

## Pro-Poor Growth & Education

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## The Education for all Agenda

Education is a basic human right

1990 World Conference on Education for All (EFA) in Jomtien, Thailand reaffirmed that right & set bold targets

First decade of Education for all brought little if any progress

2000 World Education Forum Dakar, Senegal adopted Dakar Framework of Action



## The Education for all Agenda

Underpinning the Dakar Framework is the commitment to **inclusive and equitable education provision** and opportunity for all the world's citizens

Ambitious goals to be achieved by 2015 for early childhood care, primary education for all children, life-long learning, adult literacy, gender equity and quality of education



## The Education for all Agenda

Millennium Development goals reaffirm education goals, but targets are less ambitious

Achieve universal primary education (MDG 2) & promote gender equality and empower women (MDG 3)

The EFA goals and the MDGs are interrelated. Education plays a crucial role in reducing poverty and inequality, improving child and maternal health and strengthening democracy



## Global picture

75 million children out of primary school (55% girls), 226 million adolescents are not attending secondary school

776 million adult are illiterate

Dramatic global divide not only in access to education, but also in learning achievements. Huge regional disparities within countries

Progress towards the EFA goals is being undermined by failure of governments to tackle inequalities based on income, gender, location, ethnicity, language and disability



## The case for education

Education is seen as an 'enabling right' that enables people to realise many other rights & social goods

These including better health, higher incomes, more secure livelihoods & greater participation in community & public life

Education promotes social and political development

Education provides one of the smartest, most cost-effective and most equitable strategies for long-term sustainable development



## The case for education

Educated people are healthier people. HIV/AIDS infection rates are halved among young people who finish primary school. If every girl and boy received a complete primary education, at least 7 million new cases of HIV could be prevented in a decade

Education combats hunger. Gains in women's education made the most significant difference in reducing malnutrition between 1970-1995, a more important element than increased food availability

Education saves lives. A child born to an educated mother is more than twice as likely to survive to the age of five



## The impact of education

Levels of schooling & literacy have a systematic impact on both national income and individuals' incomes

Each additional year of school raises individual incomes by, on average, 10%, with the effects being greater in poor countries and for women

This translates to 1% annual increase in GDP if good quality education is offered to the entire population



## The impact of education

If education is to unlock the potential of all individuals, it needs to be available to all

Literacy and education are also strategies to combat inequality – as long as they are provided equitably

High levels of inequality in educational levels are very closely linked to levels of inequality in income



## The quality imperative

Education as a right and a key to sustainable development is widely accepted, but there has not been enough focus on the quality of education

Quality education will boost enrolment rates and prevent drop-outs

Providing quality education for all groups of societies is a matter of social justice and of key to overcoming inequalities



## The quality imperative

Education quality is THE key issue

The Education Quality Symposium stated “Access without quality is meaningless”

Recent studies show that not only more schooling promotes development and economic well-being, but more learning



## The quality imperative

Educational quality, measured by cognitive skills of the population, has a strong impact on individual earnings, as well as robust influence on the distribution of income and economic growth

The distribution of skills in the economy will have a direct effect on the distribution of income

Policies aimed at improving school quality will have direct impacts on the income distribution



## The quality imperative

Quality of education, measured by the knowledge students gain is substantially more important for economic growth than mere quantity of education

Resources must be increased to improve the overall quality of education and to overcome the disparities in access to quality education



## How to improve the quality

There is no single intervention that will produce quality learning; a mix of interventions and adequate resources are required

To improve quality more resources must be spend on teacher training, the provision of text books and other material, adequate class rooms, curriculum development, school infrastructure and school governance



## The role of teachers

Teachers are the backbone of any education system

Policies and practice over the past decades have ventured away from financing and building a trained teacher workforce, which in turn has opened the door for on-going attacks on the teaching profession

Teachers are expected to teach subjects outside their core competency, to be held accountable for students' performance and improving learning outcomes despite having little or no training and working in classrooms with pupil teacher ratios as high as 78:1 --and often over 100:1 in rural areas



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## The role of teachers

They are also increasingly required to fulfill these duties as informal employees with lower pay and less employment stability than public sector employee teachers traditionally have

UNESCO projects that 18 million new teachers need to be trained and employed between now and 2015 if all the 75 million children out of school are to gain access and all children are to be taught in manageable class sizes (of 40:1) which enable quality and positive learning outcome



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## The challenges ahead

Strong political leadership is the key to achieving the EFA goals and to promoting pro-poor growth

Some of the world's poorest countries have demonstrated that political leadership and practical policies make a difference

The key challenge for the coming years will be overcome disparities and access to quality education



## Recommendations

New approaches to education governance are needed. Policy makers should consider the following steps:

Develop well-defined targets for reducing disparities and monitor progress towards their achievement

Set clear targets for education and develop a comprehensive education plan

Improve coordination within the government



## Recommendations

Work with civil society and all relevant stakeholders

Integrate education planning into wider poverty-reduction strategies

Raise quality standards and work to reduce disparities in learning outcomes between regions, communities and schools



## Recommendations

Put equity at the centre of financing strategies

Strengthen the public education system. If the public system works poorly, the priority must be to fix it.

Strengthen the recruitment, deployment and motivation of teachers



## Recommendations

Introduce a system to measure and monitor learning outcomes

Strengthen the accountability of schools and local authorities

Invest in strengthening civil society & district, village schools councils



**Thank you!**

