

SCHOOL FEE ABOLITION INITIATIVE (SFAI)

**Workshop:
“Building on WHAT WE KNOW and Defining SUSTAINED SUPPORT”**

**Nairobi
5 – 7 April 2006**

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

1. Background and Rational

In 2005 UNICEF and the World Bank launched a School Fee Abolition Initiative (SFAI), which has gained considerable momentum through involvement of other key development partners. The goal of this collaborative effort is twofold. First, it is to review, analyze and harness knowledge and experience pertaining to the impact of school fee abolition and how countries cope with the fall out from such a bold policy decision. Second, the goal is to use this knowledge and experience as the basis for providing guidance and support to selected countries embarking on a policy of school fee abolition, in planning and implementing such a policy, as well as in securing appropriate external assistance in the short and medium term to cope with the “fall out” of such bold policy measures. It is also expected that the guidance and support provided to these countries will help with stabilizing a more equitable and sustainable education system through better allocation and effective management of resources. In pursuit of these objectives, several activities are now ongoing within the framework of the Initiative (see attached Concept Note).

The present workshop relates mainly to the activity of harnessing the experiential knowledge of six countries that have been through the consequences of policy measures related to school fee abolition, and channeling this knowledge into an **Operational Guidance Paper** (together with six accompanying **Country Papers**). The six countries concerned represent good cases to learn from in terms of coping mechanisms and innovative strategies: Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Ghana. Country teams in the six countries have been mobilized by UNICEF and are led by senior MOE officials with the support of Development Partners. The country teams are preparing Country Papers, which will document the process and lessons learned from planning and implementing school fee abolition. These papers will be presented and discussed during the workshop in Nairobi on 5, 6 and 7 April, 2006. The Country Papers and the discussions during the Nairobi workshop will provide the basis for the content of the Operational Guidance Paper. The country teams will finalize the Country Papers after the Nairobi workshop.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The main purpose of the workshop is to harness experiential knowledge on planning and implementing school fee abolition policies and to consolidate partnerships for short and medium term support to countries which have chosen the path of this bold policy measure. The key objectives can be summarized as follows:

- 2.1. Laying out the content of the Operational Guidance Paper: The Operational Guidance Paper will present key issues, challenges, coping mechanisms and lessons learned in planning and implementing a policy on school fee abolition. It will be used by agencies and development partners as a guidance and advocacy tool at national, regional and international levels, but will mainly serve in accompanying and guiding the Governments willing to engage in a process of school fee abolition. An international consultant has been recruited to undertake this task. A fully revised version will be ready by mid-June.
- 2.2. Refining the six Country Papers which will include concrete proposals on the way forward and specific requirement for technical and financial support. These Papers will present key issues, challenges, coping mechanisms and lessons learned in planning and implementing a policy on school fee abolition and will serve in accompanying the concerned Governments in addressing the challenges they continue to face in sustaining their school fee abolition policy and in mobilizing technical and financial support. An international consultant has been recruited to support the revision of the Country Papers, which should be ready by end May.
- 2.3. Consolidating partnerships around SFAI and its Business Plan. The Nairobi workshop will represent the third SFAI meeting after the meetings in Beijing in November 2005 and in New York in January 2006.

3. Participants and Resource Persons

- 3.1. The main participants at this workshop are the country delegations. The six concerned countries will be led by high level technical MOE officials accompanied by development partners and the national consultant writing the Country Paper (5 to 6 member delegation).
- 3.2. Two countries which have just announced abolition and which could benefit from the process are also invited: DRC and Burundi. These will be represented by Government officials and development partners (3 to 4 member delegation).
- 3.3. Haiti is also invited given the present momentum in the country and the pledge to education reforms by the new President. Almost 85% of Haiti's schools are private.
- 3.4. Development partners at regional and global levels, which have been involved in SFAI and which include the World Bank, UN and bilateral agencies, non-governmental and civil society organizations and networks, and academic institutions. New partners will also be invited.
- 3.5. Experts and international consultants.

