

# **Education for All: Class of 2015**

**Launch Event Communiqué**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION:

We are launching a new joint effort to support the achievement of the MDGs 2 and 3 and the Education for All Goals. The *Class of 2015* is a new group made up of the Global Campaign for Education, some of the world's biggest charities, major multi-national companies, supportive governments, senior education advocates, teacher trade unions through Education International, faith leaders from some of the main global religions and other important supporters of EFA including world football federation FIFA.

Universal education is so important that it has united figures from across the political spectrum and from all walks of life. Ours is the first generation that has the ability to end illiteracy worldwide and ensure every child has the chance to go to school. The world has the resources to do it, the world knows how to do it and we even have a plan that actually works. Where it has been implemented we have gotten results, with over 40 million more children in school since 2000. However, because of a lack of political will and therefore a lack of resources and essential policies, most of the plan remains on the shelf. Halfway to the 2015 targets and over 75 million children remain out of school completely with more than twice that number going for a short while before dropping out without even completing primary school. Most of these children are girls.

Education draws together such a wide range of supporters because it is such a key issue for transforming lives, communities and even whole countries – it is vital in ending poverty. Charities and teaching unions know first-hand how crucial education is to giving people the chance to lift themselves and their children out of poverty – for every year a girl in Africa spends in school, the chances of her children reaching the age of 5 increases by 11%. Faith groups know first-hand the individual transformation and empowerment that comes from a good quality education. Business knows the impact of good quality education not just for their company and workforce but also the impact on a country's economy and growth rates. Governments in Southern Africa know that the spread of HIV/AIDS is reduced by education– a girl who completes primary school is 50% less likely to catch HIV/AIDS. Campaigners on girls' education know it is vital to the empowerment of women and the establishment of equal rights. Universal education helps strengthen democracy and the battle against corruption.

However, despite the importance of education and two of the eight MDGs addressing education, we have not yet seen the action required. Many developing countries have not yet reached the 20% target of the national budget and too many still allow informal and formal user fees. Most developed countries are not giving their 'fair share' of the external financing needed, and haven't made their limited aid predictable, meaning it can't be spent on things like professional teachers.

Unless we change course, some countries will not meet the goals by 2015 let alone 2015. That is why we have all come together. We will each continue to work individually towards the MDG and EFA Goals and some of our planned individual commitments are detailed in section 4. But we will also work together at key moments to make the case for Education for All, mobilise public support and raise universal education up the political agenda. The *Class of 2015* is open to all those that are genuinely committed to the achievement of universal education and the education Goals. We aim to make history and we invite you to join us in securing Education for All.

## 2. EDUCATION FOR ALL – WHAT IS NEEDED?

### The Challenge

In 2000, governments around the world pledged to achieve “Education For All” by 2015. As we reach the half way mark it has become clear that this goal is achievable but that much more needs to be done:

- 75 million children are still not enrolled in primary school;
- Over a third of children drop out before completing primary school and many more leave school having failed to learn basic skills;
- There is a global shortage of teachers: 18 million teachers need to be trained and recruited by 2015.
- Not enough is being done to address hard to reach children, secondary schooling, adult literacy and early childhood education.

### Goals of *Class Of 2015*

Education is a fundamental right and governments have the prime responsibility for realising it. Those countries that have achieved universal education have all done so through government action. We all commit to doing our part to meet the goals below and call on all governments to be accountable for their promises on education and do their part to meet these goals:

