

Financing Education as a Global Public Good: 1000 Days to 2015 and Beyond

On April 16-18, 2013, a global education summit will convene to rally international efforts to reach out-of-school children. Co-hosted by the President of the World Bank Dr. Jim Kim, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown, the summit will bring together eight countries — Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen — which encompass more than 40 percent of the world's children excluded from primary education. The summit will serve as a platform for these countries, international institutions, and civil society to commit to strategies that aim to accelerate progress on educational access as the current Millennium Development Goals draw to a close in 2015.

While the most significant barriers to achieving Education for All will be deliberated during the summit, one merits more discussion than ever: education financing. Financial commitments generated by the international and domestic prioritization of education have been central to the success over the past decade in expanding educational access. However, education resources continue to be skewed toward higher education rather than basic education, and toward richer segments of the population, leaving vulnerable populations behind. Funds may be inefficiently deployed or ineffective at producing high quality educational outcomes for the poorest. Economic pressure in Europe threatens to decrease aid for basic education from traditional donor governments. Meanwhile, alternative mechanisms to fund global public goods are gaining ground, and many countries are exploring the greater use of domestic finances to achieve inclusive growth. With world leaders at the summit boldly committing to tackle some of the worst bottlenecks in education access, this event offers the opportunity to explore how we can better fund the solutions.

"Financing Education as a Global Public Good: 1000 Days to 2015 and Beyond" will examine the role of education financing in reaching the global education goals by 2015 and beyond. Inspired by the need to put "financing" back on the map as a critical part of any plan to accelerate progress on the education goals, the session will:

Explore the implications of the new UNESCO financing gap estimates for basic education.

Examine the roles of the Global Partnership for Education, other donor partners, the private sector, and the education community in mobilizing resources — including through innovative finance — and increasing the impact of support to quality basic education during the 1000 days remaining until 2015.

Consider the importance of domestic resource allocation in reaching the hardest to reach learners and efforts to expand tax bases through more equitable tax systems.

Look ahead at the importance of financing in achieving a new set of education goals in the post-2015 framework.

Panelists:

Amina Mohammed

Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning (tbc)

Alice Albright

CEO, Global Partnership for Education

Camilla Croso

President, Global Campaign for Education

Aleesha Taylor

Deputy Director - Education Support Program, Open Society Foundations

Moderator:

Kevin Watkins

Senior Fellow at the Center for Universal Education, Brookings Institution

Welcoming remarks:

Sherry Tross

Executive Secretary for Integral Development, Organization of American States

Friday, April 19th

4:00-5:30pm

Reception to follow

OAS General Secretariat Building

Padilha Vidal Room
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