



Highlight

Aid Effectiveness in Action

November 2010



The Education for All – Fast Track Initiative (EFA FTI) is a global partnership of donors and developing countries, multilateral institutions, and civil society organizations, dedicated to ensuring that all children receive quality basic education. It aims to achieve Education for All by efficiently using international resources and matching donors’ efforts with developing countries’ own education strategies. Aid effectiveness is a core principle of EFA FTI.

Good practices for an effective partnership

EFA FTI is a *compact* based on the principle of mutual accountability between developing countries and donor partners. It anticipates clear commitments from governments as well as donor and civil society partners to develop, implement and monitor national education sector plans. EFA FTI is fully aligned with a country’s national education priorities.

Led by developing countries

Developing country ownership, including increased domestic financing, is essential in growing education systems. FTI countries increased their domestic expenditures for primary education by 6 to 9% per annum between 2000 and 2005, higher on average than their economic growth in the same period.

Better Coordination

Coordination mechanisms within the education sector vary from country to country. They should, however, promote an open dialogue among government institutions, bilateral donors, multilateral agencies, and civil society groups) as they are best placed to set up and monitor the country’s education sector plan. Within the FTI partnership, such stakeholder groups are called Local Education Groups.

Smarter Aid

EFA FTI offers donors an opportunity to leverage aid dollars and scale up efforts to put more children into school—without having to expand their bilateral aid operations. Pooling donor resources and reducing aid overhead costs will result in more support for children in developing countries. Since 2002, applying financing channels such as pooled funding and sector budget support increased from 25% of FTI-supported countries (2003-2005) to 71% (2009-2010). EFA FTI uses 3-year funding cycles to improve aid predictability which benefits effective planning.

Mutual Accountability

FTI countries, donor partners, and civil society organizations work together in Local Education Groups and this ensures that 'mutual accountability' principles are applied and effectively monitored. Steady progress in the education sector depends on coordinated actions by the government, donor partners and civil society. A new Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy is currently being developed by EFA FTI, which attempts to move beyond *how* aid is delivered to an understanding about whether a *joint approach* leads towards desired outcomes



“We reiterate our support to the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative as a good practice for aid effectiveness (...)”

Final communiqué, G8, July 2009