in the EFA/MDG targets.

Goal: The main goal of the fund is to enable all Commonwealth children have access to, and complete good quality primary education by 2015. In addition to the UPE targets, it seeks to ensure that the gender targets set out in the Dakar Framework (April 2000) and Millennium Development Goals are also met.

Aim: To strengthen the capacity of civil society in developing Commonwealth countries to help Governments ensure that the poorest and most marginalized children are able to enroll in and complete good quality primary education.

Areas of focus:

- 1) Strengthening civil society participation in the design and implementation of national and local education plans and frameworks.
- 2) Enabling local communities to monitor government spending on education, both at the national and local levels
- 3) Supporting innovative ways for civil society to ensure that all children, especially girls and the most vulnerable and disadvantaged are able to access quality education.

The CEF in Nigeria

Nigeria has an initial allocation of £750,000 over three years, starting April 2002 which will be managed by ActionAid Nigeria with support from Oxfam and Save the Children Fund. Details of proposed body of work that the fund will support in Nigeria can be found in the Strategic Programme of Work (SPW) which was developed through a

participatory process involving stakeholders in Nigeria in August 2002.

The Strategic Programme of Work recognizes that with the resources available, the priority is to focus primarily on actions which have an impact on the policy arena. The fund will not therefore support expressions whose primary purpose is to deliver educational services to poor people.

CEF meeting catalyses Education Coalition formation in Cameroon

In Yaounde, Cameroon, a Coalition Building Forum of Education Civil Society Organisation took place from the 25th to the 27th of February 2003. This forum was facilitated by ActionAid Nigeria in an attempt to put in place a structure that will help manage the Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF) in Cameroon. The CEF is the only substantial money made available by any donor since Dakar to assist civil society in poor Commonwealth countries to engage with government on the EFA process.

After three days of brainstorming and through a participatory process, a National Coalition on Education was born with representations at the National, Provincial and District levels. National Association of Cameroonian Language Committees (NACALCO) was nominated as the coordinating organisation at the National level and was charged with the responsibility of shepherding the coalition through its transition phase and also beginning the process of identifying lobby, advocacy and campaign issues for Cameroon.

The coalition building forum attracted over 40 civil society organisations working in the area of education. Other organisations that were present at the meeting include representatives from government, British Council, UNESCO, ActionAid Nigeria and the Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA). ANCEFA is the regional network for Africa made up of 25 national coalitions with headquarters in Senegal-Dakar.

In his presentation during the forum, the Coordinator for ANCEFA reported that civil society participation gained prominence after the Dakar meeting and is one of the criteria for endorsing any plan of action for a country. He went further to encourage civil society

in Cameroon to do all they can to ensure that the newly formed coalition is effective and efficient in seeking space and also acting as the voice for Cameroon noting that Cameroon is one of the countries with big challenges if it has to attain the EFA/MDG for 2005 and 2015. The coordinator called on the coalition to sound an alarm for governments and all actors in the EFA to move the process forward and encouraged the coalition to join ANCEFA.

In a related development, Mr. Charles Abani, Country Director ActionAid Nigeria (co-convenor of the forum) congratulated Cameroonians for bringing together such a large number of civil society organisations working in the area of education in order to form a coalition. He explained that the coalition could get institutional support from the CEF since one of the aims of the CEF is to help build the capacity of civil society so that they can in turn help their government to deliver on the EFA goals. Mr. Abani used the forum to put in place a managing mechanism for the CEF in Cameroon.

As fall out from the meeting, government representatives at the coalition-forming event have since convened a meeting with civil society actors to discuss the EFA plans.



The CEF Steering Committee in Nigeria

In order to oversee the process of managing the CEF fund, and in line with the recommendations emanating from a consultative process on how the fund should operate in Nigeria, a nine member steering committee has been constituted to manage the process. This steering committee is made up of representatives from the government, the private sector, the legislature, the media, and civil society, the committee also has representatives from the Lead agencies; Oxfam GB and ActionAid.

Membership is on personal recognition based on such considerations as gender balance, geo-political representation and professional background. The idea is to have a multi-disciplinary committee that is primarily Nigerian making decisions for Nigerians. Membership of the CEF Steering Committee does not attract any remuneration.

The Steering Committee meets quarterly and has held three meetings since being inaugurated in November of 2002. Members of this committee include:



Professor Jadesola Akande is the Executive Director, Women Law and Development Centre and represents civil society on the committee. Professor Akande holder of LL.B (Honors) PhD (London) OFR Professor of Law is also a Fellow of the University College, London, formerly Vice-Chancellor, Lagos State University, Lagos and currently Pro-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology Akure. She is also the National President, Forum for African Women Educationalist Nigeria (FAWEN). Professor Akande is an expert in Constitutional Law and Gender Issues.

