



**EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FUND
COMMITTEE MEETING
DAKAR – DECEMBER 11, 2007**

MINUTES

1. **Participants.** See Annex A for the list of EPDF Committee meeting participants present. Representatives from Russia and Luxembourg were not present.

2. **Introduction.** An EDPF Committee meeting took place on December 11, 2007, in Dakar, Senegal. It was chaired by *Robin Horn, Sector Manager, Human Development Education Network, World Bank*. Ahead of the meeting, the FTI Secretariat sent to the Committee members the reports cited below, which were the basis for the Committee's work during the Dakar meetings. The objectives of the EPDF Committee meeting were to:

- a) review the EPDF Status Report prepared by the FTI Secretariat;
- b) examine the 2007 progress reports on EPDF-supported activities; and
- c) consider the 2008 funding proposals submitted by the regional education sector teams of the World Bank, and decide on funding.

3. **The EPDF Status Report.** *Kouassi Soman (FTI Secretariat, EPDF task manager)* presented the main messages of the Report, which are listed below.

- Two donors have joined since the last meeting—France (US \$7.4 million) and Japan (US \$1.2 million); with these additions, the number of EPDF donors increased from 8 (2006) to 10.
- Execution has picked up as a result of several factors, including more contracting out of activities by the World Bank (as supervising agency) to partner entities (such as UNESCO, and its sub-agencies) and support for the establishment of national systems (such as assessment of country capacity and learning outcomes).
- Disbursement has also increased from US \$3.2 million in 2006 to US \$14.7 million in 2007, or from 13% to 60% of commitments.
- The US \$7.5 million in bridge funding approved in September 2007 ensured no gap in execution of EPDF activities.
- As more countries have joined FTI, there has been a shift away from funding for the preparation of education sector plans (ESP) and the follow-up endorsement process, and towards (a) capacity development to help countries move on to execution; and (b) regional policy knowledge events and the sharing of good practices.
- The current batch of proposals reflect the Committee's decision in September 2007 that thematic as well as sector-wide activities (beyond basic education) could receive support as horizontal themes within the existing arrangements as set forth in the administrative agreement of EPDF.

4. Committee members and other participants raised the following issues with regard to the core features of the EPDF.

- Communication: the discussion highlighted the desirability of finding mechanisms to promote more and better knowledge-sharing among countries who benefit from EPDF, and about the knowledge generated by EPDF-supported activities. Donors suggested

the development of a brochure to ensure that countries know about the purposes and mechanisms of EPDF, the availability of EPDF resources, and how to apply for them, via the WB members of in-country groups. They also observed that the FTI website could be used for the same purpose.

- Strategic focus: Committee members called for mechanisms to increase the strategic focus of the EPDF. They noted that the EPDF is much more than a funding option. In particular, its goals are to help address FTI challenges and the four gaps. Some Committee members also indicated that a perception that some of the activities proposed in the December 2007 set of proposals are of an *ad hoc* nature and may have a negative impact on EPDF replenishment. Several donors reiterated the point that all EPDF support should be 100% aligned with the four objectives of the EPDF.
- Involvement of other partners: The Committee welcomed the interest of UNESCO to be more active in the FTI Partnership via, inter alia, EPDF and suggested that other agencies should be encouraged to participate. They can be particularly important in expanding the work of the World Bank regional teams in promoting knowledge sharing and dissemination of effective policies and practices.
- Architecture: given that the FTI was designed as a more adequate aid framework for promoting and funding the EFA goals, and not “business as usual” by bilateral as well as multilateral agencies, EPDF should have a role in supporting the “institutionalization” of the new architecture – especially at the country level.

5. **Agreements on follow up by the FTI Secretariat.** During the first quarter of 2008, and based on the discussions above, the Secretariat will undertake the tasks specified below (with deliverable dates indicated):

- a) Use the FTI website as a friendly resource management tool, inter alia for dissemination of knowledge, generated by EPDF activities, about effective policies and practices (by October 2008).
- b) Develop a web-based brochure to explain the EDPF and use it to broadly market its objectives (by mid-2008).
- c) Find ways to better reach in-country donor groups and governments to increase the likelihood that EPDF is more demand than supply-driven (by mid-2008).
- d) Conduct a desk review of EPDF, on the basis of existing records/data (that is, no new data collection at this point). This review will draw a qualified profile (matrix) of activities financed by EPDF since its inception. To the extent possible, the report would introduce indicators of the effectiveness of the EPDF as well as benchmarks (draft report by mid-April 2008).

