

## **Global Basic Education and the Education for All - Fast Track Initiative**

My name is Carol Bellamy and I am the Chair of the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative (EFA FTI). FTI is requesting \$75 million for FY12.

### **Why Invest in Education?**

Investing in education is the single most effective means of reducing poverty. Overall, the global education story has been positive in the past decade, with the number of primary school-aged children not attending school decreasing from over 100 million to 67 million. However, let's be honest: the concept of a good quality basic education for every child must fight for its place in the long and growing list of priorities for policy makers the world over. My own view is clear: ensuring that every child has a decent education is the tipping point for lasting social and economic development. Allow me to illustrate:

### **Income, Growth, and Stability:**

- Each year of schooling translates into a 10% increase in an individual's potential income.
- Translated to a national level, each year of additional schooling leads to a 1% increase in annual GDP.
- Four years of primary schooling can boost a farmer's productivity by nearly 9%.
- Each year of schooling reduces a young man's likelihood of becoming involved in conflict.

### **Health:**

- Half the global reduction in deaths of children younger than 5 years over the past 40 years can be directly attributed to the better education of women.

- In Africa, children of mothers with a full primary education are 40% more likely to survive to age 5 and are 50% more likely to receive life-saving immunizations.
- HIV and AIDS rates are halved among youth who have completed primary education.
- Under-investment in education results in a failure to take full advantage of the considerable resources the U.S. is presently investing in the Global Health Initiative.

### **Improving the Lives of Women and Girls:**

- In sub-Saharan Africa, investing in the education of girls has the potential to boost agricultural output by 25%.
- A significant factor to reducing child malnutrition has been the education of women.
- For girls, each additional year of primary education increases her potential income by 15%.

### **Progress towards the 2015 Education for All Goals –Good, But Not Good Enough**

- From 1999 to 2008, an additional 52 million children enrolled in primary school. The number of children out of school was halved in South and West Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, enrollment ratios rose by one-third despite a large increase in the primary-school age population.
- The number of girls being enrolled in primary school has improved significantly.
- However, progress is slowing; 67 million children still remain out of school.
- School dropout is eroding gains in enrolment.
- The quality of education remains very low in many countries.

## **The Education for All - Fast Track Initiative**

- The Education for All - Fast Track Initiative (EFA FTI) is a **partnership of donors and developing countries, multilateral institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations** dedicated to ensuring that all children receive a quality education.
- Launched in 2002, FTI presently supports education sector plans in **44 developing countries**. To date, FTI has allocated approximately \$2.2 billion in support of these plans. The last country that has joined the FTI partnership is Afghanistan (in March 2011).

## **The FTI Works**

### **Education:**

- In 2009, over 82 million children were enrolled in school in FTI developing partner countries. In 2002 it was only 63 million.
- The percentage of children repeating a year in primary school in FTI countries has been reduced. Repetition rates in FTI countries have on average halved within 3-5 years.
- Increases in primary enrollments in African FTI countries are twice as high as in non-FTI countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The primary school completion rate in FTI countries has increased from 60% in 2002 to over 72% in 2009.

### **Gender Equality and Health:**

- In Africa, girls account for 62% of all new children entering school in FTI partner countries.
- In 2008, two-thirds of girls completed primary school in FTI partner countries compared to 56% in 2002. Their children will be 40% more likely to survive to age 5.

- Boys and girls in 12 partner countries now equally complete a full cycle of primary education – an increase from 7 countries in 2000/01.

#### **Mobilizing Domestic Financing:**

- FTI partner countries, who presently cover 70-80% of education program funding, have increased their domestic expenditures for primary education by an average of 6-9% per annum between 2000 and 2005, significantly more than their economic growth rates for the same period.

#### **Results/Outcomes Monitoring:**

- In exchange for technical support and additional funding, recipients must ensure sufficient domestic commitment of financial and political resources, as well as transparent budgeting and sound monitoring for outcomes.

#### **Aid Effectiveness:**

FTI provides a cost-effective way to deliver aid to education without having to expand bilateral aid. It reduces overhead, relying on donor agencies with the lowest unit costs and the greatest comparative advantage to deliver support in each country – ensuring that donor aid has the most impact.

FTI has been cited by the G-8 as a **model of aid effectiveness**. FTI is evidenced-based and has taken the lead in developing a Results Framework to define and set clear and measurable targets in access and learning. The United Kingdom's recently completed comprehensive 2011 Multilateral Aid Review stated that the FTI was among 16 organizations said to offer good value for money for British aid.

### **Meeting the Challenges: FTI's Results-Based Replenishment in 2011**

In 2011, FTI is conducting a replenishment campaign to meet the new challenges ahead and, most importantly, reinvigorate political and economic support for education overall. The campaign will culminate with a major replenishment event in October and will be built around a results-based approach whereby future funding will be contingent on concrete results, more predictable aid from donor partners, and sustained levels of domestic resources for education from developing partner countries.

### **Why Should the United States Government Invest Now in the FTI?**

FTI provides a cost-effective way for donors to maintain and increase funding for education. We expect that U.S. funding in FY12 will have a substantial impact on commitments from other donors during the fall replenishment. The world follows American leadership and thus many donors are waiting for the U.S. to show its commitment to FTI before they come forward. Additionally, a U.S. commitment in FY12 will help FTI take advantage of an important £100 million (or, US\$163 million) challenge grant from the U.K. by which the British government will match other pledges on a 5-to-1 basis. Fully meeting this challenge would cover the costs of sending close to 8 million children to school for a year or build around 73,000 fully-equipped classrooms or buy half a billion text books.