

**More and better aid for education –
the UK's approach to supporting education in
developing countries**

*Desmond Bermingham
Head of Profession,
Education. DFID.
Tokyo. December 2005.*

The case for education

Education – the key to unlock the door of ignorance

DFID

- UK Department for International Development
- Government department responsible for UK aid programme worldwide
- Formerly the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) – a department of the Foreign Office
- Became a full government department in 1997 with Clare Short as the first Secretary of State for Development. Currently led by Hilary Benn

- Total annual budget: £4.3 billion (\$7.5 billion)
- This will rise to £5.3 billion (\$9 billion) by 2007/8
- Aim of the department is to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty

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DFID's approach to supporting education

- From projects to programmes
- The sector wide approach to supporting education
- Support for country led development
- Support for national systems and budgets
- Education in fragile states and conflicted affected countries

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Working with others – the partnership approach

- With governments
- With other donors and international agencies
- With NGOs, the private sector and civil society organisations

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Capacity building – the key to sustainable development

- Government
- Schools
- Civil Society
- And even donors...

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More Aid for Education

- Over 115 million children still out of school
- Estimated 4 million additional teachers needed in Africa alone
- Governments will need to provide more resources for education
- External aid will also need to increase - estimated additional 7 billion dollars per year will be required

- The heads of state of the G8 countries made a commitment at the Gleneagles summit to provide an additional 50 billion dollars in aid by 2010 to help all low income countries achieve the MDGs
- Education should get at least 15 – 20 % of that extra aid: 7 – 10 billion per year

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Better aid for education

- Our challenge will be to ensure that this aid is delivered **effectively**

- Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness
 - Joint planning and joint reviews
 - Support for sector programmes
 - Making aid more predictable
 - Using national systems and institutions wherever possible
- In education, this will mean
 - Fewer projects
 - More support through sector programmes
 - Closer partnerships

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The Fast Track Initiative

- Global partnership to accelerate progress towards EFA goals
- Focus on the MDG goal of universal primary education
- Currently 18 low income countries within the FTI partnership
- Supported by over 35 agencies, including the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF and all the major bilateral donor agencies including the UK and Japan
- UK currently co-chair of the FTI
- Over 140 million dollars committed in direct support to the FTI Catalytic Fund
- Significant additional finance provided through country programmes
- Also provided support to capacity building and programme preparation activities

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The FTI – what does it do?

- The 'in-country' Fast Track
- The Catalytic Fund
- The Education Programme Development Fund – support for the preparation of sector plans, capacity building and knowledge sharing activities.
- Set to expand to over 40 countries over the next two – three years
- Will provide additional support to the development of education programmes in fragile states and recovering countries.

“Effective aid in action – in the education sector.” OECD DAC

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Conclusion

- We have an historic opportunity
- Chance for all of us to make a difference – and help to provide a better future for tens of million of children in the poorest countries of the world
- UK government has recently published a set of papers on moving *From Commitment to Action* in education, health, growth and infrastructure
- Now is the time to act
- Thank you