



CONFERENCE

FILLING THE BASIC EDUCATION GAP IN AFRICA

European Parliament in Brussels
Room P7C050, Paul-Henri Spaak building

June 24, 2011 | 9:00-17:30

REPORT



Participation

- 145 registered
- over 100 attendees

An event supported by



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Opening

In her opening address, **Isabelle Durant**, Vice-President of the European Parliament, highlighted the importance of this networking and reflection exercise on as crucial topics as development aid and child protection. Reminding the role that civil society and actors on the field have to play to influence political decisions on these issues, she told her satisfaction at the opportunity of welcoming them at the European Parliament. Considering the considerable power this institution holds with regard to political orientation, it is fundamental that it can echo concerns and crossed perspectives on issues such as the role of non formal education in Africa; the role of actors on the field, civil society and institutional development agents; development aid efficiency. Mrs Durant expressed the wish that the Development Commission whose President, Eva Joly, will participate in the discussions, would echo the propositions emerging from these sessions.

Aid performance in the education sector: achievements and new perspectives

Speaker: **Koumba Boly-Barry & Thanh-Hoa Desruelles**, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)

Moderator: **Collins Nweke**, Nigerians in Diaspora Organisations Europe (NIDOE)

Panel: **Hans de Greve**, Plan Belgium; **Jacques Malpel**, European Commission – DG DEV; **Adrian Aupperle**, Transparency International; **Rudi Delarue**, International Labour Organisation (ILO); **Stéphane Plumet**, Association pour la Promotion de l'Éducation et de la Formation à l'Étranger (APEFE)

On behalf of the Secretary Executive of Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and herself, **Koumba Boly-Barry** thanked IDAY for gathering all these actors for a reflection on as a fundamental challenge as education in Africa.

While Africa is often portrayed as a deliquescent continent, one must see its tremendous potential and the abundance of local initiative undertaken by its populations to influence political choices and practices, and to ensure the well-being of their children and youth. There is real commitment on the continent, including from the institutional actors. African heads of States have decided upon a 2008-2015 Decade for Education, and the 10-year plan prioritises on early childhood, vocational training and quality of education. The African Charter of the Right and Well-Being of the Child is another important tool in favour of the child.

As for development aid, Mrs Boly-Barry noted a net evolution in the support given by bi- and multilateral partners to the education sector, including noticeable efforts to improve coordination and efficiency, and to achieve better concertation between all actors. Nevertheless, there is still a lot to be done in terms of aid structure and facilitation of implementation procedures. Many receiving countries simply don't have the capacity to absorb the resources put at their disposal. There is also a need for development aid to progress on the issue of governance by guaranteeing that all actors concerned, i.e. governing bodies and governed populations, participate in the definition and implementation of national education plans so as to effectively support common society projects.

Despite progress in the education sector (in 1990, barely one quarter of the African children had access to the first year of elementary school; nowadays, less than 20% are still unable to do so), a great deal of children remains in the margin of the formal education system. Inclusive education is therefore an important challenge when considering the continuing exclusion of many a youngster in rural areas, young girls, ethnic minorities (for instance, nomadic people) and many other groups of vulnerable children and youngsters. Adding to this reality, challenges in terms of population growth and quality of education make it urgent to **adopt of a holistic view of education systems, both integrated and diverse, taking into account the African realities**.

Adrian Aupperle from Transparency International (TI) added that transparency is a prerequisite to aid efficiency and that it is required at all levels, on the donor end as well as on the beneficiaries end (not only governments, but also local authorities, school management and parents). He gave the example of misinformation of school heads on the yearly budget allocated to their school. On these issues, Mr Aupperle

mentioned the African Education Watch launched by TI in several countries, an initiative that could be further extended.

Education is a fundamental issue when it comes to the problem of working children. **Rudi Delarue**, representative of the International Labour Office (ILO) in Brussels, explained how the concept of **decent work** allowed for socio-economic and local cultural realities to be taken into account while promoting at the same time respect of social rights and the importance of education.