- Ensuring that the \$11 billion per year external financing required to get 75 million children into school and improve the quality of education is committed and mobilised in a predictable way . Fully backing the 60 national education plans endorsed through the EFA Fast-Track Initiative including the estimated shortfalls of \$1bn in 2008, \$1.9bn in 2009 and \$4.4 bn in 2010.
- Improving the quality of education by training and recruiting 18 million teachers between now and 2015, so that all children have a chance to learn in a manageable class size (under 40 children per teacher). Encourage governments to define and measure minimum learning standards, as a key milestone towards improving learning outcomes and wider strategies to guarantee quality education in schools, so that learners go on to develop skills that are needed for employment and contribution to productive economies.
- Reaching all children by developing new strategies to reach hard to reach children in conflict, in remote areas, and from groups discriminated against. Expanding educational opportunities at all levels, including investment in early childhood care and development, secondary education and provision of second-chance learning for those who have missed out through non-formal education and adult literacy programmes (a combined external funding need of \$5billion per year). Guaranteeing that children have enough to eat to study and develop healthily through the provision of school meals programmes or cash transfers to families.
- Encouraging national governments to dedicate at least 20% of their national budgets to education and to abolish the fees that prevent so many children from going to school. Advocating that governments have strategies to reach the most marginalised children, and that they tackle discrimination towards minorities and other excluded groups.

### 3. REGISTRATION LIST

The following have registered for the Class of 2015. The Class of 2015 is open to all those that are genuinely committed to the achievement of universal education and the education Goals. We aim to make history and we invite you to join us in securing Education for All:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Action Aid International</b>                                 | <b>Government of the United Kingdom</b>        |
| <b>Archbishop Migliore</b>                                      | <b>William and Flora Hewlett Foundation</b>    |
| <b>Archbishop of York</b>                                       | <b>Intel Inc</b>                               |
| <b>Australian Government</b>                                    | <b>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</b>                 |
| <b>Cisco Systems</b>  | <b>Microsoft</b>                               |
| <b>Clinton Global Initiative</b>                                | <b>One Campaign</b>                            |
| <b>Comic Relief</b>   | <b>Oxfam International</b>                     |
| <b>Education For All Fast-Track Initiative</b>                  | <b>Queen Rania of Jordan</b>                   |
| <b>Education International</b>                                  | <b>Save the Children UK</b>                    |
| <b>European Commission</b>                                      | <b>Street Football World</b>                   |
| <b>Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)</b> | <b>UNESCO</b>                                  |
| <b>Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE)</b>            | <b>UNICEF</b>                                  |
| <b>French Government</b>  | <b>United Arab Emirates</b>                    |
| <b>Global Campaign for Education</b>                            | <b>World Bank</b>                              |
| <b><i>(acting as the Secretariat for the Class of 2015)</i></b> | <b>World Council of Muslim Philanthropists</b> |
| <b>Goldman Sachs Foundation</b>                                 | <b>World Economic Forum</b>                    |
| <b>Government of Kenya</b>                                      | <b>World Vision International</b>              |
| <b>Government of the Netherlands</b>                            |  |
| <b>Government of Norway</b>                                     |  |
| <b>Government of Rwanda</b>                                     |  |
| <b>Government of Sierra Leone</b>                               |  |
| <b>Government of Spain</b>                                      |  |

#### 4. OUR CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION FOR ALL

On top of our joint plans for securing a big breakthrough in the battle for Education for All, we want to use the moment of our launch and the UN High Level event on the MDGS to highlight some of the ways individual members of Class of 2015 will be contributing to EFA. Further details will be released in follow up events including the Oslo High Level Group Meeting on Education in Dec 2008 and at our event in Davos in January 2008.

We have grouped some of the pledges by stakeholder group for ease of reference. This is only a sample of the commitments and many of the Class of 2015 will be doing lots more to achieve Education For All.

