

EFA Update Status in the Arab States

Second working group meeting

Paris, 10-12 September 2001

EFA Update Status in the Arab States

I. Appraisal of EFA National Plan Preparation

II. Regional Inter Agency Coordination

III. Regional Activities

IV. Regional Flagship Projects & Initiatives

I. Appraisal of EFA National Plan Preparation (Questionnaire responses)

- Ten countries (out of 21) have formed the National EFA Teams.
- Others are in the process of forming their National EFA teams. (Process to be completed by mid October)
- Most countries started education reforms during the nineties
- Some countries already have a valid plan
- Adaptation to EFA goals and Framework of Action will be taken into consideration
- Ten countries identified EFA focal point, and established some sort of a Forum
- EFA 2000 Assessment helped countries to identify issues, difficulties, needs and priorities

- Most difficulties concentrate on methodological and technical improvement of information systems, especially in data collection and analysis as well as in monitoring and evaluation
- Improvement of Quality of Education is a priority to most Arab States
- ECCE & Girls education were seen as important priority areas for the socio-economic development of most countries
- Some countries expressed the need for financial support or debt relief or debt cancellation in view of their strong commitment to EFA

II. Regional Inter-Agency Coordination

- ARABEFA has been formed as the Arab Regional EFA entity for the follow-up of EFA activities. (UNESCO Beirut office as secretariat)
- A National EFA Team is to be formed in each country based on a wide participation of all stakeholders in education
- A UN /Donors Support Team is being formed in each country to support EFA activities

ARABEFA Terms of Reference

- Identify Regional needs
- Mobilize resources within the region
- Set up collaborative mechanism that allows countries to prepare and implement the National Plans of Action
- Coordinate advocacy with Governments
- Ensure synergy of all regional networks linked to the development of Basic Education
- Reinforce institutions capacities of States, particularly for collecting and using statistics

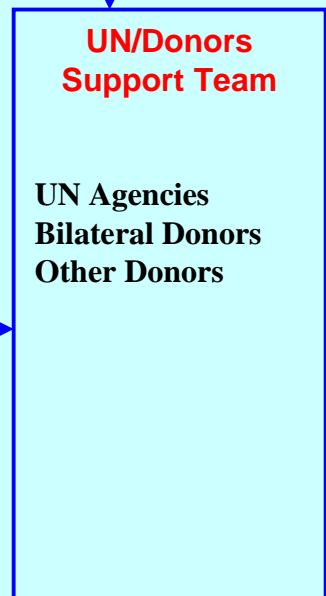
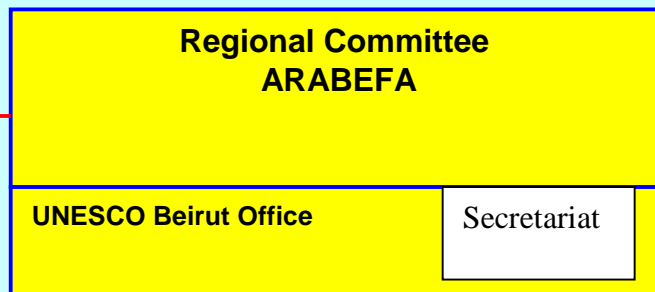
UN /Donors Support Team Tasks

- Advocacy for EFA
- Liaise with local authorities - National EFA Team
- Assist the country to organize capacity building and mobilize activities at national level
- Provide technical support to National EFA Team
- Help identify priorities and promising strategies for overcoming obstacles and accelerating process
- Report on progress
- Liaise with ARABEFA