Hans de Greve from Plan-Belgium displayed graphs showing that education receives only a small share of the Belgium development cooperation budget (*see annex 3*). When breaking it down, one sees that the share allocated to basic education (**10,3% of the education budget line**) is largely insufficient for a sector considered as a development priority. Pre-school initiation is even more disregarded, not to say ignored in this budget (0,02%!) although Africa suffers from a great deficit in this sub-sector – 14% of the African children have access to pre-school initiation while the world average stands at 40%.

Finally, European Commission **Jacques Malpel** stressed that the question of aid efficiency is crucial to the European Union for two reasons: first, an obligation of results (cf. second Millennium Development Goal and sustainable development in general); second, the obligation of accountability to the European citizens. Mr Malpel also echoed Mrs Boly-Barry by supporting the idea of a holistic approach to education, i.e. understanding education as the acquisition of skills and competencies necessary to personal development and a professional activity. He specifically invited to consider basic education as the fundament of life-long training, a concept that aims at overcoming the mismatch between education and the labour market. Thus, the great challenges of the EU's intervention in the education sector (57% of global aid) are quality – which has a varying definition and is difficult to measure – and the ability to offer alternative education formulas (for instance, non formal education, vocational literacy training, etc).

The open-floor discussions that followed addressed a series of issues, including: the prevailing European prejudice vis-à-vis the competences and honesty of African civil society organizations; a **confusion between education and schooling**, which ignores the fact that education actually transcends several sectors (health, citizenship, etc), thus rendering its measurement and evaluation more complex than that of schooling; integration of the African cultural system in the education design process; the necessary link between education/training and the labour market; the importance of advocacy work in remote and rural areas, outside capital cities.

Investing in African civil society

Speaker: **Jean-Jacques Schul**, IDAY-International

Moderator: **Virginie Dhellemmes**, Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE)

Panel: **Daniela Dalmasso & Elodie Duquesne**, Dynamo International; **Amina Djibo Diallo**, Permanent Mission of the African Union to Brussels; **Roger Katembwe**, IDAY-DRC

In its presentation dedicated to Floribert Chebeya, **Jean-Jacques Schul**, president of IDAY-International, urged for a change in the development aid paradigm and for increased investment in the efforts and initiatives of the African civil society.

He started by recalling some figures about the situation in Africa: by 2050, the continent is anticipated to become the largest pool of youth in the world; the number of illiterate youngsters still raises by about 2 million a year - the rather strong economic growth doesn't benefit to the majority of the population; current previsions indicate that over 23 million African children might still have no access to basic education in 2015, which the deadline set for the Millennium Development Goals. Mr Schul then deplored that European aid is still mainly granted to European agencies and organisations (85% of the total in the last years) and benefits

merely indirectly to African organisations. Yet, besides the obvious sustainability challenge of such an approach, one must also bear in mind that the projects carried out by Western organisations might have positive micro-economic outcomes but their impact on the population as a whole is almost inexistent, if not negative since the number of poor (less than \$2/day) continues to increase in Africa.

A change in our approach is thus necessary, on several grounds. First, Mr Schul insisted on the need to put the local civil society back **at the heart of the development process**, not only as a beneficiary, but also as actor and driving force. African civil society organisations have a better knowledge and understanding of local issues and are able to elaborate solutions that are more adapted to the socio-economic context (including low unit costs).

Moreover, reflecting the position of the Global Campaign for Education, he explained why it is important to step up support to **advocacy** campaigns on the right to education, in addition to, if not instead of aid commitments mostly focused on service delivery designed to bridge the gap of failing local public services. This “dilemma of the good Samaritan”, by which donors short-circuit local governments and civil society in their attempt to address unbearable humanitarian or economic problems, perpetuates dependence relations as it entices the beneficiaries to rely exclusively on external interventions. Worse, it conflicts *de facto* with the States’ primary responsibility to guarantee education to all their citizens, and undermines any chance of yet essential dialogue between the African States and their civil society.

Concluding on the issue of aid efficiency, Mr Schul therefore stated that supporting advocacy and civil control activities carried out by the African civil society is the only way to **effectively** spend more money on education in Africa; increasing the overall amount of aid won’t do without radical modification in its allocation. He reminded the audience that the Commonwealth Education Fund recommended that **3% of public aid for education should be allocated to financing national civil society coalitions** in order to strengthen their advocacy and monitoring capacity. This recommendation inspired the commission system applied by IDAY on its Project Bank: all the projects funded through this channel include a commission that contributes to financing the functioning of the IDAY national coalitions.

