

National Strategic Plan for the Education of Girls & Other Vulnerable Children 2005 - 2010: A SUMMARY



The VISION

The National Strategic Plan for the Education of Girls and OVC will be guided by the following two complementary visions. The first vision was inspired by a group of school girls at the launch of the National Girls Education Movement in Zimbabwe in 2004 and the second underpins the National Action Plan (NAP) for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children:

- I. A society in which girls and women are empowered to take charge of their lives and participate fully in national development.
- II. Reach all orphans and other vulnerable children in Zimbabwe with basic education services that will positively impact their lives.

The plan will address the national priority actions for basic education through the pursuit of two of the eight Millennium Development Goals and related Education For All (EFA) Goals cited overleaf.



The 5 Inter - Related Issues for Action

- Declining Rates of School Completion largely due to unaffordable costs of primary and secondary education
- Declining quality of primary and secondary education
- High rate of HIV prevalence which is increasing the vulnerability of girls to HIV and threatening the exclusion of OVC from education and development
- Sexual and economic exploitation of school age girls and boys
- Religious Beliefs and Cultural Practices impacting negatively on children's education (eg: forced early marriage of children)

Education for All

- 1 Ensure that by 2015 all children – particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to vulnerable people – have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality;
- 2 Ensure that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills program;
- 3 Achieve gender equality in education by 2015;
- 4 Improve all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so those recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.



Millennium Development Goals & Objective Goals

- Achieve universal primary education;
- Promote gender equity and empower women.



Goals of the Plan of Action 2005 - 2010

1. To achieve universal primary education of quality for all Zimbabwean children by 2010.
2. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2010

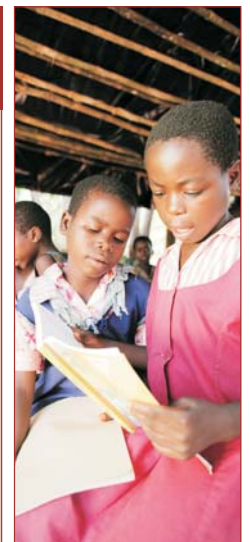
Principles Underpinning the Strategic Plan of Action

- 1 The Best Interest of the Child
- 2 Recognition that *all* Zimbabweans are guaranteed equality before the law and protected from discrimination through the Constitution
- 3 Tuition in Zimbabwe's schools to be provided free, especially for OVC, and if not free due to economic constraints, for the lowest possible fees consistent with the maintenance of high standards of education
- 4 Recognition that boys and girls have the capacity as well as the right to participate in decisions that affect them
- 5 Protection of orphans and other vulnerable school children in and out of school
- 6 Building upon existing community structures and paying attention to family ties and traditional capital
- 7 National ownership, effective resource coordination at all levels to maximize the use of local resources and minimize duplication, ensuring strong educational leadership, transparency and accountability
- 8 Integration of HIV prevention in all programme strategies and approaches.
- 9 The prevalence and demonstration of political will and commitment.
- 10 The use of broad-based partnerships for scale up and sustainability of educational interventions.

How does the Plan complement the National Action Plan for OVC?

The Plan complements the NAP for OVC in three important ways:

- 1 It focuses on capacity development of policy makers and implementers, parents, school development committee members, teachers, school heads and community leaders so that they can become empowered to fulfill their obligations towards their children while taking charge of their own development.
- 2 It focuses on improving the quality of education, in particular ensuring improved relevance and learning outcomes for both boys and girls, without which current investments in service delivery for OVC would be meaningless.
- 3 It focuses on building broad-based partnerships, national leadership and ownership for the sustainability of action at all levels.





MAIN STRATEGIES

- 1 Policy and Partnership Development, Advocacy and Gender Budgeting
- 2 Service delivery in the construction of schools, provision of grants and scholarships
- 3 School Quality and Safety within the Child-Friendly Schools Framework
- 4 Community Capacity Development
- 5 Promotion of Girls' and Boys' Participation through GEM
- 6 Information and Communication.

