

The Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)

A joint proposal developed by ANCEFA and PAMOJA (and in consultation with FAWE and the GCE¹) for Support developed for

THE COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION FUND

1. Introduction

In April 2000 at the World Education Forum, the Dakar Framework of Action was developed with six goals and twelve enabling strategies for achieving EFA by 2015. One of the distinctive features was the recognition of the role of civil society in the lead up to Dakar in achieving whatever modest achievements there had been from Jomtien. In addition, the distinctive competencies of civil society in the process of policy formulation, planning and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation were recognized as being a critical strategy for enabling the achievement of the EFA goals. Since Dakar, ANCEFA has emerged as a recognized Africa regional civil society network working to achieve the EFA goals of Dakar.

In addition, ANCEFA has established links with other regional networks such as PAMOJA, FAWE, FAPE, and the West African EFA Observatory²

2. The Commonwealth Education Fund

The goal of the Commonwealth Education Fund is to enable all Commonwealth children to have access to, and to complete, good quality primary education by 2015. In reaching this goal, gender equity in school completion will be achieved in all Commonwealth countries by 2005.

The fund aims to achieve this through strengthening the capacity of civil society in developing Commonwealth countries to help Governments ensure that the poorest and most marginalized children are able to enroll in and complete good quality primary education.

The key activities will be:

- **Strengthening civil society participation in the design and implementation of national and local education plans and frameworks (including education components of poverty reduction strategies - PRSPs). This should happen**

¹ This proposal seeks to build on dialogue within Africa among key networks and also takes into account the joint work between the Global Education Campaign, ANCEFA and ASPBAE to address critical capacity needs of civil society within the African continent.

² PAMOJA is a network of REFLECT and Participatory Adult Literacy practitioners which spans Africa and supports the development of best practice approaches as well as seeks to influence policy through practice; FAPE (a member of ANCEFA) connects parents across Franco-phone Africa in a movement to support quality education; FAWE is a well established network of education women activities and practitioners; The West African observatory, based in Bamako, is a network of individuals and organisations studying progress, sharing best practice, and generating contextually relevant information on education in the sub-region.

principally through support for broad-based national alliances and coalitions, where they exist. Particular priority will be given to supporting initiatives that can accelerate progress towards gender equity in education.

- Enabling local communities to monitor government spending on education, both at the national and local levels.
- Supporting innovative ways for civil society to ensure that all children, especially girls and the most vulnerable and disadvantaged (including street children, former child soldiers and nomadic children) are able to access quality education. This should happen within the framework of national education plans, in a way that links to the advocacy work of national coalition members.

In doing so, the fund will also provide support for regional networks and coalitions servicing one or more Commonwealth countries. The actions necessary to support the strengthening of Civil Society do not only happen at local and national level. Actions are also required at sub-regional and regional level to:

- Strengthen the voice of Civil Society across the various levels.
- Create linkages with sub-regional and regional institutions.
- Build linkages to the international policy environment and articulate voices from an African perspective
- Provide mechanisms and feedback loops that also enable information and actions at an international level to flow back to national and local level.

3. Rationale

Against this background, ANCEFA proposes that support through the Commonwealth Education Fund will strengthen the achievement of the actions at sub-regional and regional level in pursuance of EFA and provide a glue to connect actions at different levels (local to international) together.

This proposal seeks to bring together a number of strands of action that will support the achievement of the goals of the Commonwealth Education fund. The proposal also takes into account actions that are being met through another proposal being developed jointly by ANCEFA, the GCE and ASPBAE.³ Primarily it seeks to build the voice of African civil society towards the achievement of the EFA goals through five main strands:

- a) institutional support for ANCEFA at regional and sub-regional level
- b) capacity building on key areas of need identified⁴
- c) support for key enabling actions in the area of best practice and adult literacy;

³ The primary focus of the ANCEFA/GCE/ASPBAE proposal is to build capacity for the development of advocacy, campaign and lobby plans among a number of civil society coalitions both within, and outwith, CEF countries.