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Regional level

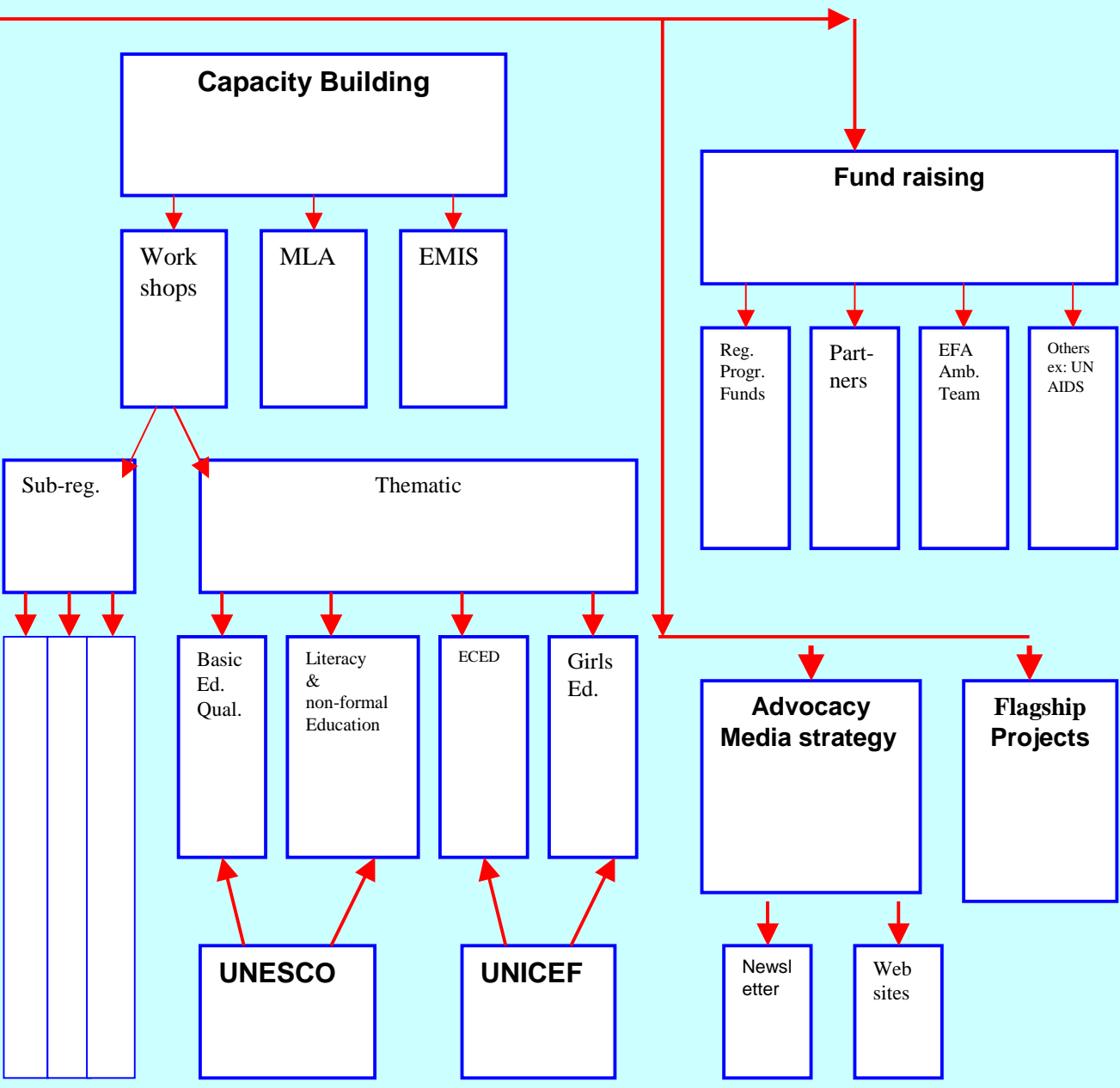
National Level



ARABEFA Functions

- Capacity Building Workshops
 - Process of National Plan preparation
 - Content of National Plans
- Resource Mobilization
 - Regular Program Funds
 - EFA Ambassadors Team
 - Partnership
- Advocacy and Media Strategy
 - ARABEFA newsletter and press releases
 - Mobilize satellite TV stations
 - Identify educational Journalist
 - Create ARABEFA Website

Functions



Regional level

National Level

DFU – ARABEFA
CONVENORS PARTNERS
 UNDP ISESCO ILO
 UNESCO ALECSO ESCWA
 UNFPA AGFUND UNRWA
 UNICEF ABEGS WHO
 WB ARAB FUND NGO's, Private
 ISLAMIC DEV. BANK Experts

Regional Committee
ARABEFA

UNESCO Beirut Office Secretariat

National Team
(Wide Representation)

MOE
 Other concerned
 Ministries
 Other Gov. Agencies
 NGO's & Private Sector
 Parliamentarians
 Others

UN/Donors
Support Team

UN Agencies
 Bilateral Donors
 Other Donors

PREPARATION OF A NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION BY 2002

Capacity Building

Work shops MLA EMIS

Sub-reg. Thematic

Basic Ed. Qual. Literacy & non-formal Education ECED Girls Ed.

