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Please send suggestions regarding
this newsletter to:

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Bob Prouty, Selected as Head of EFA – FTI Secretariat

Effective January 2010, Bob Prouty was selected by the EFA FTI Board of Directors as the Head of the FTI Secretariat. In this capacity, Bob will be responsible for the management of the FTI Secretariat. He will also work with the Board of Directors and Board Chair Carol Bellamy to put in place a new results-based framework and undertake other reforms in order to make FTI a more effective multilateral mechanism for global education.

A Note from Bob Prouty, Head, EFA – FTI Secretariat

Dear partners,

As for many of you, I have been deeply saddened by the tragedy in Haiti over the last two weeks. The education sector was particularly hard hit by the earthquake; recovery will be a long and challenging process. The Fast Track Initiative will transfer \$22 million to Haiti—most of it through a Multi-donor Trust Fund. The first transfer is expected to go to the World Food Program for school feeding. Additional funds will soon be made available for reconstruction of classrooms and other buildings. Other priorities will be identified by the Local Education Group working with the Education Cluster. Check our website for periodic updates over the coming weeks and months.

A special meeting of the FTI Board of Directors will convene in Paris on February 11-12, to consider issues of fundamental importance for the future of the partnership. In response to the mid-term evaluation, the Board will discuss changes in **governance**—including a greater voice for partner countries; **accountability**—development of a results framework for determining progress by all partners at the global and the country level; and the **evolving role of all partners**, including the World Bank and the Secretariat. It is expected that the Secretariat will be asked to take a more proactive role in monitoring implementation and financing of Education Sector Plans.

Over the past few weeks, we have conducted extensive consultations and had insightful discussions on the mid-term evaluation and priorities for change in the FTI partnership. Consultations were held with CSOs in Washington D.C. and in London, and with representatives from Ministries of Education from nine West African countries. These events are part of an ongoing effort to improve communications, and to develop a much stronger focus on results going forward.

For more information, please contact Robert Prouty at rprouty@educationfasttrack.org

FTI Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors. UNESCO, Paris, February 11-12, 2010

The upcoming Board Meeting will discuss the recommendations highlighted in the mid-term [evaluation report](#) released in December 2009, which called for the need for strategic and governance reforms within FTI. The issues and decisions taken during this meeting will form the backbone of subsequent FTI meetings this year and provide guidance to reform and reinvigorate the FTI partnership. Observers from civil society organizations and key countries have been invited to fully contribute to the discussions. The following countries and organizations have been invited: Brookings Institute, CODE, Gates Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, USAID, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Mozambique, Norway, Rwanda, and Zambia.

For more information, please contact Michelle Mesen at mmesen@educationfasttrack.org

More Funding for Education

In the context of the resource mobilization campaign, new FTI Chair Carol Bellamy met with partners in the UK, the Netherlands, France, and Spain and with EC officials in Brussels. She also met with the US administration (USAID and State Department) and civil society organizations including GCE and ONE. She is scheduled to meet with high level representatives from Norway, Sweden and Germany in February and will also reach out to new partners such as South Korea.

For more information, please contact Aby Toure at Akonate@worldbank.org

Our Emergency Response to Haiti's Plight

On January 12, 2010, a tragic earthquake shook Haiti resulting in devastating human and infrastructure losses. The education sector has been especially hard hit. Many schools have been destroyed all over the country (over 60% of schools in Port au Prince have collapsed). The Ministry of Education building no longer stands and has no operational capacity. Countless government teachers and education sector officials have lost their lives.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) launched a Flash Appeal on January 15 requesting \$575 million from the international community for the emergency response during the first 6 months. The Education Cluster put together an education sector response of \$23 million for projects by UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children and Plan International. As of January 28, 77% of the total appeal was covered but only 2% of the education sector needs have been met so far.

Haiti is an FTI partner country. Our immediate priority is to provide temporary education facilities for thousands of children whose schools have collapsed. An FTI grant of \$22 million was approved for Haiti in September 2009. Since the earthquake, the FTI secretariat has been working strenuously to restructure the grant so that the \$22 million is made immediately available to respond to the needs of the education system. FTI secretariat staff have met with the World Bank's Haiti country team and education team. FTI is also in contact with the *Groupe Sectoriel en Education*, composed by the Ministry of Education and the donors, and with the Education Cluster in Haiti, coordinated by UNICEF and Save the Children for the emergency response.

As soon as the grant is disbursed FTI intends to support temporary school facilities and a school feeding program through the World Food Program, which will distribute high energy biscuits to children from 5 to 18 years old. This is intended to get kids back to school, respond to the immediate nutritional needs of children and encourage parents to send their children to school, even if they were not at school before the earthquake. The Ministry of Education with the help of the Education Cluster is conducting a needs assessment of the education system which will inform future education interventions.

90% of the education system in Haiti is covered by the private sector. In the reconstruction of the education system, the FTI will encourage the Government to assume their responsibilities of the education of the Haitian people.

For more information, please contact Alberto Begué at abegue@educationfasttrack.org

Inclusive Education in Timor-Leste

On December 18, 2009, the Acting Minister of Education, His Excellency, Paulo Assis Belo, and the Director General of Education, Apolinario Magno, cut the ribbon to the new Office of Inclusive Education in the Ministry of Education in Dili. Inclusive education is one of the four components under [EFA FTI](#) which commenced in Timor-Leste in April 2009. The main purposes of the EFA FTI program are to expand access to education and improve learning achievements for marginalized groups in Timor-Leste. Children who are disadvantaged include children with special needs, children who live in remote mountainous areas many kilometers away from their nearest primary school, children who are expected to care for younger siblings and children whose parents are illiterate and do not understand the value of education. A main obstacle to reach out to all those children is the lack of data. For example, there is no data to identify the children with special needs enrolled or out-of-school. Recent research by PLAN Timor-Leste suggests that 1% of children enrolled in primary school have some form of disability.