⁴ The process of identification and prioritisation must acknowledge and recognise the need to build priorities in a bottoms-up manner – providing space for issues to be identified and prioritised at a sub-regional level and supported and acted upon from national, sub-regional, regional and international levels – feeding into a regional advocacy, campaign and lobby process coordinated through the regional office of ANCEFA. The skills and approaches developed through the joint ANCEFA/GCE/ASPBAE proposal

- d) a focus on actions which support the achievement of the EFA gender equity target of 2005, and
- e) the development of civil society mechanisms, building on the Civil Society report to MINEDAF VIII⁵ and the recently released EFA Global Monitoring Report⁶, for monitoring progress against the CEF (and MDG) goals in Africa as a key strategy for maintaining pressure on African governments and the international community towards the achievement of EFA.

In doing so, the proposal seeks to build on collaboration, support and increased synergy between various regional networks (especially PAMOJA and FAWE) as well as deepen links and synergy with the GCE through the complimentary actions of the inter-related, but separate, proposal on advocacy skills capacity building and campaign planning.

4. Historical context

In the build up to Dakar and during Dakar, a wide number of NGOs present at the Forum expressed a strong concern on the need to develop and hold African advocacy positions which were driven from within Africa rather than constantly reacting to those coming from donors and northern INGOs. The need for this was evident as NGOs were being made to accept positions, some of which they did not understand, and others they did not necessarily agree with. NGOs were ill organised for representation and found their strength being depleted as different organisations were torn between their “funders” and position taking was difficult. This sense was echoed at the GCE meeting in New Delhi in February 2001 as powerful politics was brought to the table around governance and African networks were ill prepared to take a simple joint stand on issues.

At Dakar, NGOs present agreed to move this forward and mandated four representatives to meet to move this forward. GNEC (Ghana) was to represent West Africa; TEN/MET (Tanzania) was to represent Eastern Africa, SANGOCO (South Africa) was to represent southern Africa, and FAPE/REPT (Congo) was to represent Central Africa. Given ActionAid’s role up to Dakar in facilitating the NGO pre-meetings the group asked ActionAid to continue to facilitate the emergence of this process.

As a result, an initial meeting was held in Abuja, Nigeria in May 2000 and the representatives agreed to go back to their sub-regions and hold meetings which would identify the additional value which ANCEFA offers, identify sub-regional priorities, come up with a simple and manageable process to facilitate the emergence of this process.

The primary reason for this approach was to build ownership of ANCEFA from the bottom-up, creating awareness among country networks and building its agenda, priorities and management from that level upwards. It is also intended that this becomes a network of national networks devoid of ownership or control by any donor,

⁵ This document, presented to African civil society organisations from over 30 countries in Africa in Lilongwe, Malawi in October 2002 forms the basis of engagement with African Ministers of Education in Tanzania in early December 2002.

⁶ The EFA Global Monitoring Report indicates that 19 out of the 28 countries least likely to achieve EFA (and primarily the MDG targets) are located in sub-Saharan Africa.

INGO or non-African influence and that it enables and empowers African Education networks to speak with one voice on issues of common (and specific) concern without strings or cautions.

On September 5 and 6 2000, the West Africa meeting was held in Accra and was attended by networks from nine countries which affirmed that they saw a need for ANCEFA to help to build synergy at sub-regional level, develop actions to be carried out with ECOWAS and other sub-regional structures, share information, and support the development and emergence of national education coalitions and networks. The group elected Gorgui Sow of CONGAD as its moderator for two years (e-mail : gorguisow@hotmail.com). The group agreed to work principally through the Internet, sharing information, ideas, strategies, and facilitating network building. All countries have equal votes on decision-making.

Between 22nd and 23rd January 2001, a meeting was held involving 5 countries in Central Africa. The results were similar and the meeting produced a range of resolutions around the need to move the process forward. Martin Itoua of FAPE was confirmed as moderator (e-mail : fape_bzv@yahoo.fr).

