

“ACHIEVABLE EDUCATION FOR ALL”

SILVER SPRINGS HOTEL, KAMPALA, 18-22 JUNE 2012

A “Regional SPAM” facilitated by Link Community Development in partnership with the Commonwealth Consortium for Education

Overview

With funding from OSF and the Commonwealth Foundation through the Commonwealth Consortium for Education, this 5 day workshop (including field visit) aimed to bring together Ministry of Education officials (from central and district offices) from Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa and Uganda in order to share lessons and reflect on comparative experience in relation to monitoring and supporting school performance and raising the quality of education available to rural children.



Attendees pose for a group photo in Kampala

Specific areas of consideration included:

- The relationship between decentralisation and improved school performance in terms of learner outcomes.
- The success of “whole district development” approaches in raising school performance.
- The efficacy of school performance measurement in increasing parental and community engagement with education (demand side) and school and district authority planning and delivery (supply side).

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Inform education policy development regarding the delivery of quality public education in sub-Saharan Africa, through comparative analysis of policy and practice across five countries. Areas to be explored include
 - Effective pupil to teacher ratios
 - Effective non-school staff (monitoring and support staff) to school based staff ratio
 - Transaction costs of accessing public education for rural families
 - Unit cost of provision of public education (and comparison with private education)
- Share good practice between policy makers and implementers regarding the application of school performance measurement and “whole district development” approaches and their effectiveness in raising the quality of education delivery.
- Share learning on the impact of school performance measurement on parental and community engagement with education and its relationship with school performance (i.e. to what extent can improved knowledge about school performance enable parents to demand improved performance from schools).

- Identify what would constitute “achievable” improvements to the quality of education in sub-Saharan Africa by 2015 given the current resource constraints, and to develop a framework for the concept of “Achievable Education for All”

The **outcomes of the workshop** included:

- **Comparative experience** from 5 countries of the impact on the delivery of quality education of: decentralisation, whole district development approaches, school performance measurement, demand side initiatives.
- **Recommendations** for national policy makers and district authorities in each of the participating countries regarding the design and implementation of initiatives to raise the quality of education delivery, particularly in rural districts.

Follow up:

- Documentation shared by countries at the event was collated and provided electronically and in printed format to all delegations for national distribution (Ghana, Malawi, South Africa and Uganda) as well as for wider application.
- A written summary of the event was produced and circulated. A summary article reflecting on learning from the event was included in the Commonwealth Education Partnerships publication circulated to delegates at the 18th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers (CCEM) in Mauritius.
- In addition, following feedback from participants at the event, CCfE worked with Link, district and provincial staff from Limpopo Province, South Africa and with representatives from the Office of Education System Innovation at Northern Illinois University (NIU) who attended the Kampala Conference to design an e-Report Card platform that provides access to the school level monitoring data discussed at the Kampala Conference. One of the main points of reflection and interest at the Kampala event (as documented in the write up) was comparing experiences of school report card formats for data collection and monitoring. The e-Report Card Platform provides access for all delegates and the wider public to a live working example of how data can be used to track school performance utilising real data from Limpopo Province. The intention is to expand the site to include data from all countries that attended the AEFA Kampala conference. The platform provides both a reflective tool for reviewing data drawing on the conclusions reached in Kampala and a working platform for district staff to use for sharing and accessing data in the future. See <http://www.lcdinternational.org/e-report-card-platform>
- Finally reflections on the Kampala event were presented by Phumzile Mlambo, former Deputy President of South Africa and Chair of the Umlambo Foundation (part of Link Community Development) and by Beth Kreling, Programme Director at Link, to the Stakeholders Forum, Teachers Forum and main Ministerial meeting at 18th CCCEM.