4. Organization and Format

The workshop is organized around five main sessions and will include focused plenary sessions and highly interactive group work facilitated by a range of resource persons and experts. The five main sessions will focus on the following:

- 4.1. The “State of the Art” on School Fee Abolition: This session will look at the broad issues and arguments, strategies and policy options, challenges and evidence around the abolition of school fees and user costs at the global level.
- 4.2. Experiential Knowledge: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Field: This series of plenary sessions and group work will review the experiences of the six countries in planning and implementing school fee abolition. Each country will focus on its particular context in addressing the key issues, but through group work and the process of reporting back to plenary, there will be opportunity to engage in substantial comparative analysis. The session will conclude with a summary of key issues and challenges in the process of planning and implementing school fee abolition.
- 4.3. Mapping out the Operational Guidance (for the education system and beyond): This series of plenary sessions will be led by selected experts, and will include 8 presentations which will outline key elements for the proposed Operational Guidance package. This package will address the needs of the education system in coping with school fee abolition, but will also relate to issues beyond education in terms of wider social concerns and vulnerable groups that may be adversely affected by school fees abolition. The presentations will draw on the country experiences discussed earlier. They will be followed by reviews and additions from participants in building up a comprehensive Operational Guidance package.
- 4.4. Putting the Operational Guidance to Test: This series of plenary sessions and group work will be organized around the case of four countries, which have recently declared free primary education: DRC, Burundi and Ghana (Ghana had piloted implementation at the district levels for the past two years and has now declared abolition at the national level). Haiti has been added as a case where the expansion of the coverage of the public schools is at stake (together with the accompanying costs). The country cases will be presented in the form of key questions related to challenges the four countries are facing and the session will detail the key elements of the Operational Guidance, which can be used by the concerned countries for further planning and implementation.
- 4.5. Consolidating the Operational Guidance: This series of plenary sessions and group work will consolidate the content of the Operational Guidance package based on the deliberations of the first two days of the workshop. This will also help to revise the six Country Papers and develop them into useful tools for the concerned countries on the way forward for sustaining their policy on school fee abolition.

The closing will address the way forward in terms of finalizing the Operational Guidance and the Country Papers and mobilizing technical and financial support.

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2006

08:30 – 10:00 Official Opening

Chair: Bob Prouty (World Bank)
Speakers: 1. Welcome speech – Per Engebak (UNICEF ESARO)
2. Brief statements on behalf of partners (UNESCO, WFP, European Commission, Commonwealth Secretariat, USAID, Japan, Germany, Netherlands, Save the Children)
3. Introduction of delegations
4. Keynote address and formal opening – Hon. Dr. Noah Wekesa (Acting Minister of Education and Minister for Science and Technology, Kenya)
Rapporteur: Jyotsna Jha

10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **First Session (plenary):
The “State of the Art” on School Fee Abolition**

Chair: Fletcher Zenengeya (PS MOE, Malawi)
Presenters: 1. Making the most of the Nairobi workshop – Cream Wright (UNICEF HQ)
2. Recent progress toward the elimination of school fees: Policy issues and implementation challenges – Michael Wilson (consultant)
3. What role for civil society? – David Gartner (Global AIDS Alliance) and Joanne Carter (Results)
4. What role for HIV/AIDS networks? – Don Bundy (World Bank)
Discussion: *Open discussion on the presentations.
Introduction of the agenda: Dina Craissati (UNICEF HQ)
Logistical issues: Eunice Wambugu*
Rapporteurs: Emily Lugano and Victoria Treland

12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 15:00 **Second Session (1. plenary): Experiential Knowledge: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Field**

Chair: Taeko Okitsu (MFA Japan)
Presenters: *Country presentations will be given by key officials of Ministries of Education and will be followed by clarification questions from the floor.*
1. Kenya: “Coping with surge”
2. Mozambique: “Coping with quality and equity”

3. Tanzania: “Addressing the accountability flow from the center to the school level”
4. Malawi: “Planning and managing the rising demand for teachers”
5. Ethiopia: “Financing education within a highly decentralized system”
6. Ghana: “Piloting the school fees capitation grant at district levels”

Introduction of group work: Birger Fredriksen and Marie Dorleans (consultants)

Rapporteurs: Manfred Winnefeld and Valerie Alvarez

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 Second Session (2. group work): Experiential Knowledge: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Field

There will be three groups, each composed of the delegations of two countries (from the six which have abolished fees) and participants at the regional and global levels. The groups will discuss in detail the country experiences and will outline key challenges and lessons learned in addressing the challenges. Each group will highlight similarities and differences between the two concerned countries. EACH GROUP WILL DECIDE ON WHO WILL REPORT BACK TO PLENARY.