Dr. Chima Ubani is the Deputy Director, Social Mobilization, Self-Help / Community Projects with the Universal Basic Education Programme and represents

government on the steering committee. Dr. Ubani taught at various levels including lecturing at University of Jos before joining the National Primary Education Commission. He has held several administrative and management positions and is currently involved in the implementation of the World Bank Assisted Primary Education Projects I and II.



Mrs Maryam Uwais is the Managing Partner, Wali Uwais and Co and is also a Council Member and Special Rapporteur on Children with the National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria. Maryam has worked with the Ministry of Justice Kano, Nigerian Law Reform Commission and is a member of several committees and commissions. She has actively participated in numerous National, State Government and civil society organized conferences, seminars and workshops relating especially to the concerns of Women and Children. She represents civil society on the CEF steering committee.



Mrs Amina Ibrahim is the National Coordinator Education for All (EFA) with the Federal Ministry of Education and represents government on the committee.



Mrs. Ibrahim has had over 20 years of working in the development sector. Before moving to take up the job with EFA she was the Moderator of the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA). With a background in management consultancy, Amina has worked with various private sector and government initiatives.

Honourable Tunde Lakoju is the Deputy Chair, House Committee on Education National Assembly and represents the Legislature on the committee. Honourable Lakoju is a Lawyer and holds a Doctorate Degree in Education. He worked as the Head of Research for UNDP before becoming a Legislator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



N d i d i Edozien is the Executive Director of the Growing Businesses Foundation ; a non-governmental

organisation championing the cause of sustainable economic development led by socially responsible businesses. A graduate of the London school of Economics (LSE), she has held senior positions in several of Nigeria's leading financial institutions. With a deep passion for African self determination and culturally rooted development, Ndid Edozien has written extensively on micro-finance and corporate social responsibility towards promoting people-centred, participatory development. To this end, she has promoted partnerships between governments, private sector organisations (formal and informal), development agencies and communities in Nigeria. Married with two children, Ndid Edozien is currently involved in postgraduate studies in the areas of culture, economics and business ethics at the Frankfurt University, Germany.

Mrs. Eugenia Abu is the Head of Presentation (News) of Nigerian Television Authority Headquarters, Abuja. She holds a B.A English



degree from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, M.A Communication Policy Studies from the City University London. A professional broadcast journalist, she is also a TV documentary producer, information strategist and writer for several newspapers including the New African of London. A two time standing committee Chairperson on media for the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), Eugenia Abu represents the media on the CEF steering committee.

Mr. Charles Abani is the Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria and represents the Lead Agency. With a background in



political economy and international relations, Mr. Abani has worked in the development sector for over 15 years. Before taking on the responsibility of setting up ActionAid Nigeria, he headed the operations of the Voluntary Service Organization (VSO) in Nigeria.

Suraj Olajide Ogunlayi is a Programme Officer (Market Access/ Fair Trade) with Oxfam GB. Suraj Ogunlayi holds a PhD in Agriculture



from the University of Ibadan and a Member of the Nigerian Institute of Management (MNIM). His working experience includes Lectureship/ Research at the University of Ibadan and banking with Afribank and Societe Generale Bank. Dr. Ogunlayi has served on various committees related to agricultural, rural and micro finance, including the Advisory Board of the UNDP - initiated Microstart Project in Nigeria. He represents Oxfam (one of the managing agencies) on the CEF steering committee.

ANCEFA'S Bid for CEF

The Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA) is the regional network for Africa made up of 25 national coalitions with headquarters in Dakar Senegal, sub-regional offices in Ghana for West Africa, Tanzania for East Africa, Congo for Central Africa and South Africa for Southern Africa. ANCEFA and PAMOJA (the network of REFLECT and Participatory Adult Literacy practitioners) in consultation with FAWE and the Global Campaign on Education (GCE) developed a joint proposal for support from the CEF. This proposal seeks to build on dialogue

newsletter and other forms for sharing best practice.

- To support the process of ANCEFA engaging in international advocacy through the GCE and input to critical issues on education.
- Developing mechanisms for designing a framework for regular and systematic monitoring on EFA between now and 2015.

ANCEFA's bid to the CEF is based on the premise that there are two-way linkages between actions required at national and regional levels - each feeding into the other. In addition, there needs to be a clear linkage between work at national and international level. ANCEFA offers the key mechanism that not only assists in linking national campaign work to the international level through the GCE but also provides a clear analysis of international issues and feeds these back into the national level to ensure that actions at national level are influenced by an appropriate understanding and analysis of what is taking place at the international level.

