Basic Education in Africa Programme (BEAP) Information Paper

African countries have undertaken concerted and commendable efforts to achieve Education for All targets and the Millennium Development Goals. Yet there is an urgent need to provide an inclusive system of basic education, one which enhances the capacities of all students to contribute to stable, peaceful, equitable, adaptable and prosperous societies.

Initiated by the Kigali Call for Action, the UNESCO Basic Education Programme in Africa (BEAP) was established to support the extension of basic education in partner countries from early childhood education to the end of junior secondary education. It integrates with existing initiatives and engages like-minded donors and development agencies already engaged in the country-led reform process. The intended and desired outcome from BEAP support is increased quality of curriculum equitably delivered, ensuring consistency with government policies and priorities, the sequence and continuity of learning (curriculum and schooling), the emphasis on personal, social and economic dimensions and learning outcomes. BEAP provides technical support and assistance using the following modalities:

- On-line or E-mail consultation
- Sensitisation and stakeholder consultation conferences and meetings
- In-country consultancy and capacity building activities

Among the many countries that offered to be pilot countries, The Gambia and Ethiopia have been the first countries to implement BEAP. Both countries have drafted plans and started actions for collaboration with BEAP, focusing on their highest priorities in basic education. Cote d’Ivoire will soon participate in the Programme.

**BEAP Objectives**

- Support the improvement of existing curriculum for Basic Education in partner countries;
- Incorporate within the curriculum design the latest curriculum-related initiatives and research, for example, on entrepreneurship education, enhancing learning, life skills, maths, science and technology education, as well as career guidance;
- Supplement and coordinate existing in-country resources and initiatives so that the improvements and priorities identified by pilot countries can be addressed;
- Build in-country capacity in curriculum design, development and implementation, teacher training, assessment and certification systems;
- Support country teams in assessing the funding implications of implementing improvements to Basic Education provision;
- Encourage South-South cooperation and sharing of available expertise;
- Ensure a proper ownership at national level of BEAP.

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