Virginie Dhellemmes, Secretary General of the Bureau International Catholique pour l’Enfance (BICE) confirmed that civil society already plays a very important role to address the needs of many of child, especially where the States are failing to do so. She also highlighted that the international instruments on human rights specifically give civil society a control and monitoring responsibility (for instance, the alternative reports commissioned for the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Socio-cultural Rights) but that there is insufficient use made of these intervention mechanisms.

According to **Amina Djibo Diallo**, the African Union (AU) works towards giving the governments a greater sense of responsibility. Referring to Mrs Boly-Barry’s intervention, she explained that the AU seeks to develop a continental vision – as it did through the action plan for the 2nd Decade for Education – that would imply enhanced institutional commitment. Many challenges remain in the education sector such as basic education costs management, especially on the issue of gratuity and of local contributions to the financing of the education system. Admittedly, civil society has a role to play to make suggestions; yet, Mrs Diallo stressed the permanent challenge of collaboration between institutions and civil society, which is related to that of establishing legitimate representation mechanisms allowing the latter to fully play its part. She insisted that the African institutions are open to the propositions formulated by civil society on expected policy choices, and she called for a better appropriation of existing concertation and monitoring mechanisms by non State actors.

On the issue of participative democracy, **Roger Katembwe**, coordinator of IDAY-DRC, emphasised the importance of a permanent and real relationship between government and citizens; if lacking, civil society can indeed be reduced to a critical opposition stance. Civil society is able to provide information on existing problems and to mobilise to bridge the gaps. It is therefore essential to stimulate concertation and dialogue mechanisms for a constructive relationship with the institutions.

This is the approach adopted by the street workers network Dynamo International. **Daniela Dalmasso** and **Elodie Duquesne** explained that the work conducted in DRC aims at supporting practically, administratively and politically the Congolese authorities in taking their responsibilities. In this perspective, **networking** among field

actors is crucial to give coherence to their action, facilitate acknowledgment by the government and thus foster the (re)opening of a dialogue between them.

During the debate that followed, some participants stressed that many African States are not ready or willing to be subjected to civil control – a few even observed that local authorities are the greatest obstacle to civil society's initiatives. The role of the **Diaspora** was also discussed, with concern about the dispersion of its interventions and on their low effectiveness and long-term impact. Additionally, it appears essential to promote greater cooperation between the African Diaspora and civil society in their country of origin. Referring to the "good Samaritan dilemma", it was agreed that supporting civil society organisations' projects should include specific assistance to advocacy actions so as to avoid relieving governments from their responsibilities.

The impact of tax evasion and capital flight on aid efficiency

Speaker: **Eva Joly**, President of the Development Commission of the European Parliament

Moderator: **Giles Merritt**, Friends of Europe

Panel: **Nora Honkaniemi**, EURODAD; **Bernard Ziller**, European Investment Bank; **Christopher Thomas**, World Bank

Eva Joly started her address by insisting on the importance of tax issues for developing countries, arguing that fighting tax evasion and capital flight – especially directed to tax havens – must be a central component of Africa's development policy. Indeed, in addition to Africa being one of the main sources of these illegal transfers, it has been demonstrated that Third-World countries in general recover only 12 to 14% of their GDP in the form of taxes (while the world average stands at 40%).

A study¹ commissioned by the Norwegian government on illegal financial flows from developing countries concluded that the overall tax evasion shared among large multinationals and some high officials amounts up to **10 times the global aid development budget**. In other words, **those countries would not need foreign aid if we put an end to these illegal financial flows!** As worrying, the vast majority of these flows do not originate from corruption – which obviously must be fought – but from transfers governed by perfectly legal contracts established with Third-World governments. Thus, Zambia – a country in which Norway has been intervening for 50 years without any development process really taking on – copper exports amounting to \$3 billions would generate only \$50 million revenues to the State, which is even lower than the actual production costs. These transfers are operated by firms that are often financed by international aid institutions. The latter should implement stricter conditions preventing such misuse. Tax evasion should be better controlled; it is a shame that the responsibility of African governments in this matter was not touched upon during the last discussions on the topic that took place in Europe².