In November 2009, the Ministry of Education launched its first draft five-year strategic plan for 2010-2015 including inclusive education as a priority. Despite remarkable efforts to make education a reality for all children, the sector faces many challenges: Current figures show that almost half of all children are not enrolled at the age of six, the official age of primary enrolment. The next 12 months will be important as the Office of Inclusive Education works toward developing the position paper on Inclusive Education, commences the establishment of inclusive education focal points in school clusters and undertakes training. It will establish the first National Resource Centre in the capital Dili and work toward raising awareness of the value of education for all, and finally concentrate on pre-school and primary enrolments specifically for disadvantaged children.

For more information, contact Ms. Janet Nye, Advisor for Inclusive Education for the FTI program in Dili, Timor-Leste: mnye.janet@gmail.com.

Nation-Wide Consultations on Liberia's Education Sector Plan (ESP)

The [Government of Liberia](#) began a series of nation-wide consultations in November 2009 on its recently drafted Education Sector Plan (ESP) which will replace the Liberian Primary Education Recovery Program, which was endorsed by EFA FTI in April 2007.

This Education Sector Plan will be the first comprehensive plan in Liberia to take a sectoral approach. The scope of national consultations, led by the Ministry of Education, underpins the country's ownership in the process. Seven consultations were held at the regional and county level. Minister of Education, Dr. Joseph D. Z. Korto and Deputy Minister for Planning, Research and Development at the Ministry of Education, James E. Roberts, attended almost all of the meetings. The majority of participants were Ministry of Education personnel such as teachers and District and County Education Officers. Women as well as students, adult learners, traders, police personnel, traditional and community leaders, along with mayors and development superintendents took an active part in the meetings. The delegates had clear expectations on what the education sector should provide and emphasized the need and value of education for each individual and for their country. This was a strong message considering that some of the participants were themselves illiterate. Youths, students and women were very vocal, and many delegates insisted on having their voices heard on various topics. The area of greatest concern was teacher quality, particularly attracting and retaining trained teachers in rural areas.

Some participants made great efforts to attend the meetings as bad road conditions and heavily forested areas forced them to walk two days to get to the meetings. The consultations culminated in a national summit attended by high-level officials from various Ministries, civil society, donor partners, international NGOs and the press. The purpose of this summit was to inform education stakeholders about the ESP and to present the outcomes from the nationwide consultations leading to the finalization of the plan.

For more information, contact Ms. Koli Banik at kbanik@educationfasttrack.org

Stakeholder Consultations on FTI's Mid Term Evaluation

Consultations with nine West-African countries: Following the mid-term evaluation of the EFA FTI Partnership, the FTI Secretariat has engaged in a series of consultations with various stakeholders. Initiated by the Minister of Education from Burkina Faso, Madame Marie Odile Bonkoungou, nine West African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo) participated in a series of 3 video conferences to discuss the evaluation, provide their feedback and propose recommendations for moving forward.

Meeting at the Brookings Institution: FTI participated in a half-day consultation *Scaling up for Success: Redesigning the Global Education Aid Architecture* sponsored by the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institute. Read the [recommendations](#) of the meeting.

For more information, please contact Nawsheen Elaheebocus at Nelaheebocus@worldbank.org

Communications and Knowledge Sharing Updates

Last November the Communications Team reiterated its intention to enhance FTI's visibility and give its partners greater access to a vast array of tools and resources for knowledge-sharing. One of the first objectives was to provide French-speaking partners with a refurbished and upgraded French website. As we are polishing-up the last translations, the beta version of the French website is available at <http://www.educationfasttrack.org/fr/>. It is our commitment to make professional translations of articles, press releases, and other key documents readily available. The final version of French website will be launched at the beginning of February 2010.

Both English and French websites will soon have interactive multimedia platforms to enable our visitors to share information on our upcoming annual report, and our progress and response to the mid-term evaluation.

Last a new section "[FTI in the News](#)" is now available on the FTI Web site. This selection of articles is drawn from the media and features stories about the FTI Secretariat and its work. This month's articles include among others:

[Govt. Moves to Ensure Child Survival, Education](#): The Gambia -- (Today) -- 01/28/10 -- The government of the Gambia has highlighted the important link between de-worming, child survival and the acquisition of education, reiterating its commitment to ensure that children are well catered for, protected and provided the much-needed education they need to grow into responsible adults.

[National Budgetary Allocation to Education For the 2010 Fiscal Year \(press release by Education For All Sierra Leone Coalition\)](#): Freetown, Sierra Leone -- (Awareness Times) -- 01/27/10 -- The Education For All – Sierra Leone Coalition (EFA-SL) is seriously concerned about the reduced budgetary allocation from 11.3% in 2009 to 10.8 percent this year.

For more information and to provide your feedback on the Web site, please contact Mr. Yann Doignon at ydoignon@educationfasttrack.org

Upcoming Events

February 10, 2010	Launch of UNESCO report Education under Attack 2010 and Protecting Education from Attack: A State of the Art Review, New York, USA
February 11 – 12, 2010	FTI Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors. UNESCO, Paris
February 17 – 19, 2010	Teachers in Fragile States workshop in Nairobi, Kenya
February 23 – 25, 2010	UNESCO EFA High Level Group Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
February 25, 2010	Launch of EFA-FTI Annual Report 2009
March 1 – 5, 2010	CIES Conference Chicago, USA