



The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)

*A Partnership with a
Common Goal and Objectives*



The Initiative supports

∞ EFA, and

∞ gender equality at all levels of education systems



Flagship programmes are essential if we are to achieve EFA

- ∞ Obstacles to EFA need a targeted and coordinated action
- ∞ Without targeting girls, EFA will not be reached
- ∞ We cannot be complacent - - national averages hide enormous disparities



Two related deadlines are very close

∞ 2002 national EFA plans

∞ 2005 gender parity goal

and the 2005 goal is a critical step towards
the 2015 goal



The 2005 Gender Parity Goal

- ∞ Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality.”



What does this mean?

- ⌚ We have committed ourselves to closing gender gap by 2005.
- ⌚ We have committed ourselves to ending gender discrimination in education systems.
- ⌚ We have committed ourselves to ensuring that girls are not denied their right to education.
- ⌚ We have committed ourselves to quality.



The need for urgency

- ∞ 2005 is closer than we think.
- ∞ Many challenges in a short period:
 - At least 52 countries have a gender gap of 5 percentage points or more in enrolment data
 - 47 of these countries have gender gaps negatively affecting girls
 - Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly affected by gender gaps in enrolment



Access is Not Enough...

∞ Closing gender gap in enrolment is critical.

But...

∞ Gender sensitive quality education is essential for:

- equal participation
- retention
- achievement
- transition to next stages of education



Elimination of gender disparities requires:

- ∩ Ensuring that gender issues are addressed in National Plans of Action
- ∩ Working with partners in the planning process towards National Plans of Action with gender mainstreamed (FAWE, UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.)
- ∩ Mainstreaming of gender issues throughout education systems



2002 plans and 2005 goal are inextricably linked

∞ Plans must be based on a good gender analysis

- existing work, PRS, SWAps, etc.
- responsibility of UN system through CCA/UNDAF



∞ We are committed to supporting “credible” plans

- has gender been taken into account?
- is it adequately addressed?
- is programming designed correctly?
- has redressing gender imbalances been costed out?

∞ Plans must address gender, not only mention it.



EFA plans need:

- ∩ Affirmative actions, especially for girls, placing the challenges in the context of high numbers of out of school girls, HIV/AIDS, and crisis situations.
- ∩ Resource mobilisation and commitment.
- ∩ Political commitment.
- ∩ Social mobilisation and awareness raising on a massive scale.



It cannot be business as usual.



Suggestions for a comprehensive strategy for EFA

- ∞ include the thematic initiatives in all aspects
- ∞ use the expertise that resides in these programmes
- ∞ participate in the existing networks



Monitoring EFA

∞ build on existing reporting

∞ work with the thematic initiatives so they report on what we need to know

Examples from UNGEI:

- country progress - - Egypt, Nigeria, Uganda, Pakistan
- global advocacy
- coherence within and across institutions



What the high level group needs to do:

- ⌚ Know that targeted initiatives exist and that they support EFA
- ⌚ Advocate for EFA
- ⌚ Understand the urgency and importance of the 2005 goal
- ⌚ Help the world “walk the talk.” In spite of what is being said, not much new money is available.