Tax evasion further erodes already rather slim tax bases in Africa (importance of the informal economy, narrow middle class, tax avoiding or exoneration strategies from wealthy categories, low tax rate applied on multinational firms), thus leaving the States with insufficient tax resources and very limited capacity for action. This is why Mrs Joly advocated for fair and equitable tax systems that spread the tax burden across the population. She particularly called for a review of regulations on private investments, explaining that in the present situation, it is profitable for some firms to export their profits and to re-import them later on as investments. Mrs Joly concluded by urging civil society organisations to educate their country's tax administration into negotiating with multinational firms and imposing better control on them, and by calling upon international aid agencies to support them in this endeavour.

According to **Giles Merritt**, any debate on Africa's situation and future should take into account the anticipated demographic boom (an estimated population of 1.8 billion by 2050) and its double consequence: on the one hand, increased pressure on social and governing structures; on the other hand, a potential unprecedented

¹ See the report of the Norwegian Commission on capital flight from developing countries, *Tax havens and development*, June 19, 2009

² Since this conference, Swiss banks have announced their decision to refund to their government of origin any sums identified as corruption-related and involving high officials from developing countries.

economic dynamism. Mr Merritt wondered how European aid takes stocks of these 2 realities. How does it contribute to establishing adequate socio-economic conditions that would allow harnessing these realities for Africa's development?

Nora Honkaniemi then exposed a number of critics formulated by the platform Reality of Aid on the **Paris Declaration** of 2005 (*see annex 4*), a declaration presented by donors as a basis for increased aid efficiency. While endorsing the Declaration, the platform highlighted in its 2009 Report a number of concerns, in particular 1) a donor-led agenda; 2) a political document that is not legally binding; 2) a focus on technical aid delivery and not enough on the actual development results. Ms Honkaniemi emphasised 3 additional critics made to this Declaration. First, its concept of "country ownership" leaves civil society on the margin, as opposed to "democratic ownership". Second, it provides insufficient ground for effective mutual accountability. Third, it contains little commitment on the donors' side to untie aid, with the consequence that still 2/3 of all contracts are being awarded to organisations and firms from donor countries. Ms Honkaniemi finished her presentation by stating that the Paris Declaration was not meant to address illegal financial flows; yet, by not putting in place the appropriate regulatory framework – including financial and banking regulations to prevent capital flight –, Europe undermines the very efficiency of its own aid as well as any chance for inclusive ownership and accountability on the receivers' end.

Bernard Ziller and **Christopher Thomas**, both representing international development banks, agreed with these observations and gave examples of measures taken by their respective institutions to fight capital tax evasion. Mr Ziller mentioned the adoption by the European Investment Bank (EIB) of a policy on the use of offshore financial centres by its clients; it requires further development, yet it constitutes a significant first step in the good direction. Like Mr Thomas, he also confirmed that development aid has a relatively minor role to play in development processes that rely largely on the countries themselves and their capacity to mobilise the necessary resources. Therefore, development banks must insist on measures aimed at **improving the mobilisation and use of tax resources**, but also on the often under-estimated local saving capacity.

Mr Thomas highlighted that civil society advocacy should not focused only on the Ministries of Education, but should be extended to the financial authorities. In Europe, it is about improving the efficiency of foreign aid. In Africa, the challenge lies in strengthening the financial markets that are essential to development and economic growth, in particular by taking a more active part in the G20 through the African Union.

Opening the floor to debate, Mr Merritt asked about the instruments that could contribute to solve these issues. Emphasis was laid on the **responsibility of governments** of the North (for instance, by putting an end to bank secrecy and to tolerance towards tax havens) as well as of the South. The African Union must act as a driving force to design the proper mechanisms. The African civil society must acquire, with support from Northern countries, a strong advocacy power in order to foster democratic governance on the continent. Moreover, the irregularity and uneven repartition of aid was mentioned, followed by the recommendation that the finance administrations of the receiving countries should be assisted in dealing with highly volatile aid flows – partially due to a lack of coordination among donors. Participants also discussed the necessity of **tying** aid to results. This applies in particular to debt alleviation, the necessity of which is unquestioned but that are too often granted without the sufficient framework, thus negatively impacting on the responsibility of the receiving States. It would for instance be relevant to impose conditions such as investing in fundamental public services (health, education; see the successful case of Cameroon). The question remains why such conditions do not apply to loans granted by international organisations. Besides, the structural adjustments imposed by the international institutions – needed to some extent to clean up the finances of many an African country whose budgets stood in excessive deficit – seriously damaged social services, especially education and health, that in some countries have not yet recovered.