Group 1:	Kenya and Mozambique Chair: MOE Kenya Facilitator: Yumiko Yokoseki (JICA) Rapporteurs: Sara Wright and Roger Avenstrup
Group 2:	Tanzania and Malawi Chair: MOE Malawi Facilitator: Janice Dolan (Save the Children UK) Rapporteurs: Alex Alubisia and Sandra Barton
Group 3:	Ethiopia and Ghana Chair: MOE Ghana Facilitator: Augustine Agu (UNICEF) Rapporteurs: Setotaw Yimam and Christian Koramoah

17:00 – 18:30 Second Session (3. report back to plenary and summary): Experiential Knowledge: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Field

Chair: Igor Kitaev (UNESCO/IIEP)
 Presentations: ***Report back by each of the 3 groups.***
 Discussion: ***Open discussion on the presentations.***
 Summary: 4. Key issues and challenges in the process of planning and implementing a policy of school fee abolition – Birger Fredriksen (consultant)
 Rapporteurs: Esther Hirsch and Susan Nkinyangi

free evening

THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2006

08:30 – 10:00 Third Session (1. plenary): Mapping out the Operational Guidance: The education system

Chair: Cream Wright (UNICEF HQ)

Presenters: *Presenters will outline key elements of an operational module; reviews and additions from the floor will follow after all the presentations.*

1. Infrastructure and logistics, resources and supplies – Deborah Dishman (UNICEF WCARO)
2. Building the capacities of schools: Planning, budgeting, procurement, and management – Prof. George Godia (ES MOE Kenya)
3. Bringing teachers in: Participation, recruitment, training and emoluments – presentation by Peter Devries (UNICEF Ghana), prepared by Jill Jupiter-Jones (USAID), Alex Alubisia (AKF), Augustine Agu (UNICEF Ethiopia) and Peter Devries (UNICEF Ghana)
4. The quality imperative: Ensuring retention and completion – Bob Prouty (World Bank)

Rapporteurs: Joanne Carter and Peter Devries

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break - PRESS CONFERENCE

10:30 – 12:30 Third Session (2. plenary): Mapping out the Operational Guidance: Beyond education

Chair: Tracy Brunette (USAID)

Presenters: *Presenters will outline key elements of an operational module; reviews and additions from the floor will follow after all the presentations.*

5. Targeting children affected by HIV/AIDS and factoring HIV/AIDS programs into school fee abolition – Rose Smart (Mobile Task Team)
6. Opportunity costs and reaching out to working children – Bob Prouty (World Bank)
7. Cash transfers, waiver schemes, social safety nets – Rose Smart (Mobile Task Team)
8. Issues of finance and building sound policy frameworks – Igor Kitaev (UNESCO/IIEP)

Rapporteurs: Cassandra Jesse and Jill Jupiter-Jones

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Fourth Session (1. plenary): Putting the Operational Guidance to Test

Chair: Bruno Maes (UNICEF Ethiopia)

Presenters: *Country presentations will be given by key officials of Ministries of Education from four countries which recently declared free primary*

education. The presentations will be in form of key questions thrown at the audience with regards to the particular challenges these countries face. The questions will be addressed in the following group work.

1. Democratic Republic of Congo: “Dealing with size and complexity”
2. Burundi: “School fee abolition in post-conflict transition”
3. Ghana: “Moving from pilots to national levels”
4. Haiti: “Cost and expanding the coverage of public schools”

Discussion: *Open discussion on the presentations.*

Introduction of group work: Marie Dorleans (consultant)

Rapporteurs: Kristi Fair and Yumiko Yokozeki

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Fourth Session (2. group work): Putting the Operational Guidance to Test**

The groups will discuss key elements of the Operational Guidance along 5 themes. EACH GROUP WILL DECIDE ON WHO WILL REPORT BACK TO PLENARY.

Group 1:

“Infrastructure and supplies”

Chair: MOE Tanzania

Facilitator: Deborah Dishman (UNICEF)

Rapporteurs: Pantalee Kapichi and

Alice Mapenzi Kubo

Group 2:

“Building capacities of schools”

Chair: MOE Ghana

Facilitator: Cassandra Jesse (AIR)

Rapporteurs: Stella Kaabwe and

Portia Williams

Group 3:

“Bringing teachers in”

Chair: MOE DRC

Facilitator: Alex Alubisia (Aga Khan Foundation)

Rapporteurs: Beatrice Wakimunu and

Philippe Ngwala

Group 4:

“Reaching out to the most vulnerable”

