

## **Africa Education Watch – Implementation Report**

Period Covered: 01/04/2009 to 30/06/2009

**National Chapter/Country: TI Uganda**

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### **I. Overview**

Please provide a general description of progress made. Where possible, please describe what indicators you used to measure progress.

#### **Progress made towards programme outcomes and objectives:**

Please reflect in one or two sentences per outcome listed what progress you think your national chapter has made towards meeting the following Africa Education Watch programme objectives; where no progress has been made, please note “nothing to report”:

*Ultimate Outcome: to enhance accountability and transparency in the use of financial resources in the seven programme countries, so that primary education resources are more effectively used.*

##### Progress made:

- Africa Education Watch (AEW) Uganda National assessment report unearthed forms of leakages and wastage in primary education sector especially as far as the utilization of UPE resources is concerned. This has resulted into increased efforts by government through Ministry of Education and Sports to commit more resources toward monitoring the utilization of UPE funds in the budget for the

financial year 2009/2010

- The wider publicity of the gaps in monitoring transparency and accountability in the utilization of primary education resources has resulted into the Ministry of Local Government, which has the oversight function of service delivery under the decentralization framework to take kin interest in the findings of the national assessment. The Hon. Minister of State for Local Government requested for the report for actions by his ministry
- The Government of the Republic of Uganda has reiterated commitment to promote transparency and accountability in the utilization of education resources. This was a top priority issue during the state of Nation address on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> may 2009. The president pledged to take stern measures to address resource leakages in both primary and secondary education

*Intermediate Outcome 1.2: National civil society, including education NGOs and media, is more knowledgeable and concerned about waste, leakage, corruption and accountability mechanisms in primary education.*

Progress made:

- There has been wide publicity of wastage, leakages, corruption and weak accountability mechanisms in Uganda's primary education sector. This is attributed to the wide dissemination of the national assessment findings to the wider civil society through various channels including distribution of reports and sharing the information electronically on TI Uganda website. The high number of people requesting for the report is an indication of increased public awareness and concern about primary education resource leakages
- The media (both print and electronic) picked interest in the key findings of the AEW Uganda national assessment report relating to wastage and leakage of primary education resources and gave it publicity to the wider civil society. All the major Television station and radio station reported the findings in their news broadcast in the major dialects used in Uganda. An article about the same report was run on Page 3 of in the Daily Monitor of 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009; a daily which is strategic for policy influence. Another article was run on page 19 of Education & Career column of the same paper on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The result of this media

publicity is the recognition of the challenges affecting management of primary education and proposals for policy reforms and actions

- The findings in the report generated debate among policy makers, the media, NGO actors and the general public. Discussions were mainly centered around what needs to be done to improve prudent utilization of public resources including resources allocated to primary education. This is expected to influence policy and practice in the near future

*Intermediate Outcome 1.2: National civil society makes concrete policy recommendations for more effective use of primary education resources*

Progress made:

- The policy recommendations highlighted in the Africa Education Watch national assessment report for Uganda entitled: *“Leakages amidst scarcity: An Assessment Report on the Governance and Utilisation of Primary Education Resources in Uganda*, were drawn from stakeholders views through consultations. These recommendations were pointing at strengthening the local accountability structures, Improving funds disbursement through timely and consistent releases of school capitation grants and Promoting social primary education resource oversight.

*Intermediate Outcome 1.3: National civil society, including education NGOs and media increases and prioritizes demand for action on transparency and accountability in primary education*

Progress made:

The media and civil society organizations including UN Agencies such as UNICEF have pledged to work with TI Uganda to increase demand for transparency and accountability in the utilization of education resources. Other organizations that have pledged to support the advocacy campaign include Uganda National NGO Forum and actionaid Uganda

*Intermediate Outcome 2: Education and finance officials are more aware of and deal more proactively with transparency and accountability in primary education*

Progress made:

The awareness about leakages and wastage in resource utilization has compelled the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to allocate more funds to the Ministry of Education and Sports in the budget of Financial year 2009/2010, for improving monitoring and supervision of resource utilization in schools

*Intermediate Outcome 3: Donors and EFA international stakeholders address issues that have been identified as key to using resources more effectively by the Education Watch Programme, and aid effectiveness increases*

Progress made:

- Some members of Education Development partners in Uganda such as the Netherlands Embassy, Irish Aid and Link USAID have been have expressed particular interest to support efforts aimed at sealing the identified loopholes in the utilization of resources earmarked for education development. The next stage of advocacy will seek to translate this commitment into vivid actions for supporting prudent resource utilization

## **II. Summary of Activities**

Please create one entry in this category for each activity or event that took place during the period covered. Each activity/event shall be shortly described as per the following format.

**a. Activity/Event 1: Fine tuning AEW Uganda National Assessment Report**

**Date:** April

**Location:** Uganda

**Implemented by:** TI Uganda through a local consultant

**Type and number of participants:** TIU staff

**Short summary:**

The activity was intended to tighten the national assessment report in terms of language, grammar and to ensure that it is free from spellings and factual errors before publication.

The national assessment approximates the levels of resource leakages and delays in transfers, the extent of illegal fees and other costs that parents incur, and the effectiveness of the decentralized accountability structures in regard to controlling primary education resources and preventing corruption.

It highlights the scope of resource leakages, demand and access to financial information at the different levels, local governance and citizen involvement in schools organization and governance etcetera

The report further analyzes the financing system and flows of resources in the primary education sector

The findings reveals that despite increased resources to the primary sector, achievement of universal primary education still remains unattainable goal due to system leakages, delays, corruption and mismanagement of primary education resources. The report further suggest recommendations to stakeholders to ameliorate the identified bottlenecks

**b. Activity/Event 2:** Printing of the National Assessment Report

**Date :** April-May 2009

**Location:** Kampala Uganda

**Implemented by:** TIU

**Type and number of participants:**

**Short summary:**

TI Uganda procured services of World Class Printers LTD for printing 1000 copies of the National Assessment report entitled: "Leakages amidst scarcity: An Assessment Report on the Governance and Utilisation of Primary Education Resources in Uganda. The report has been disseminated to major stakeholders with a call for actions based on the findings

**c. Activity/Event 3:** Printing of T-Shirts with advocacy message

**Date :** April-May 2009

**Location:** Kampala Uganda

**Implemented by:** TIU

**Type and number of participants:**

**Short summary:**

Through a competitive bidding process, TI Uganda contracted two firms; Superior promotions LTD and Global Designers and Screen Printers LTD, to produce 200 collar T-shirts and 800 round neck T-shirts respectively.

The collar T-shirts with advocacy message in English language were targeted for policy makers at national and district level where as the round neck T-shirts with messages in Local languages targeted local community members

The advocacy messages on the T-shirts has been used to create awareness and mobilize civil society to take actions against resource leakages in the primary education sector

**d. Activity/Event 4** Media Briefing

**Date :** May 11, 2009

**Location:** Kampala Uganda

**Implemented by:** TIU

**Type and number of participants:** 40 participants from all the major media houses in Uganda

***Short summary:***

The activity was conducted as a precursor to the national launch of the Uganda national assessment report. It was intended to explain the assessment methodology and key findings to the media for their reflection before the official launch. This provided the media ample time to build their stories for coverage and dissemination to the general public. The success of the launch event and wider coverage and publicity of the report findings that proceeded is attributed to this activity.