The private donors' perspective

Chair: **Wamu Oyatamwe**, ACODEV

Panel: **Hervé Lisoir**, King Baudouin Foundation; **Eric Deckers**, Africa Antwerpen (AFRANT); **Ghislaine Psimhis**, Groupe Interprofessionnel de Centrafrique (GICA)

The presentations of this session scanned through the spectrum of activities and strategies of intervention carried out by private donors involved in the development sector. **Hervé Lisoir** first explained that the King Baudouin Foundation, which mainly manages private funds, must adjust its strategy to the instructions given by these donors. While the Foundation initially entrusted bilateral donors (Belgian and German) with the management of its action, it progressively evolved towards the use of pools of local competences. While it considers that donors should monitor closely projects taking place in fragile States such as the DRC, the Foundation tends to rely more and more on local civil society. Its interventions continue to prioritise specific, small-size projects, in accordance with most donors' desire to realise **direct and targeted investment with concrete and immediately visible results**.

In the same line of thought, the association AFRANT focuses its action on a few West African countries and funds "very concrete", specific projects. The selection is made based on personal experience and relations. As **Eric Deckers** explained, the underlying philosophy is that cooperation is not possible without **friendship bonds**, as these are the foundation of trust between donors and beneficiaries. This friendship dynamic guarantees efficient projects. Mr Deckers also accounted for the geographic and thematic limitation decided by his association by stressing the importance of establishing and maintaining regular, in-depth contact with local authorities with whom it is essential to collaborate. He eventually invited all donors willing to contribute effectively and sustainably to local needs to "**put on an African mask with large ears and small mouth**".

Ghislaine Psimhis addressed the role local companies can play in their country's development. They have so far largely limited themselves to financing education and health services for their own employees. Mrs Psimhis advocated for progressively bringing these companies to also engage in contributing to the development of these services at national level.

"If we don't invest in education, we don't invest in development", repeated **Wamu Oyatambwe** in his conclusion. Private donors should not limit themselves to funding a school, an NGO or a local association – thus potentially supplanting the State; their responsibility consists also in supporting advocacy and efforts to ensure that States hold their responsibilities in making education a priority sector. He additionally said highlighted that advocacy should address all authorities, including traditional ones. The Diaspora could play a significant role in this area as long as it is willing and able to adopt a more global approach.

CONCLUSIONS

Chaired by **Louis Michel**, Member of the European Parliament and Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

1. Foreign aid in Africa presents an outdated and ill-adapted micro-economic framework of intervention. Despite the amount of aid dedicated to the education sector, there is a real resources allocation problem.
2. A holistic view of education systems is required in which the service supply is diverse enough to address all socio-economic and cultural realities while integrating social protection mechanisms, i.e. inclusive education opened to non formal sector, literacy and innovating initiatives (such as mobile schools, school canteens, etc). A global, integrated approach to education is necessary that takes into account all economic and cultural rights, and that matches skills and competences to the requirements

of the labour market. Decentralisation is an interesting mechanism that puts education back at the village level, yet it requires that the appropriate resources are made available at all levels. Quality and completion of the primary cycle must also be priorities.

