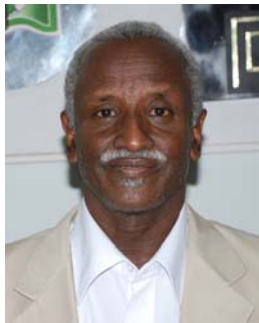




Sudan

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Inclusive Education: Twin Challenges of Availability and Quality

Despite the fact that significant growth in general education, especially at the basic level has been successfully achieved (37% in 1994 – 64.3% in 2006), the critical challenge of expanding access and improving quality and relevance poses a serious issue. However, the government strong political will and commitment to the right of education for all children for living together could be demonstrated by:

- The National Interim Constitution, which stipulated 'the state shall promote education all levels all over Sudan and shall ensure free and compulsory at primary level and in literacy programmes';
- The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which confirms provision of additional educational opportunities for groups affected by war;
- At the policy level, the 25 Year National Strategy Plan to 'reduce poverty and make progress towards achieving the MDGs by expanding provision of basic services in education and health'...;
- General Education Policies seeks to 'ensure educational opportunities to the vulnerable groups, war-affected groups, adults'.

The primary factors resulting in depriving disadvantaged children their basic rights to education include: frequent disasters and absence of peace and security in limited parts, which imposes internal displacement of population. Other barriers especially for girls' education are socio-cultural negative factors e.g. early marriage, sex preference, child labour and house duties. Consequently, 3-6 million children are deprived from schooling.

Several educational projects have been successfully implemented to further develop inclusive education for the benefit of disadvantaged children. The projects include alternative learning opportunities through compressed curriculum to finish the basic course in four years instead of eight. The nomadic children study four years in mobile school and the other four in boarding schools.

Evidently constitutional and institutional measures are well in place. However, the problem is the unavailability of adequate resource as Sudan is a post conflict country. The funds pledged by the international community have not yet been released for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the education sector.