**e. Activity/Event 5: National Launch of the Uganda Assessment Report**

***Date :*** May 13, 2009

***Location:*** Kampala Uganda

***Implemented by:*** TIU

***Type and number of participants: Government, NGOs ,Donor Agencies and general public***

***Short summary:***

The launch took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> may 2009 at Hotel Royale in Kampala-Uganda capital. It brought together Kampala and upcountry participants drawn from Government Officials, Representatives of Donors, Civil Society Organizations, Media and general public

Key findings highlighted in the report include;

- Minimal access to information by the parents yet vigilant tracking of school grants would go a long way in reducing leakages and wastage.
- Inadequate capacity of the SMCs and SFCs to monitor UPE resources. The district level School inspectorate departments and the DEOs office exercise very little oversight on UPE which has resulted in teacher absenteeism (reported by 29% of respondents).
- Levying of extra charges on parents, most especially for coaching (reported by 100% of SHTs) and blatant bribery centred on the release of funds and approval of contracts.
- Delayed and erratic release of UPE grants (reported by 66% of SHTs) that made it difficult to predict and plan or even to differentiate and identify each monthly release

giving way to the practice of “creative fund management” employed by the officials to hide embezzlement of public funds. This practice is aggravated by the inadequacy in financial skills, record keeping and management in the schools.

Discussions in the plenary session emphasized need for strengthening demand centers for transparency and accountability in UPE delivery. It was pointed out that lack of supervision and inspection is created by an atmosphere of mutual suspicion between the politicians and the technical staff at the District level

The need to guarantee sustainability and continuation of social involvement in monitoring school activities (through mobilization of individual agents within communities, enhancement of citizenship understanding, promotion of attitude change) was also emphasized.

### **Impact**

The report sent a strong message to all stakeholders about the gaps in the utilization of UPE resources. The report was shared with Minister of Education other key ministry officials who agreed with the findings

The wider publicity of the findings created demand for the report; a sign of interest by stakeholders in the subject matter. Hon. Minister of Local Government is one of the key officials to request for the report since primary education in Uganda is decentralised managed through local governments

The findings and recommendations discussed in the report have formed a basis for designing an advocacy strategy to push for changes in policy and practice. Key actions to be implemented in partnership with civil society working in the education sector are aimed at increasing social monitoring and citizen oversight in the education sector.

The event revealed the need to engage actors not usually associated with processes in the education sector (such as political parties) and to act in different arenas of public life which impact on education matters given the political relevance of the education process (such as during political campaigns, in which education-related promises are made).

**f. Activity/Event 6: Advocacy Workshop in Rabat Morocco**

**Date :** May 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

**Location:** Rabat - Morocco

**Implemented by:** TIS

**Type and number of participants:** AEW Coordinators from Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda and representatives from the TIS-Berlin

**Short summary:**

The workshop intended to provide forum for the national chapters and the secretariat to share experiences and take stock of advocacy activities and the impact so far achieved. It was also aimed at identifying and adapt common strategies for shaping the advocacy campaign for the remaining project period

The workshop provided opportunity for shared learning from all the national chapters and the secretariat. One of the key lessons learnt was the matrix for developing clear and specific advocacy messages developed from the study findings and linked to objectives, but at the same time remaining realistic to what is feasible.

**g. Activity/Event 7: Meeting with Lynn Murphy from the Hewlett Foundation**

**Date :** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Location:** Kampala Uganda

**Implemented by:** TIU

**Type and number of participants:** Lynn and AEW Coordinator

The meeting was part of the Foundations support to partners implementing AEW Project. An update of the project implementation was shared.

During the meeting, strategies for partnership with different actors in the primary education sector were shared. The key actors identified are the ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic development, SNV, which is already working with School Management Committees, World Bank, EFG and other

partners supported by the foundation in Uganda such as Actionaid and NGO Forum

There was also a reflection on how to strike a balance between building public pressure to demand improved service delivery from government but at the same time work with government to bring about improved service delivery

The Foundation's commitment to support TIU EWA advocacy strategy was reiterated and TIU was to prepare and submit a two year costed work plan based on the advocacy strategy which was shared during the meeting

**h. Activity/Event 8: Working with AEW International Consultant**

**Date :** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June

**Location:** Kampala Uganda

**Implemented by:** TIU

**Type and number of participants:** All TIU staff; mainly AEW Coordinator

**Short summary:**

The activity was organized as part of TIS support to TIU advocacy initiative. Chris Stalker AEW International Advocacy Consultant spent time with EAW Coordinator looking at TI-Uganda's advocacy strategy aligning it within the national context and re-examining the significance, impact and sustainability of the proposed advocacy activities.