3. One must recall, as did **Mr Michel** in his closing address, the crucial role of African governments who hold primary responsibility for the respect of their people's fundamental human rights. These entities often participate in the capital flight that undermines aid efficiency, partially due to the amounts at stake. Too often, private and public donors disregard African civil society although it is essential in getting their governments to consolidate social services budgets that will guarantee a fair and sustainable development.
4. African civil society is already actively involved in the education sector and needs to be assisted as:
 - It addresses the fundamental needs of the child that are not taken care of by the State. This is especially for vulnerable and "invisible" children;
 - It is on the front-line of advocacy work (locally, nationally and internationally). This activity should be further developed, particularly at national and international levels, starting with making better use of existing intervention and monitoring mechanisms (ex: UN alternative reports). Another important way consists in encouraging coordination and collective work through coalitions of CSOs. Coalitions have potential for valuing best practices, informing the authorities and stimulating collaboration between them and civil society.
5. African organisations face difficulties in having their value recognised and in obtaining adequate funding for their initiatives. This is due mainly to complicated application and management procedures, and the inevitable discrepancy between the way they function and the norms established by developed countries. Prejudices of ill management and lack of competence still affect them.
6. Effective and permanent concertation frameworks open to all relevant stakeholders must be prioritised. Yet, dialogue and cooperation between civil society and government institutions remains a real challenge. Civil society must submit concrete propositions on how to work with the authorities, and cases of constructive concertation (both at national and local levels) should be highlighted so as to inspire other actors. Collaboration between the stakeholders is crucial to avoid relieving States from their responsibilities.
7. Diaspora has a role to play but it should work in closer concertation with local civil society and authorities, and widen their reach beyond the family and local target.
8. Capital flows from developing countries represent 10 times the amount of international development aid. The majority of these transfers are originally legal (profits made by multinational firms based on legal contracts) but knowingly set up to escape any tax system, especially that of developing countries. Such practices deprive these States from significant financial resources and participate in maintaining aid dependency.
9. The advocacy carried out by African civil society should not only address education institutions but also financial institutions, in Africa as well as in Europe, with the aim of improving aid efficiency. Efforts to achieve transparency are urgently required, on behalf of both donors and beneficiaries, and at all levels. Advocacy should focus on monitoring the commitments of the beneficiaries of aid – for instance by tying the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative to effective investment in social services).
10. The private donors' commitment is driven by the desire to intervene on the field in a concrete and immediate manner. Still, there seem to be a tendency to engage in long-term investments and in direct support to local actors. Private donors also show a timid yet real interest in advocacy activities. A trust relationship is often critical to the decision of granting subsidy, but allows at the same time for local realities to be better taken into account.



ANNEXES

Annex: Programme

Annex 2: List of participants

Annex 3: Presentation of Hans de Greve, Plan Belgium

Annex 4: Presentation of Nora Honkaniemi, EURODAD / Reality of Aid



FILLING THE BASIC EDUCATION GAP IN AFRICA

On the 24th of June 2010 at the European Parliament in Brussels

With the support of Isabelle Durant, Vice-President of the European Parliament

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:45	Opening Ceremony Isabelle Durant, Vice-President of the European Parliament
9:45 – 10:45	Performance of foreign aid in the education sector: achievements and new perspectives <i>Speaker:</i> Koumba Boly-Barry & Thanh-Hoa Desruelles, ADEA <i>Moderator:</i> Collins Nweke, NIDOE <i>Panel:</i> Hans de Greve, Plan Belgium; Jacques Malpel, DG Development - European Commission; Adrian Aupperle, Transparency International; Rudi Delarue, International Labor Organisation; Stéphane Plumat, APEFE
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Investing in the African Civil Society <i>Speaker:</i> Jean-Jacques Schul, IDAY-International <i>Panel:</i> Virginie Dhellemmes, BICE; Daniela Dalmasso, Dynamo International; Amina Djibo Diallo, Permanent Mission of the African Union in Brussels; Roger Katembwe, IDAY-RDC
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:45	Foreign aid performance and capital flight <i>Speaker:</i> Eva Joly, President of the Development Committee of the European Parliament <i>Moderator:</i> Giles Merritt, Friends of Europe <i>Panel:</i> Nora Honkaniemi, EUODAD; Bernard Ziller, European Investment Bank; Christopher Thomas, World Bank; Philippe Cori, UNICEF Brussels
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:15	The Private donors' perspective <i>Chairman:</i> Wamu Oyatamwe, ACODEV <i>Panel:</i> Hervé Lisoir, The King Baudouin Foundation; Eric Deckers; Ghislaine Psimhis, GICA
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Closing session and conclusions Chaired by Louis Michel, Member of the European Parliament, Co-President of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Venue: Room P7C050, Paul-Henri Spaak building, European Parliament in Brussels

Languages: English and French

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ANNEX 2

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ANNEX 2

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Belgian Development Cooperation and Education

Belgian Development Cooperation legislation identifies 'Education' as one of the 5 priority sectors for Belgian Development Cooperation. Belgium's 2008 ODA (Official Development Aid) statistics show a total ODA of 1 654 million euro. The Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDC) amounts for 1 089 million of the total ODA. After a steady rise from 2005 to 2007 the education budget dropped from 12,6% of the total DGCD ODA in 2007 to 10.85% in 2008 (120 million euro).