KEY RESULTS

Access Improved

1. 100% children attending primary school by 2010
2. Reduced distance from school from 10km to 3km radius, by 2010
3. Gender gap in primary completion closed by 2006.

Costs made Affordable for Vulnerable Girls as well as Boys

4. The direct and indirect cost of schooling made affordable for girls, orphans and other vulnerable children so that 90% of school children complete primary and secondary education by 2010.

Education System Capacity Strengthened

5. Improved Educational management Information System (EMIS), supervision and monitoring capacity in all districts as measured by provision of an annual district education situation report including data against the MDG and EFA indicators and information on programme performance produced and disseminated by district education teams.

Schools and Communities made Safer and more Protective for Girls from Abuse and Economic Exploitation

6. No cases of sexual abuse of school children reported by 2007
7. Policies, laws and community-based monitoring system in place by 2010 to eliminate child labor and sexual abuse
8. Two teachers in each primary school in all districts nationally providing guidance and counseling services by 2010.

Quality of Primary and Secondary Education Improved

9. Pupil/textbook ratio at 1:1 by 2010
10. At least 30,000 teachers trained in participatory methodologies in Maths, Integrated Agriculture and Environmental Science, Health, Hygiene and HIV/AIDS/Life skills by 2010
11. At least 70% of girls and boys attaining the minimum learning achievements targets set in Maths, Integrated Agriculture and Environmental Science and Life skills by 2010
12. At least 70% of primary school age children 10-14 (35,000) in the 100 schools correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV, reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission, communicate basic facts about food, nutrition, hygiene, care practices and can demonstrate practical school gardening skills and skills in food preservation and preparation techniques by the end of 2006
13. A system of monitoring learning achievement in place at district level by 2010.

Child Participation and Empowerment Promoted

14. 50% girls participating in GEM club activities in all primary schools nationally Reduced Impact of the Feminization of HIV and AIDS
15. Burden of care on 25,000 girls heading households and 5,000 female teachers affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic is reduced annually to enable them participate effectively in education and development.

Religious and Cultural Barriers Combated

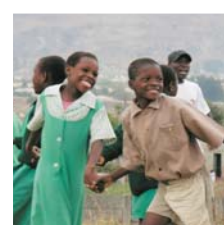
16. Monthly PTA meetings discuss and take action on religious and cultural attitudes and practices affecting girls' and boys' participation in education.



MAIN PARTNERS

The following partners are committed to working together to implement the Plan of Action, ensuring gender equity and the empowerment of women and girls as an integral part of their day to day work.

The Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, FAO, The Education Transition and Reform Programme of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, FAWEZI, Girl Child Network, CAMFED, SNV-Zimbabwe, the Flemish Organization for Development Co-operation (VVOB), Plan International, Rural District Councils (Bullilima, Mangwe, Buhera).



Estimated Annual Budget: USD10,000,000

| Current funding (secured/pipeline) Source | Amount | Years |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Child - Friendly Schools for Africa/Nelson Mandela Foundation and UNICEF German NATCOM | USD600,000 per annum | 2005-2009 |
| Engendering HIV prevention / UNICEF/UNFPA/EC | Euro 1,557,907 | 2007-2009 |
| UNICEF Girls' Education Thematic Funding | USD1,024,228 | 2005-2006 |
| UNICEF Basic Education and Gender Equality Programme | USD6,000,000 | 2007-2011 |
| UN Human Security Trust Fund/ Government of Japan/UNICEF/FAO - Enhancing Food Security through the Empowerment of Schools | USD1,351,915 | 2007-2008 |
| Swedish SIDA Prevention of Sexual Abuse in Schools | USD100,000 | 2006 |
| Government of Japan/Construction | USD2,549,228.00 | 2007 |
| UNESCO/EFA/Policy Development/Capacity development for Curriculum Renewal/Non-Formal education/Girls in Science | USD30,000 | 2006 |
| NGO Community | TBA | |