UNESCO UNICEF

Fund raising

Reg. Progr. Funds Part-ners EFA Amb. Team Others ex: UN AIDS

Advocacy Media strategy

News letter Web sites

Flagship Projects

III. Regional Activities

A. ARABEFA Meetings

- First meeting 21 October 2000
Establishing process of implementation and consulting with regional partners (Country guidelines translated into Arabic)
- Second meeting 29 March 2001
Establishing liaison with EFA Focal Points in each country and detailed work-plan was adopted.

B. Capacity-Building Workshops

1. Sub-regional workshops/Process of National Plans.

- **First Workshop Riyadh 29/9-3/10/2001**
(in coordination with ABEGS for Gulf Arab States)
- **Second Workshop Beirut 9-13/10/2001**
For the Middle East Arab States
- **Third Workshop Tunis 5-9/11/2001**
For the Moroccan/North Africa Arab States

2. Regional Thematic Workshops/ Content of National Plans

Four Thematic Workshops have been set up.
Plans are underway to organize workshops starting
October/ November 2001.

UNICEF lead Agency to organize:

- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Girls Education

UNESCO lead Agency to organize:

- Primary Education/Quality
- Literacy/Girls Non-Formal Education

C. Monitoring Learning Achievement (MLA)

Main Objectives:

Improving the quality and efficiency of Educational systems by monitoring and tracking progress, identifying weaknesses, gaps, dysfunctions in delivery and correcting them.

9 Arab States participated between (1993 and 1999) in MLA studies conducted by UNESCO and UNICEF.

Results show poor quality that does not provide for the basic learning needs to the students.

Focus was (in the past) on providing school places than on enhancing the quality of education.

Yemen and Iraq are currently implementing MLA studies.

D. Regular Programme activities linked to EFA

- Workshop on improving skills of ECD teachers in Kuranic schools, Morocco, 31/3-6/4 2001
- Arab Conference on inclusive education, in cooperation with Save the Children/Sweden and Save the Children/UK Beirut, 7-10/5/2001
- Seminar to train trainers on innovative concepts and methods in ECD, with special focus on NGO's work
- Design of a standard ICT curriculum for Computer literacy in the region
- Community Centers were established in Lebanon and Jordan
- HIV/AIDS Regional Seminar for Policy Dialogue and Capacity Building, Beirut, 1-5/10/2001

IV. Regional Flagship Projects & Initiatives

- Four Projects identified
 1. Girls Education Initiative
 2. School Health (FRESH) Initiative
 3. ECCE Initiative
 4. EDSS Initiative

1. Girls Education Initiative

Within the framework of UNGEI and UNESCO's Document "A Strategic Framework for the Role of Basic Non-Formal Education", UNESCO Beirut Office has prepared a working document in Arabic on the "Role of the Universities and the Civil Society in Girls Basic Non-Formal Education".

ARABEFA shall :

- publish the Document,
- distribute it to all Arab States
- hold a regional meeting to build the capacity of Universities and Civil Society for actual implementation

2. School Health (FRESH) Initiative

Within the framework of the global (FRESH) initiative, and the Arab Framework for Action; ARABEFA has made arrangements with the Health Education Resource Unit (HERU) at the American University of Beirut to implement the School Health (FRESH) project together.

- First stage of the project will cover six countries to be confirmed after close coordination with WHO

3. ECCE Initiative

- This initiative is part of UNESCO Beirut Office's efforts to follow-up on Dakar Framework for Action to assist member states in developing comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Education.
- Based on situation analysis in 3 countries in the region (August 2001)
- Focuses on capacity building through training Keys Stakeholders and Sectors and Technical Assistance.
- Project Document has been completed (early September, 2001)
- Extra-Budgetary Support will be sought

4. EDSS Initiative

Educational Decision Support System Initiative.

Aims at upgrading the capacities of the Arab Ministries of Education to collect, process, analyze and disseminate relevant, reliable and timely education data and indicators, and develop the “culture” for their utilization in decision making.

Two sub-regional orientation workshops were organized in 2000 for all countries.

Situation analysis was completed in 8 states, and a comprehensive Masterplan for each country was developed.

More countries will join in the next few months.

Two workshops were recently organized:

1. For Gulf States, Beirut, 13-21/ 8/2001
2. For Lebanon, Beirut, 4-8/9/2001

CONSTRAINTS

1. Level of Representation of Partners /Convenors at Regional Level (UNDP, World Bank)

UNDP EFA country focal points are not responding to ARABEFA messages

2. Staffing

ARABEFA secretariat has only one staff.

3. Funding inadequate.