A closer look at Belgium's development cooperation Education Sector leads to two interesting observations.

The first observation is related to the European Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour in Development Cooperation. Where Belgium in the past was active in the education sector in many different partner countries, the European Code of Conduct has led to a concentration of bi-lateral education initiatives in just 4 of 18 partner countries, three of which lay in central Africa: DR Congo, Burundi and Uganda. Even though budgets for Education in these 3 countries will rise significantly, the decision clearly shows the difficulties the 'Education sector' faces to keep its place in Belgium's development policy.

The second observation is that there seems to be a strong discrepancy between Belgian development cooperation discourse on the MDG's as a leading principle for Belgian aid and development cooperation and the reality in the education sector. Following the principle that MDG's are one of the main outlines for Belgian development cooperation (Policy note 2010), basic education (including preschool and primary education) should be a priority within the education sector. When we have a look at the overall Education budget though, we see a very different picture. Of the 120 million euro invested in education, 86.9 million (59.5%!) is spent on higher (technical) education. Secondary (Vocational) education (16.4%), primary education (10.3%) and especially preschool education (0.02%) follow far behind.

Moreover, the Indicative Development Cooperation Program's for the 3 African countries where education remains a bilateral priority show very little attention to basic (primary and preschool) education. In DR Congo the focus is on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Burundi shows some attention to primary education through teacher training and sector budget support (not clear what percentage goes to primary education initiatives) but also makes TVET one of its priorities, while in Uganda the focus is on post-primary education.

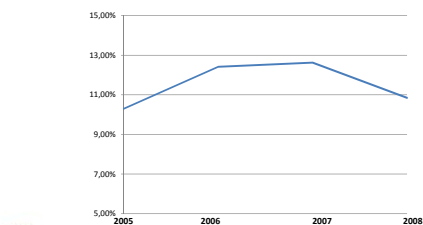
This doesn't imply that investments in TVET for instance are not worthwhile, but the limited amount of resources attributed to basic education does not align with the universal right of children to free basic education nor with the MDG-focus of Belgium's development cooperation. On the other hand one could argue that in reality Belgian education cooperation seems to start more from an Education for All approach, but then it grossly under focuses on the preschool dimension of Education for All.

All things considered, although the priorities adopted by Belgium are at times justifiable, Plan Belgium is of the opinion that to realize children's right to education, extra attention should be given to quality basic education. Particularly on preschool education, we still have a long way to go.



DGDC spending on Education - % of DGDC ODA

- Total ODA – 1 654 M €
- DGDC ODA – 1 089 M €
- DGDC ODA Education Budget – 120 M€ - 10.85%



IDCP Priorities

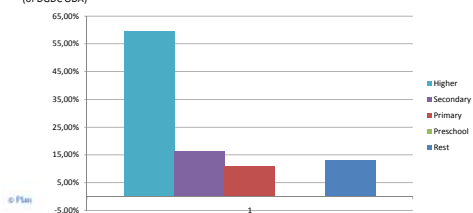
Country	Priority sector	Priority sector	Priority sector
Benin	Health	Agriculture	
Bolivia	Health	Agriculture	Governance
Burundi	Education	Agriculture	Pistes et Bacs
DR Congo	Education	Agriculture	
Mali	Decentralisation	Food Security	
Morocco	Water	Agriculture	
Mozambique	Health	Rural Development	
Niger	Health	Food Security	
Palestinian OT	Education	Loc. Governance	
Peru	Health	Sus. Development	
Senegal	Health	Basic Infrastructure	
Tanzania	Local Gov. reform	NRM	
Uganda	Education	Health	