| <b>Government /<br/>International<br/>Institution</b> | <b>Commitment</b>  |
|---|--|
| Australia   | Australia's 'Better Education' policy will deliver Aus\$500 million up to 2010 to strengthen education systems in Asia and the Pacific. It includes a commitment of \$40 million for the Education For All Fast-Track Initiative Catalytic Fund. |
| France  | Following up on their commitment to assist 8 million African children to go to school in the next two years, France will contribute €50 million  |
| Norway  | \$180 million will go to UNICEF girls' education programme in 2009.s over 2 years. Norway will also contribute \$25 million to the Education For All Fast-Track Initiative Catalytic Fund  |
| Spain   | The Spanish government will put €180 million into the Education For All Fast-Track Initiative Catalytic Fund over the next three years   |
| Saudi Arabia  | The Kingdom of Saud has committed to spend \$500 million on basic education provision. This is the first contribution of its kind from Saudi Arabia.   |
| United Kingdom  | The UK is building on previous commitments with a pledge of £50 million to the FTI Catalytic Fund  |
| European Union  | The EU Agenda for Action included an ambitious statement on ODA to basic education, proposing that EU countries should collectively contribute €4.3 billion to basic education by 2010   |
| UNESCO  | UNESCO has the lead responsibility for co-ordinating the efforts of the five Education For All agencies. UNESCO will continue to do this under the aegis of the Global Action Plan, and will be the driving force behind the Education For All   |

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
|                                      | High-Level Group.  |
| UNICEF                               | UNICEF IS one of the five convening agencies of the Education for All (EFA). UNICEF's annual expenditure in the area of education has increased steadily from just over US\$200 million in 2002 to a projected US\$600 million in 2008. Its niche areas of focus include facilitating the right to quality education, eliminating all disparities in education, restoring learning in emergency situations and helping to rebuild education systems in post crisis transition countries.   |
| World Bank                           | The World Bank is projecting a target of \$1.5 billion per year for education through the International Development Association, in 2008 and 2009, subject to country needs  |
| <b>Private Sector / Foundations</b>  | <b>Commitment</b>  |
| Cisco                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cisco is involved in numerous multi-stakeholder partnerships for education including the Global Education Initiative in Jordan, Egypt and Rajasthan. The Global Education Initiative has made significant progress in raising awareness and supporting the implementation of relevant, sustainable education reforms.</li> <li>- Cisco is engaged in a partnership with bi-lateral donors under the Global Education Alliance launched in Rwanda in support of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative.</li> <li>- Cisco is proud of its long-standing commitment to the Cisco Networking Academy, an initiative which provided more than two million students around the world with critical information technology and networking skills, and to extending its global reach.</li> </ul> |
| William and Flora Hewlett Foundation | Working in a unique partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the program's Quality Education in Developing Countries initiative is making grants to increase competence in reading, math and critical thinking among primary education students in sub-Saharan Africa and India.  |
| Intel                                | To date Intel has offered free professional development to over 5 and a half million teachers in 40 countries and it is committed to training millions more.   |
| Microsoft                            | Microsoft is committing to the continued expansion of our Partners in Learning program, with a particular focus on training for millions of teachers in more than 100 countries. Over the next 5 years, we will focus our teacher training efforts to include basic digital literacy skills, the know-how to integrate technology into teaching, and the capacity to share their knowledge with other educators in the community.  |
| World Economic                       | WEF will continue to convene the Global Education Alliance, joining forces with Class of 2015 to put education firmly on the agenda for the meeting of the World   |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Forum                      | Economic Forum in Davos in January.   |
| <b>Civil Society</b>       | <b>Commitment</b>   |
| ActionAid                  | ActionAid commits to spending \$150 million by 2015 on promoting education rights and building civil society coalitions on basic education in at least 40 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.  |
| Comic Relief               | £5 million matched funding with UK government, for its innovative Schools Choose programme, which will help UK school children understand the barriers faced by children across Africa in getting a good education, with the schools that get involved helping determine which particular work they would like their money to contribute to.  |
| Education International    | Commits to working with Oxfam Novib to ensure that untrained teachers in 5 countries in Africa will have the opportunity to upgrade their qualifications and become professional teachers.  |
| One Campaign               | We will work within our coalition and with other campaigns to lobby and campaign for the education MDGs to be met, with a particular focus on holding the G8 accountable for its promises to fully fund the EFA Fast-Track Initiative.  |
| Oxfam International        | Get 6 million people in the North and the South to pledge their commitment to Health and Education for All. We will work with the GCE and national education campaigns to activate these people to demand education for all. We also pledge to make Oxfam International's work on education have the maximum impact by investing both in advocating for more and better money for education, and in working with others to hold governments to account in poor countries for how money is spent. We will invest in advocacy, innovation and building partnerships that will deliver education for all people. |
| Save The Children          | We will not stop until we have provided access to a quality education for over 2 million more children. And in the next 2-3 years we will spend at least \$150 million to help us achieve this.<br><br>We also commit to achieving excellence in our co-leadership of the education cluster, ensuring that emergency education responses are effective, timely and coordinated.   |
| World Vision International | World Vision is committed to achieving education for everyone, starting with early childhood through adult learning. As an organization that works in nearly 100 countries at community level, World Vision sees the significant impact education makes in the lives of individuals, families, communities and nations. We will continue to work with both donors and developing nations to ensure appropriate financing for education so that every child is included in the classroom with a quality education. We are especially concerned with the  |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | children excluded from education because of emergencies and conflict, disability, gender, ethnic or linguistic identity, and other factors that marginalize and breed inequality.  |
| <b>Faith Groups</b> | <b>Commitment</b>  |
| Archbishop of York  | <p>We commit to speaking on international and national platforms in support of EFA goals through our leaders and representatives.</p> <p>We commit to continuing to provide quality education for millions of people around the world, through our nurseries, schools, universities and non-formal groups, including adult literacy and development groups. Faith communities are instrumental in national education provision in very many countries across the world</p>   |
| Archbishop Migliore | <p>While parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to educate their children, access to primary and secondary education are vital building blocks in the advancement of society, human rights and social development of all. The Catholic Church and its various affiliated organisations have been at the forefront of education in all corners of the world. Catholic-affiliated school systems are the largest faith-based education network in the world with 120,000 schools and over 1000 universities and colleges.</p>       |
| <b>Football</b>     | <b>Commitment</b>  |
| FIFA                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup will be helping get all children into school in Africa.</li> <li>• FIFA is committed around the 2010 FIFA World Cup to raise funds for education and health through the 20 Football for Hope centres, implemented with Street Football World.</li> <li>• We aim to mobilise support from an estimated 30 million fans watching the 2010 FIFA World Cup for the 20 Football for Hope centres and more widely for the goal of Education for All in Africa.</li> </ul> |