6. Regarding item d) above, *Máire Matthews (Ireland)* informed the EPDF Committee members that a small reference group has been formed to support the review of the strategic focus of EPDF. In addition to *Máire*, the group includes *Nora Fyles (Canada)* and *Alcyone Vasconcelos (FTI Secretariat)*, who will take on the task management of the EPDF in 2008. A meeting of this group was held in Dakar. The meeting benefited from suggestions by *Jee-Peng Tan (World Bank, Education Sector Adviser from Africa)*. The draft TORs for the EPDF review will be prepared in January 2008 by the FTI Secretariat. Before being submitted to the Committee members for review, the Secretariat will circulate the draft to WB education sector managers for their feedback and comments. A draft report is expected by April 2008, in time for the Tokyo meetings. As an input into the review, Irish Aid will provide the Secretariat with the recent evaluation of its Irish Education Trust Fund.

7. **Review of 2007 Progress Reports and 2008 Funding Requests.** Two WB Education sector managers were at the meeting to present their regional proposals. They were *Jee-Peng Tan*, for Africa, who presented a request for US \$15.2 million, and *Christopher Thomas*, for East Asia and the Pacific, who presented a request for US \$3.8 million. The other WB regions were reached via video-conference with other staff in Washington, DC. *Mourad Ezzine*, for the Middle East and North Africa, presented a proposal for US \$1.2 million. *Eduardo Velez*, for Latin America and the Caribbean, presented a proposal for US \$3.1 million. *Reema Nayar*, on behalf of Michelle Riboud, for South Asia, presented a request for US \$3.1 million. *Dina Abu-Ghaida*, for Europe and Central Asia, stated that she was present on behalf of the region but was not prepared to make a presentation. The ECA region requested US \$2.1 million.

8. **Discussion.** Several Committee members voiced concerns about what they perceived as a general lack of strategic direction of most proposals. The Committee approved, *in locus*, two proposals, for East Asia and the Pacific and for the Middle East and North Africa. The Committee agreed on interim procedures for carrying out additional reviews of the other four proposals (see details in Annex B). The Committee also requested that the Secretariat, as part of the review of EPDF aforementioned, provide suggestions for consideration by the Committee on guidance for regional teams on how to make their requests for EPDF funding more aligned with FTI objectives and the four gaps.

9. The interim procedures were implemented by Committee members, with final decisions on the four regional proposals taken on January 15, 2008 (see details of the final allocation decisions in Annex C).