Education ODA Figures (2008)

- DGDC ODA Education Budget – 120 M€ - 10.85%
 - Higher (Technical) Education – 86.9 M € - 59.2%
 - Secondary (Vocational) Education – 19.8 M € - 16.4%
 - Primary Education – 13.3 M € - 10.3%
 - Preschool Education – 0.025 M € - 0.02%

(of DGDC ODA)



AID EFFECTIVENESS AND CAPITAL FLIGHT

Eurodad is a NGO network of 59 organisations working on development finance issues in Europe. Eurodad is a member of the southern led Reality of Aid and Better Aid platforms which represent global CSO and have over 700 members.

The failures of poverty reduction

- failure to achieve poverty reduction and to reach the MDGs can be attributed to multiple factors, some of which have been mentioned here today
- the aid effectiveness agenda, crystallised by the Paris declaration in 2005, attempted to address some of the shortcomings of aid delivery
- the move by donors to tackle the inefficiencies of aid delivery were a welcome signal that the problems inherent in development cooperation were being taken seriously
- However while one cannot be against the Paris principles per se, the declaration has many shortcomings, of which civil society has been very critical.
- Overarchingly, the Paris declaration is a donor led agenda of technical aid management, and not about improving development policy.
- In addition the Paris declaration is a political agreement, it is not legally binding.
- CSO is advocating for a broader framework moving away from technical aid effectiveness towards a development effectiveness approach that needs to be not only implemented in the broader context of development finance but also enshrined in legally binding commitments on national, EU or international level.
- Here I will concentrate on three primary critiques of the PD, namely on democratic ownership, mutual accountability, and tied aid, and finally how the effectiveness agenda is ultimately hampered by a much bigger problem, the outflows that dwarf aid resulting from illicit capital flight.

Democratic Ownership

- Ownership is a weak spot of the PD from a CSO perspective because the Paris declaration defines ownership mainly as **country** ownership not as **democratic** ownership.
 - The indicator used for measuring ownership is an operational national development plan which more often than not has been developed by elites and according to a donor led agenda that does not necessarily reflect the needs, rights, and priorities of the population, for example prioritising public education for all.
- ➔ **This is why development plans need to be developed in broad consultation including citizens and CSOs. Ownership needs to be democratic and local ownership.**

Mutual Accountability

- The problem regards mutual accountability in the Paris Declaration is that indicators and a deadline to achieve goals were set, but never a process for how to actually implement it, and no legally binding framework in which to anchor it.
- Mutual accountability for delivery on commitments is difficult to achieve, mainly because of an imbalance of power relations between donors and recipients, who have no power to hold donors to account to deliver on their commitments.
- ➔ **A legally binding framework to oversee the international aid system, enshrined in the UN, would provide an equitable and legitimate basis for ensuring commitments of mutual accountability on both sides.**

Aid tying and procurement (conditionality)

- The commitments on untying aid are very weak in the Paris declaration by just calling on donors to make “continuous progress over time.” However, the reality of aid is that more than two thirds of all contracts are still awarded to firms based in donor countries. Donors are using aid, to promote their own national business.
- Untying aid is key to make sure that official development assistance (ODA) doesn't only statistically flow into developing countries, but actually stays in these countries and promotes sustainable economic development, creates jobs and income etc.
- ➔ **The practice of forcing developing countries to liberalise their procurement markets must be replaced by policies that support developing countries to build strong procurement systems that are appropriate to their development needs.**

However – development finance will never be effective and the MDGs, including that on education will never be achieved, despite all the principles in the world, unless one problem is tackled – illicit capital flight.

- Illicit capital flight (USD 1 trillion), resources flowing out of developing countries, constitutes ten times annual aid flows (USD100 b)
- Outflows thus clearly far outweigh gains from increased aid or debt relief
- If these outflows were spent on productive investments, the money would allow for significant domestic resource mobilisation and sustainable economic development
- The largest share of these outflows are caused by commercial activity by legal TNC's through tax evasion and transfer mispricing (2/3)
- Capital flight relies on bank secrecy provided by Northern actors, and the EU must play a role to plug the holes by supporting measures that prevent capital flight, the only way to make aid inflows more effective.



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