In East Africa, on 6th and 7th February 2001, TEN/MET hosted the East Africa sub-regional meeting and re-affirmed the need for ANCEFA outlining priorities and agreeing a loose structure to take things forward. Leoncia Salakana of TEN/MET was elected moderator for the next two years.

In Southern Africa: FDC and FAWE hosted the southern Africa sub-regional meeting and delegates from the sub-region mobilised by common threats to education come together to form the ANCEFA southern Africa in Maputo 3rd and 4th July 2001. Marta Cumbi of FDC was elected moderator for the next two years.

Thus emerged the rationale for ANCEFA. The first full and expanded meeting of ANCEFA as a regional network was held in Maputo and the draft constitution as well as the first round of a work plan was worked up. At Mombassa, Kenya in January 2002, there was an expanded Moderator's meeting, which brought together 11 national coalitions. The meeting explored and consolidated its relationship with the GCE, confirmed Gorgui Sow as Coordinator and affirmed support to the process of setting up a regional office in Dakar. The meeting also firmed up the work plan, deliberated further on the constitution, agreed representation to various international lobby and advocacy forums and firmed up communication mechanisms for engaging and articulating positions.

5. National – Regional linkages

ANCEFA's bid to the CEF is based on the premise that there are two-way linkages between actions required at national and regional and international levels - each feeding into the other. During the CEF workshop in Nairobi, the key areas were identified as necessary at sub-regional and regional level (see Appendix I)

In addition, there needs to be a clear linkage between work at national and international level. ANCEFA offers the key mechanism that not only assists in linking national

campaign work to the international level through the GCE but also provides a clear analysis of international issues and feeds these back into the national level to ensure that actions at national level are influenced by an appropriate understanding and analysis of what is taking place at the international level.

Finally, as the process of building an international movement, started somewhat from a top down process in Dakar through the GCE, continues, support for ANCEFA is critical in building the linkages that will ensure a genuine international movement around EFA building from national level, through regional to international level. This process will also give a genuine identity and ownership to the actors who emerge on the international scene and ensure they are truly representative.

Set out below is a strategic programme of work (SWP) developed both from the materials generated by ANCEFA's formative processes, outcomes of the CEF Nairobi meeting and discussions at the ANCEFA Expanded Moderators meeting in Dakar between 6 – 8 August 2002. The proposal has also been further influenced by discussions in the GCE and with the CEF coordinator.

6. Horizontal linkages

ANCEFA is conscious that it alone cannot achieve the EFA goals or bring all the pressure necessary to bear on the range of actors or stakeholders. In addition, ANCEFA cannot be all things to all constituencies and must leverage change through a partnership approach that is built on the principles of distinctive competence, synergy building and partnership.

To achieve this, and based on the contextual analysis below, ANCEFA will work closely with the PAMOJA network and bring in skills, competence and capacity from FAWE in order to achieve the strategic programme of work set out below.

7. Strategic Programme Of Work

7.1 EFA and the achievement of the Millennium Development goals (CEF Focus)

The state of progress towards the achievement of the EFA targets and goals in Africa indicates that the continent is in crisis. The EFA Monitoring report of November 2002⁷ indicates the extent of this crisis by pointing out the fact that, out of the 28 countries least likely to achieve EFA, 19 are located in sub-Saharan Africa. This state of affairs relates to the three goals for which monitoring mechanism were developed – universal primary education, gender equity, and adult literacy.

In a separate paper, which was developed with input from civil society organizations and coalitions from over 30 countries across Africa on the challenges of EFA in Africa⁸, a

⁷ 'EFA Global Monitoring Report 2002: Education for All – Is the World on Track?' UNESCO 2002

⁸ 'Challenges to achieving EFA in Africa: Civil Society perspectives', is a working paper which form the basis of civil society organisations in Africa engaging with African Ministers of Education at MINEDAF VIII in Dar Es salaam, Tanzania in December 2002.

number of key positions relating to the achievement of EFA were articulated. Among these are:

- a) Continued pressure for the production of relevant, participatory, and credible national EFA action plans
- b) The indivisibility of the Dakar goals and the need for concerted action on all six goals if EFA is to be achieved. This implication of the argument is that, while clearly the MDG targets of UPE and gender equity are important, sustainability of those achievements rests also on actions on the other goals.
- c) Concerted pressure on African governments to increase spending on education
- d) Advocacy that leads to more genuine and deeper partnership between governments and civil society
- e) Efforts through regional institutions and mechanisms – such as the African Union (AU); sub-regional bodies (ECOWAS, SADC, etc) and NEPAD to create the regional impetus for the achievement of EFA.
- f) Sustained pressure for international financial support through funding and other support, free from the myriad of conditionalities
- g) Broadened and more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as well as follow-up processes and higher levels of political will.

This analysis of the status of EFA in Africa calls for a number of actions which can be reinforced through sub-regional and regional level actions:

- advocacy around the UPE and gender targets
- strengthening of civil society engagements in pursuance of relevant and appropriate investment in education (national and internationally) – both through institutional support and capacity efforts focused at building on partnerships
- a focus on the adult literacy goal as a mechanism for sustaining gains made with the UPE and gender targets
- a specific focus on the 2005 gender target of Dakar
- the development of processes, indicators and approaches that strengthen monitoring and evaluation.

7.2 Contextual Analysis

The regional context prior to Dakar was bleak for Civil Society. While it is true that there were regional organizations such as FAWE, the coordination and articulation of voices was poor. The recognition of this led to the sponsorship of a meeting of CSO actors in Johannesburg in November 1999 and Accra in March 2000 in preparation for the Dakar Forum. These events were critical in beginning to bring the voice of civil society together in an organized and coherent manner.

However, at Dakar, input from African Civil Society was characterized by lack of articulation of positions that were truly African, a reactive advocacy approach and poor coordination. Advocacy and positioning was largely led by northern – led civil society positions developed through the ELIMU Campaign, the Global Education Campaign (GCE) and the positions of a few international NGOs and networks such as Oxfam, ActionAid and Education International.

ANCEFA has grown to become an important Civil Society player in the African Education Scheme. Critical among its achievements to date include:

- Establishment of a light coordination office in Dakar with Gorgui Sow as Coordinator.
- Being African Civil Society focal point in the UNESCO CCNGO.
- Representation at the High Level Campaign process of UNESCO in 2001 and 2002.
- Being a network with 23 national coalitions (network members) across four sub-regions in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Lead link into the GCE with an elected member on the GCE Board and Education committee.
- Key lobby/ advocacy relationship with World Bank and UNESCO.
- Key organizers of a priority/position paper for African Civil Society for the MINEDAF processes in 2002.
- Co-convenor of the African Civil Society Meeting held in Malawi in October 2002 .
- Involvement in the development of a programme for capacity building for African Civil Society through UNESCO.

ANCEFA has also established links with other regional networks including the ECOWAS Observatory, PAMOJA, FAWE, Education International and other networks.

However, this process is barely two years old and there are critical gaps in the process. Areas requiring further consolidation include:

- Support for the emergence of national coalitions and networking in other African countries remains a challenge – this is particularly so in some of the smaller countries and in areas of conflict and in Franco-phone Africa.
- Capacity for advocacy and lobbying at national, sub-regional and regional levels requires further building.
- Linkages with key sub-regional and regional institutions such as ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, ECA are all yet to be cemented.
- Coordination of voice on issues is weak and African positioning, while progressing, is still reactive to a significant extent and capacity for policy analysis needs strengthening.
- Support for the development of sub-regional and regional priorities require further work. Inclusive in this is a process at both sub-regional and regional level to support strategic planning.
- Development of African driven case studies and advocacy materials needs enhancement.
- Mechanisms for sharing 'best practice' are critical and still evolutionary.
- Fundraising to support the sharing of information and development of priorities has been limited.
- Need to reinforce institutional capacity to ensure 'space' for civil society at regional level.
- Approaches that fully address the impact of HIV/AIDS, conflict, disadvantage, and exclusion are not well articulated

- Development of a framework for effectively monitoring the implementation of EFA and especially the MDGs (as they relate to education) in Africa.