Annex A

EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE MEETING DAKAR - 11 DECEMBER 2007			
AGENCY/COUNTY	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
CHAIR	Robin Horn	Sector Manager, Education - World Bank	rhorn@worldbank.org
CANADA	Nora Fyles	Director, CIDA	nora_fyles@acdi-cida.gc.ca
FRANCE	Alain Dhersigny	Head of Education policies division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	alain.dhersigny@diplomatie.gouv.fr
IRISH AID	Maire Matthews	Senior Development specialist - Education	Marie.matthews@dfa.ie
JAPAN	Hirohichi Morishita	Senior Program Officer	Morishita.Hirohichi@jica.go.jp
	Ushio Tashibu	Special Officer for Development Finance	Ushio.tashibu@mof.go.jp
NETHERLANDS	Ronald Siebes	Basic Education Expert, Education Division DCO/OO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	ronald.siebes@minbuza.nl
	Rebekka van Roemburg	Basic Education Adviser	rebekka-van.roemburg@minbuza.nl
NORWAY	Olav Seim	Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	ose@mfa.no
	Hildegunn Tobiassen	Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Hildegunn.tobiassen@norad.no
SWEDEN	Kaviraj Appadu	Senior Programme Officer, SIDA	kaviraj.appadu@sida.se
UK	Carlton Evans	Programme and Policy Manager	C-Evans@dfid.gov.uk
	Phil Rose	Head Education Policy Team, DFID	p-rose@dfid.gov.uk
UNESCO	Nicholas Burnett	Assistant Director General, Education	n.burnett@unesco.org
	Lina Benete	Assistant Program Specialist	lbenete@unesco.org
	Mark Bray	Director, IIEP	m.bray@unesco.org
UNICEF	Dina Craissati	Senior Adviser	dcraissati@unicef.org
WORLD BANK	Jee-Peng Tan	Adviser, Africa Human Development Unit	itan@worldbank.org
	Franke Hendrik Toornstra	Sr. Operations Officer	ftoornstra@worldbank.org
	Nancy Pinto	Trust Fund Coordinator	Npinto@worldbank.org
	Christopher Thomas	Manager, Education	cthomas3@worldbank.org
OBSERVER			
AUSTRALIA	Cameron Bowles	Director	cameron.bowles@ausaid.gov.au
BELGIUM	Beatrix Van Hemeldonck	Minister Plenipotentiary	beatrix.vanhemeldonck@diplobel.fed.be
SPAIN	Alberto Begué	Education Advisor	colaboradores.aba@maec.es
	Marta Romero	Technical Advisor	marta.romero@aeci.es
FTI SECRETARIAT			
	Desmond Bermingham	Head of FTI Secretariat	dbermingham@worldbank.org
	Robert Prouty	Deputy Head	Rprouty@worldbank.org
	Kouassi Soman	Economist	ksoman@worldbank.org
	Luc Gacougnolle	Education Planner	lgacougnolle@worldbank.org
	Chantal Rigaud	Sr. Program Assistant	crigaud@worldbank.org
	Michelle Mesen	Consultant	mmesen@worldbank.org
	Olav Christensen	Sr. Public Finance Specialist	ochristensen@worldbank.org
	Alcyone Vasconcelos	Sr. Education Specialist	avasconcelos@worldbank.org
VIDEO CONFERENCE			
WORLD BANK	Eduardo Velez Bustillo	Sector Manager	Evelezbustillo@worldbank.org
	Mourad Ezzine	Sector Manager	Mezzine@worldbank.org
	Reema Nayar	Lead Economist	Rnayar@worldbank.org
	Keiko Inoue	Operations Officer	Kinoue@worldbank.org
	Linda K. English	Senior Education Specialist	Lenglish@worldbank.org
	Dina N. Abu-Ghaida	Sr. Economist	Dabighaida@worldbank.org
FTI SECRETARIAT	Palak Mehra	Operations Officer	pmehra@worldbank.org
	Sean Tate	Consultant	state@worldbank.org
	Koli Banik	Consultant	kbanik@worldbank.org
	Magali Laguerre	Program Assistant	mlaguerre@worldbank.org

Annex B

Education Program Development Fund December 11, 2008 – Dakar, Senegal Interim Decision-Making Process

With regard with the funding requests submitted in this round, two were approved during the meeting: (i) Middle East and North Africa and (ii) East Asia and Pacific regions. The Committee felt uncomfortable approving the other four funding requests at that time. To accommodate the valid concerns raised, an interim 5-step process was agreed. The steps are described below.

- 1) After the meeting, each of the four proposals will be carefully reviewed by pairs of donor representatives.
 - Latin America and Caribbean: Netherlands (Ronald) and Spain
 - South East Asia: Canada and Australia
 - Europe and Central Asia: Japan and United Kingdom
 - Africa: France, Ireland and Netherlands (Rebekka)
- 2) For this review, no additional information is required from the World Bank Regional education managers. Based on this review, the pairs will make their final decisions.
- 3) By January 4, the FTI Secretariat will receive the final decisions. They will come in one of three possible options: a) Approved as is; b) Approved with qualifications or conditions; c) Not approved. Line veto could be applied, as judged by reviewers. Non-approved proposals or items could be revised and resubmitted during the next meeting of the EPDF Committee in April 2008.
- 4) Immediately the FTI Secretariat will forward all four decisions to all EPDF Committee members for final approval, on a non-objection basis. Donors have until January 15, 2008 to express their positions. Silence will be interpreted as approval of decisions put forward by reviewers.
- 5) Immediately the Secretariat will communicate to the World Bank Regions the final position of the EPDF Committee regarding the December round of funding requests.
- 6) At all times, the FTI Secretariat will be ready to provide clarifications to EPDF Committee members at any point in the process.

Annex C

Funding requests for the Dakar meeting December 2007

US\$ thousands

World Bank Region	Funds requested	Funds approved	Percentage
Africa	15 200	14 900	98
East Asia and the Pacific	3 885	3 885	100
Europe and Central Asia	2 154	2 154	100
Latin America and the Caribbean	3 150	400	13
Middle East and North Africa	1 269	1 269	100
South Asia Region	3 121,40	2 191	70
Total	28 779,40	24 799,40	86