In order to be able to identify prospects for an increased involvement of civil society in EFA, ANCEFA and Oxfam GB jointly initiated case studies in five countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal). Generally, the report of these case studies showed that most countries had education as a right imbedded in the constitution of their countries. What remains to be seen is how the constitutional provisions will be translated into concrete actions that would lead to the attainment of EFA goals. Clearly, not much action is being taken in this direction. Education is under funded. It is therefore the responsibility of civil society to advocate for more resources to be allocated to education. The question is, how equipped is civil society to carry out this task? The need for capacity building for civil society to be able to engage with government can not be over emphasised.



From left, Gorgui Sow (ANCEFA), Ngwedee Teere (ActionAid), Charles Abani (ActionAid), Biribole Akinyemi (ActionAid) and Christophe Zungreza (ANCEFA) at MINEDAF VII

among key networks and also take into account the joint work between the G C E , ANCEFA and ASPBAE to address critical capacity needs of the civil society within the African continent. The primary focus of this proposal is to

build capacity for the development of advocacy, campaign and lobby plans among a number of civil society coalitions both within and outside CEF countries.

Key Activities in the proposal include:

- Institutional support to the regional secretariat of ANCEFA.
- Institutional support to the processes enabled through the offices of the four moderators, including the sharing of good practice, support to emerging networks, capacity building and case study work to support advocacy around the MDGs.
- Support for information sharing through the regional communications strategy including the website,

The Dakar Framework for Action (DFA), deliberated upon and signed on the World Education Forum in Dakar in April 2000 sets out the vision on Education For All (EFA). The six goals and their enabling strategies are the basis for international action.

The Dakar EFA Goals

1. Expand early childhood care and education. Expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
2. Free and compulsory education of good quality. Ensure that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and are able to complete primary education that is free, compulsory and of good quality.
3. Promote the acquisition of life-skills by adolescents and youth. Ensure that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes.
4. Expand adult literacy. Achieve a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults.
5. Eliminate gender disparities. Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieve gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality.
6. Enhance educational quality. Improve all aspects of the quality of education and ensure excellence so that all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills, achieves recognized and measurable learning outcomes.

On what basis! Do you know the key goals and targets in education that we are fighting for achieving by 2015?

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000 the states of the United Nations reaffirmed their commitment to working toward a world in which sustaining development and eliminating poverty would have the highest priority. The Millennium Development Goals grew out of the agreements and resolutions of world conferences organized by the United Nations in the past decade. The goals have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress.

Millennium Development Goals

Goals	targets
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and program and reverse the loss of environmental resources Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally)



Nigerian Appointed International Coordinator for the CEF

After a long and highly competitive recruitment process the CEF management Committee in London unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Chikezie Godwin Anyanwu a Nigerian as the new CEF Coordinator. By this appointment, Chike will be coordinating the CEF process in 17 Commonwealth countries.



Chike Anyanwu
CEF International Coordinator

Chike brings with him extensive experience of coalition building, campaigning and advocacy work across 16 countries in West Africa and was a key actor in the development of the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA) in Nigeria and the African Network Campaign on Education (ANCEFA). He also participated in the World Education Forum in Dakar and is

familiar with all the key debates around EFA.

Chike worked both in the governmental and non- governmental sectors. Before leaving for further studies in the U.K, he was a Programme Advisor with ActionAid Nigeria and while with ActionAid, Chike played a key role in the initial planning around the Commonwealth Education Fund within Nigeria and also undertook the first cross-boarder mission to Cameroon to make links for the development of a CEF programme in Cameroon.

ActionAid Nigeria joins other Nigerians to congratulate Chike on his appointment as the International Coordinator for the Commonwealth Education Fund and we believe that Chike has both the personal style and disposition to undertake this challenging task.

...and in the CEF secretariat...

The CEF secretariat is housed within ActionAid Nigeria's premises located at Plot 461 Kumasi Crescent Wuse II, Abuja and is staffed by two officers, Programme Advisor Education, Dr. Nguyen Shaku Feese and a Programme Administrator, Joyce Enaboifo and they are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Commonwealth Education Fund.



Joyce Enaboifo
CEF Programme Administrator



Nguyan Feese
CEF Coordinator

Dr. Feese holds two Master degrees in Public Administration and Educational Administration. She also holds a Doctorate degree in Guidance Counseling. She is an experienced teacher and was appointed to work with the public affairs department of the National Human Rights commission as the desk officer on human rights education. She has actively participated in several local and international seminars and workshops relating to education issues.

Joyce Enaboifo is a Program Administrator with ActionAid Nigeria. She has been involved with development work specifically worked with Access to Justice as a researcher and Media Rights Agenda as a legal officer. Joyce is a Law graduate and a member of both the Nigerian and International Bar Association.

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