

EDUCATION FOR ALL – FAST TRACK INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

The Education Program Development Fund and The Catalytic Fund

When regular channels of financial support to developing countries are not sufficient to cover the identified needs of the education sector, two trust funds established by FTI donor partners can be accessed: the Education Program Development Fund (EPDF) and the Catalytic Fund (CF). Support from both funds takes the form of quickly disbursing grants.

The Education Program Development Fund: Placing More Countries on Track

The EPDF was created to enable more low-income countries to access the FTI and accelerate progress towards universal primary education.

For developing countries without education plans and weak capacity to develop them, the EPDF can provide technical support and build the capacity required to prepare and implement a sound education plan. It can also support all low-income countries in sharing their knowledge and experience on education and how to reach the goal of universal primary education.

EPDF	
Established	November 2004
Administered by	The World Bank
Managed by	Strategy Committee composed of donors to the fund
Donors	Canada, France, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom
Accessing EPDF funds	Government representatives and/or development partners should contact the Lead Coordinating Agency in the education sector or the World Bank Task Team leader in the country to engage in dialogue and define activities to be presented for support.
Eligible recipients	All low income countries
Eligible activities	Technical assistance for country-led development of education policies and a national education sector plan; technical support to share knowledge derived from country experience in the preparation and implementation of national policies and education sector plans
Total commitments	US\$ 91 million (2005-2009)
Recipients	60 low-income countries are receiving support from the EPDF

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The Catalytic Fund: Filling the Financing Gap during Implementation

The Catalytic Fund was established by FTI donors to provide transitional short term funding (two to three years) to help close the financing gap for countries with too few donors, while aiming to leverage more sustainable support through regular bilateral and multilateral channels.

The CF currently has commitments of approximately US\$ 300 million per year for 2007 and 2008, or approximately 10% of aid to basic education in low income countries. The CF is intended to supplement and complement bilateral and multilateral financing for education and provides important backing to the FTI commitment that realistic financing needs in all qualifying countries will be met.

Catalytic Fund	
Established	November 2003
Administered by	The World Bank
Managed by	Strategy Committee composed of donors to the fund
Donors	Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom
Accessing CF funds	Once a country's education plan has been endorsed by donors present locally and submitted to the FTI Secretariat, any financing gap identified during the endorsement process will be presented to the CF Strategy Committee. The Committee makes decisions on CF allocations at least twice a year based on its assessment of countries most in need and where the CF resources would be best used.
Eligible recipients	Low income countries endorsed for support in FTI
Eligible activities	All activities related to implementation of a country's education sector plan
Total commitments	US\$ 1.3 billion (2003-2009)
Recipients	Benin, Cambodia, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, and Yemen

The FTI Secretariat reports regularly to the FTI Partners on the Funds' activities.