7.3 Process

The development of a strategic programme feeds from a lengthy and participatory process commencing in 2000 and working through to 2002. This involved the identification of issues, gaps and priorities in the sub regional formative processes between September 2000 and July 2001. These issues were addressed and validated also through the Expanded ANCEFA Moderators meeting in Mombassa in January 2002; the CEF meeting in Nairobi in July 2002 and the expanded ANCEFA Moderators meeting in August 2002. The work of drafting the civil society position paper for MINEDAF VIII has also strengthened this process.

In addition, there has been extensive consultation and sign-off of this strategic programme of work (SPW) by member coalitions and networks⁹.

7.4 CEF Regional Strategy

The regional strategy is hinged on strengthening the voice of civil society actors in EFA policy issues at national, regional and international level through a process of institutional support and capacity strengthening to the sub-regional and regional network to effectively carry the voices of national networks beyond national boundaries. Given the extent of the gaps identified above and following prioritization for this fund¹⁰, the objectives will be to;

- 1) The provision of institutional support for ANCEFA at regional and sub-regional level in order to strengthen the voice and response of civil society on EFA issues, with particular reference to the MDG goals of UPE and Gender equity.
- 2) Provision of capacity building on key areas of need identified, building on existing initiatives.
- 3) Key actions that support the achievement of adult literacy as an enabling strategy to sustaining the gains of the UPE and Gender goals¹¹
- 4) Support for sharing best practice around the use of participatory approaches to governance through PAMOJA¹²
- 5) The development of an action plan for civil society contributing towards the achievement of the target of Gender equity of 2005, and
- 6) The development of civil society mechanisms, processes and contributions to monitor progress against the CEF (and MDG) goals in

⁹ Country coalitions have been asked to sign off using both e-mail and especially through the Moderators meeting in Dakar (August 2002) and during the pre-MINEDAF meeting in Malawi (October 2002). Further sign-off on amendments will be achieved during MINEDAF VIII in Tanzania (December 2002).

¹⁰ ANCEFA will continue to fundraise to meet other priorities identified through the SWP.

¹¹ PAMOJA will provide details of work schedule.

¹² PAMOJA will provide details of work schedule

Africa as a key strategy for maintaining pressure on African governments and the international community towards the achievement of EFA.

7.5 Key Activities

- Institutional support to the regional secretariat of ANCEFA.
- Institutional support to the processes enabled through the offices of the four Moderators, including the sharing of best practice, support to emerging networks, capacity building and case study work to support advocacy around the MDGs.
- Support for information sharing through the regional communications strategy including the website, newsletter and other forms for sharing best practice.
- To support the process of enabling ANCEFA engages in international advocacy through the GCE and input to critical focuses.
- Work to support PAMOJA in developing models of participatory governance for use locally and for advocacy for scale up through ANCEFA.
- Support for participatory networking, advocacy and skills-sharing on Adult Literacy through PAMOJA¹³
- Development of a programme, with support from FAWE, that develops a specific advocacy and monitoring package for ANCEFA around the gender target date of 2005.
- Developing mechanisms for designing a framework for regular and systematic monitoring on EFA between now and 2015.

These aims, objectives and activities are supported by the consultations referred to in Appendix I.

7.6 Linkages

The objectives and activities are aimed at supporting national level work by:

- Providing information to assist national networks and coalitions.
- Providing an opportunity and space for the articulation of national voice at a regional and international level.
- Sharing best practice between countries to increase impact and synergy both in terms of developing advocacy approaches as well as activities.

7.7 Intended Outcomes

The objectives and activities support the process of gaining space for civil society at regional level by:

- Building credible and sustainable sub-regional and regional actions.
- Building political space for civil society at transnational level through linkages to sub-regional and regional institutions.

¹³ Models must promote other concepts and frameworks as well as REFLECT.

