

# FRANCE & EDUCATION FOR ALL

## A REAFFIRMED OBJECTIVE

Following the Jomtien Conference in Thailand, organized in 1990 on the initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the international community pledged to support Education for All. This pledge was reaffirmed ten years later with the adoption of the Dakar Framework for Action.

Two of the Dakar goals were included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration: achieve universal primary education (MDG 2) and promote gender equality and empower women (MDG 3).

Concerted actions for education with a view to enhancing aid effectiveness, particularly within the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), have helped achieve significant progress. Between 2000 and 2009, the primary enrolment ratio rose from 64% to 84% in Africa.



Education is one of France's official development assistance priorities. Since 2002, it accounts on average for 14% of annual funding. The French strategy for education in developing countries for the period 2010-2015 is centred on two objectives: access to quality primary education for all girls and boys and the promotion of an integrated vision of education that includes teaching and vocational training to meet the challenges of young people.



### An education for all!

■ The commitment made by the international community for education is based on a dual belief. Education is a fundamental right that is the key to the exercise of all other human rights. As a capacity, education is a prerequisite for development and a major lever in combating poverty.

■ Education has a positive impact on maternal and child health, poverty reduction, economic growth and social stability. If all children in low-income countries could read, poverty would fall by 12%. Likewise, an additional year of schooling can increase women's income from 10% to 20%.

■ In April 2000, the Dakar World Education Forum, which brought together the representatives of 164 countries, adopted a framework for action designed to improve the learning opportunities open to children, young people and adults. UNESCO coordinates the publication of the annual Education for All Global Monitoring Report designed to assess progress towards achieving the 6 Dakar Education for All Goals by 2015.

### THE 6 EDUCATION FOR ALL GOALS

1. Protecting early childhood.
2. Universal primary education.
3. Access to lifelong education.
4. Achieving a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy.
5. Improving the quality of education.
6. Gender equality in access to school.

### Education and the Millennium Development Goals

■ With the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, the international community focused on universal primary education (MDG 2) and gender equality (MDG 3). In 2002, France actively participated in the creation of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), formerly known as the Fast Track Initiative, to help the poorest countries achieve these goals. The GPE today brings together 53 developing countries and meets a two-fold aim: to prompt donors to increase their aid and developing countries to build coherent education sector policies while increasing the share of national resources allocated to that sector.

■ France's contribution to developing countries is €47.5 million for the period 2011-2013. Two French experts are at the disposal of the GPE Secretariat attached to the World Bank in Washington.

### THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION IN FIGURES

€2.7 billion have been allocated for basic education since the GPE's creation in 2002.  
22.8 million more children in school.  
37,000 classrooms have been built.  
218 million textbooks have been provided.  
413,000 teachers have been trained.

## Improving the quality of education is a French priority

■ Achieving universal primary education by 2015 would mean recruiting 1.9 million teachers and this would imply additional annual funding of €4 billion. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) helps to improve the quality of education in developing countries through projects funded by the Priority Solidarity Fund (PSF) and programmes implemented by the French agency for development (AFD), which is the French cooperation operator for basic education and vocational training.

■ Between 2002 and 2011 the AFD contributed €482 million towards primary education, mainly in Africa where 70% of its commitments are concentrated.

### Actions to strengthen the effectiveness of education systems

■ The Pôle de Dakar was set up in 2002 to train national teams in conducting education sector diagnoses in sub-Saharan Africa. The Programme for the Analysis of Education Systems (PASEC), which is attached to the Conference of Ministers of Education of French-speaking Countries (CONFEMEN), helps countries to assess student learning.

### Projects to improve teacher training

■ PSF projects focus on support to improve the quality of initial and continuing French teacher training in French, with a special emphasis on information and communication technology in education. 16 PSF projects are underway in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia in 2012.

■ The project conducted by the Francophone initiative for distance teacher training (IFADEM) supports distance teacher training in partnership with the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF: university agency for Francophonie). The ÉLAN-Afrique Initiative for national schools and languages in Africa implemented by the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF) helps develop the use of the various languages in the early years of primary education.



## ENSURING GENDER EQUALITY BETWEEN GIRLS AND BOYS IN SCHOOL ACCESS AND SUCCESS

In the space of ten years, the share of girls out of school fell from 58% to 53% in developing countries. But still too many of them (32%) do not complete a full educational cycle. For the period 2012-2013, France, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), is implementing a programme worth €3.35 million to promote girls' education and the fight against gender violence in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

### Alongside the European Union

■ As the leading partner and donor in Africa, the European Union (EU) is set to play a key role in providing support to Africa. Through the EU, France mobilized €383.4 million for basic education for the period 2009-2011.

### Present challenges and future stakes

■ Despite significant progress, there are still 61 million out-of-school children in the world, 33 million of which in Africa, and this accounts for a quarter of school-age children in the region. Almost half of them live in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Today still, poverty is one of the principal reasons for children being out of school.

## INNOVATIVE FINANCING AND EDUCATION

The Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, whose Secretariat is provided by France, has identified in two reports mechanisms to increase the volume of aid allocated for education and improve its predictability and sustainability. The International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) is experimenting, with the support of France, a public-private partnership that uses information and communication technologies to collect data on education in Côte d'Ivoire.

### ➤ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

#### Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

[www.partenariatmondial.org](http://www.partenariatmondial.org)

#### UNESCO

[www.unesco.org/new/en/education](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education)

#### Pôle de Dakar

[www.poledakar.org](http://www.poledakar.org)

#### Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development

[www.leadinggroup.org](http://www.leadinggroup.org)

#### France and innovative financing for education: Reference Sheets

[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/les-ministres-et-le-ministere/publications/enjeux-planetaires-cooperation/fiches-reperes/article/la-france-les-financements](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/les-ministres-et-le-ministere/publications/enjeux-planetaires-cooperation/fiches-reperes/article/la-france-les-financements)

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