Chair: MOE Burundi

Facilitator: Catherine Mbengue (UNICEF)

Rapporteurs: Janice Dolan and

Tracy Brunette

Group 5:

“Planning and financing school fee abolition”

Chair: MOE Haiti

Facilitator: Igor Kitaev (UNESCO/IIEP)

Rapporteurs: David Gartner and Taeko Okitsu

17:30 – 18:30 **Fourth Session (3. report back to plenary): Putting the Operational Guidance to Test**

Chair: Simon Mphisa (UNICEF Malawi)

Presentations: *Report back by each of the 5 groups.*

Rapporteurs: Frederick Mwesigye and Teija Vallendingham

20:00 – 21:30 Evening Reception at the hotel hosted by the partners in SFAI

FRIDAY 7 APRIL 2006

08:30 – 10:00 Fifth Session (1. plenary): Consolidating the Operational Guidance

Chair: David Parker (UNICEF IRC)
Presenters: *Presenters will make a proposition on the content of the Operational Guidance based on the deliberations of the first two days.*
1. Planning and implementing a policy of school fee abolition within education system reforms – Marie Dorleans (consultant)
2. Planning and implementing a policy of school fee abolition within poverty reduction strategies and social development – Michael Wilson (consultant)
Discussion: *Open discussion, review and consensus-building.*
Introduction of group work: Marie Dorleans (consultant)
Rapporteurs: Deirdre Watson and Nicolas Jenks

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 Fifth Session (2. group work): Consolidating the Operational Guidance

There will be 9 groups, each composed of the country delegations and participants at the regional and global levels. The 6 countries, which have abolished school fees, will discuss key elements for revising their country papers in light of the Operational Guidance and will devise strategies on the way forward for sustaining their policy on school fee abolition. The 3 other countries will discuss follow-up and next steps in their respective countries. EACH GROUP WILL DECIDE ON WHO WILL REPORT BACK TO PLENARY.

Group 1: Kenya, Chair: MOE
Group 2: Mozambique, Chair: MOE
Group 3: Tanzania, Chair: MOE
Group 4: Malawi, Chair: MOE
Group 5: Ethiopia, Chair: MOE
Group 6: Ghana, Chair: MOE
Group 7: DRC, Chair: MOE
Group 8: Burundi, Chair: MOE
Group 9: Haiti, Chair: MOE

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 Fifth Session (3. report back to plenary): Consolidating the Operational Guidance

Chair: Roger Cunningham (European Commission)
Presentations: *Report back by each of the 9 groups.*
Discussion: *Open discussion on the presentations.*

Summary: Key issues for technical and financial support – Cream Wright (UNICEF HQ)

Rapporteurs: Simon Mphisa and Esme Kadzamira

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Way Forward and Closing**

Chair: J.B. Ntaha Kuderwa (Chief Budget Preparation and Monitoring Budget Ministry, DRC)

Presenters:

1. The SFAI Business Plan – Dina Craissati (UNICEF HQ)
2. Monitoring and Evaluation – Tracy Brunette (USAID)
3. Accompanying Countries – Cream Wright (UNICEF HQ)
4. Engaging the FTI – Bob Prouty (World Bank)

Discussion: *Open discussion on the presentations.*

5. Appreciation from the floor – Mary Njoroge (MOE Kenya) and David Gartner (Global AIDS Alliance)

Rapporteurs: Augustine Agu and Igor Kitaev

6. Formal Closing – Hon. Beth Mugo (Assistant Minister, MOE Kenya)

FOCAL POINTS

Overall Coordination:

- Dina Craissati (UNICEF HQ)
- Aster Haregot (UNICEF ESARO)
- Teija Vallandingham (UNICEF ESARO)

Masters of Ceremony:

- Dina Craissati (UNICEF HQ)
- Deborah Dishman (UNICEF WCARO)

Media:

- Patricia Lone (UNICEF ESARO)
- Victor Chinyama (UNICEF ESARO)

Focal Point Operational Guidance:

- Marie Dorleans (consultant)

Focal Point Country Papers:

- Birger Fredriksen (consultant)

Principal Rapporteur:

- Michael Wilson (consultant)

Focal Point CD:

- Teija Vallandingham (UNICEF ESARO)
- Jael Olang (UNICEF ESARO)

Secretariat:

- Eunice Wambugu (UNICEF ESARO)
- Jael Olang (UNICEF ESARO)

Interpretation: There will be interpretation in French and Portuguese.