- Creating and sustaining links with international development partners working in sub-Saharan Africa.

The objectives and activities support the process of civil society engagement at international level by:

- Enabling sustained links with the GCE.
- Improved communications and information/experience sharing.
- Enabling the articulation of voice on EFA issues at international events and processes – World Bank, G8, HLG, MINEDAF and so forth.

7.8 Gender

- ANCEFA has developed its strategic vision, which addresses issues of Gender.
- This proposal also has a specific component within it addressing the gender target of 2005.
- Programmatically, ANCEFA identifies with the EFA and MDG targets and gender equity issues in education.
- ANCEFA has a steering committee of four Moderators which is gender balanced.

7.9 Monitoring and Evaluation

ANCEFA proposes that the Moderators will, in conjunction with relevant partners, develop a focused participatory Monitoring and Evaluation framework (including baselines) for its activities. This will form the basis for monitoring and evaluating its performance.

In addition, the monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of EFA features as a key component of the proposed activities of ANCEFA.

7.9 Assumptions

- Those members, continue to fund this work relevant to their national level work.
- That there is space and time for Moderator to carry out their oversight function.
- That country competent staff stay in post within ANCEFA to carry the work forward.
- That ActionAid regional office for Africa continues its support to ANCEFA in the regional Three Year Plan.
- That ongoing negotiations with other donors and funders such as Oxfam GB, Novib, and SCF will

8. Risks

- 8.1 Potential political instability, particularly at the location of the current regional office, Dakar, Senegal.

8.2 The whole process is hinged on a partnership approach. This must be maintained if the objectives are to be achieved.

Budget

ANCEFA's plan for meeting the work outlined above is budgeted at GBP526,500.00. However, in recognition that the CEF fund cannot be used to support activities in largely non-commonwealth countries, the proposed budget will exclude the components to be supported in Central Africa which is largely Francophone. ***Therefore the total being requested is GBP473,880.00*** A separate bid will be addressed to an appropriate funder to support that component of the budget. A detailed budget is attached for your consideration.

Attachments:

Appendix I: ANCEFA proposed activities triangulated against CEF objectives.

Appendix II: Acronyms

Appendix III: Detailed Budget

APPENDIX I

Proposed activities in relation to CEF objectives (from the Nairobi workshop)

a) Strengthening the voice of Civil Society

Activities considered to add value to the work at national level include:

- Advocacy on crosscutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, migration, impact of conflict on education.
- Advocacy on international issues affecting many countries – such as the World Bank fast track programme, other international financing.
- Mechanisms linking non –CEF countries into the process.
- Support for sharing of information.
- Development of links with regional institutions such as ECOWAS, AU, SADC, EAC.
- Resource mobilization for actions, which add value at a transnational level.
- Capacity building for mobilization as well as in pedagogy, curriculum development, planning and policy skills and monitoring and evaluation capacity.
- Support for liaison with the CE.

b) Increasing accountability through Budget Activities

- Advocacy and resources gap filling.
- Monitoring the way in which international finance is being articulated to address EFA.
- Crosscutting analysis and case studies working for instance, at resource usage in terms of gender distribution.
- Contribution to debate and information and comparative analysis of each education sector inputs into the PRSP processes and NEPAD.
- Developing database on expertise and sharing this.
- Analyzing multi-country studies on cost analysis and taking the debate beyond national boundaries.
- Collaboration with regional institutes on financing education.

c) Quality and Access

- Best practice scale up.
- Support for advocacy on legislation, which makes education a justiciable constitutional right.
- Research and findings on excluded groups such as nomad, groups in conflict, and impact of HIV/AIDS.
- Information sharing through the newsletter, website, meetings and exchange visits.
- Comparative analysis of policy in this area in different countries.
- Advocate messages and these issues at international level.

APPENDIX II: List of Acronyms

MINEDAF:	Forum of Ministers of Education in Africa
AU:	African Union
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
CEF:	Commonwealth Education Fund
HLG:	High Level Group, UNESCO
CCNGO:	Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education (UNESCO)