## 5. WHAT THE CLASS OF 2015 WILL DO TOGETHER

We have come together to form the Class of 2015 to help galvanise action on the Education for All Goals. We plan to demonstrate the breadth of public support on this issue and to make the case for investment in universal education and the benefits for everyone if the Education for All Goals are achieved. We have agreed the following Joint Action Plan.

The Global Campaign for Education will act as the Secretariat to the Class of 2015 and will lead on the mobilising and lobbying work. Each of the different stakeholder groups will have their own internal co-ordination.

### *Five Strands*

There are five broad strands within the group and we have detailed our plans for each of these sections:

- Government
- Private Sector
- Mobilising public support and engaging individuals and schools
- Faith Groups
- Football

***Timeline- Key dates for Class of 2015 collaborative action***

***2008:***

*UNESCO High Level Group Meeting, Oslo*

*Deadline for G8 pledge to fill the on the FTI financing gap*

***2009***

*January - World Economic Forum, Davos*

*April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Global mobilisation in support of Literacy for All – GCE Global Action Week*

*June - European Union Council Meeting*

*June – FIFA Confederations Cup*

*July - G8 meeting in Italy*

*September - UN Heads of State Summit*

*December - UNESCO High Level Group Meeting*

***2010***

*January - World Economic Forum, Davos*

*Late April - Global mobilisation in support of Education for All – GCE Global Action Week*

*June - European Union Council Meeting*

*June/July – 2010 FIFA Football World Cup*

*July - G8 meeting in Canada*

*September - UN Heads of State Summit*

*December - UNESCO High Level Group Meeting*