During this interaction, TIU model of change benefited from the fresh reflection from another perspective. From the discussions, it was agreed that TIU will adopt a multi-prolonged advocacy approach taking into account upstream and downstream interventions to influence both policy and practice change. This model provides a path to the desired direction of building long-term public interest and engagement in monitoring resource utilization and demand for accountability from the duty bearers for transparency and accountability in the utilization of primary education resources in Uganda

**i. Activity/Event 9: Meetings with Partners and AEW Report Dissemination**

**Date :** June

**Location:** Kampala Uganda

**Implemented by:** TIU

**Type and number of participants:**

**Short summary:**

A series of meetings for disseminating AEW Uganda national Assessment report and sharing draft advocacy strategy were planned to precede the report launch. Key partners with whom discussions have been held during the reporting period include UNICEF, Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) and Uganda National NGO Forum. Further meetings are scheduled in the next reporting period. The draft advocacy strategy has been shared with the potential partners who have expressed willingness to utilize the research findings and to support the advocacy campaign for policy change.

j. **Activity/Event:** Special News Supplement

**Date :** 29<sup>th</sup> June

**Location:** Kampala Uganda

**Implemented by:** TIU

**Type and number of participants:** Media event

**Short summary:**

As part of the dissemination process for AEW Uganda National Assessment Report, TI Uganda mobilized other organizations to run a special news paper supplement. This was aimed at providing platform for common voice from anticorruption crusaders in Uganda about corruption. The Auditor General's Office under the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development and Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) joined hands with TIU to share there strategies.

The activity provided chance for TI Uganda to disseminate findings of the AEW Uganda National assessment report to government and the wider civil society. TIU has received feedback form the general public assign of increased appreciation of leakages in Uganda's the Primary Education sector and seeking for actions to address the anomalies

### III. Financial overview

Using your monthly *Register of Expenditures* please provide the following data:

- Expenses incurred to date (in USD): \$63,554
- Expenses incurred to date (in local currency) UGX 139,818,800
- Exchange rate local currency/USD at date of report: 2200/1
- Balance on advances received from TI-S to date (in USD): 28,099
- Estimate of the costs for the planned activities (in USD): 28,000

The financial overview should also flag any problems you foresee in terms of implementing the project successfully on the basis of the budget agreed at the start of the programme. Any requests for changing the planned allocation of resources, i.e. moving money between budget lines, have to be discussed as early as possible with TI-S.

### IV. Planned activities

Please list all activities that you have planned for the next three months, providing a short description for each activity (one sentence).

1. Partnership mapping exercise
2. Report dissemination (national and Community level report dissemination )
3. Production of popular version of the report
4. Training SMCs/SFCs and SHTs in basic budgeting, finance records management
5. Developing baseline indicators
6. News paper feature
7. Community level campaigns and sensitization meetings
8. Identification/ establishment of Voluntary Accountability Committees
9. T.V and Radio programmes

**V. Other comments**

Please use this section to provide any other feedback you have concerning the implementation of the Africa Education Watch programme both in your country as well as at a regional level, including any changes you foresee to the original conception of the programme in your country. Please also share any suggestions you might have that could help us improve our impact and thus contribute to the success of the programme.

TI Uganda prefers a multi- pronged advocacy strategy which looks at national level at the upstream and community level/downstream advocacy. We also recognize the need to avoid spreading so wide so as to be able to create impact in the selected localities and replicate the good practices and lessons learnt to other localities.

Advocacy strategies need to be designed with an-inbuilt sustainability element, by working closely with Government Ministries and Departments with mandate, civil society actors and strive to build community ownership.