

EYD2015 – the theme this month is Education

Over the last decade in developing nations, thanks to EU funding, almost 14 million pupils could go to primary school. **EU education assistance** prioritizes universal primary education, ensuring equal opportunities for girls and boys and for disadvantaged children, and improving overall quality. The EU works with a range of partners (national governments, local authorities, civil society /non-governmental organizations, teacher organizations, and the private sector) and cooperates with developing countries and other donors within international initiatives such as the **Global Partnership for Education** [www.globalpartnership.org]. The mission is to galvanize and coordinate a global effort to provide a good quality education to children, prioritizing the poorest and most vulnerable.

In developing regions, global enrolment in primary education rose from 80% to 90% between 1990 and 2011. Yet 57 million primary-aged children – more than half of them in sub-Saharan Africa – were still not in school. Reaching these children, who are most likely to be female, poor, from a remote area or belonging to another vulnerable group, remains a real challenge. Quality of education and drop-out rates also require urgent attention, as many of the children who do attend school are unable to read or perform basic calculations, even after four years of study.

Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia and now Chair of the Global Partnership's Board of Directors will address these issues when she delivers her **Kapuscinski Development Lecture** on **Wednesday 11th February**. Follow livestreaming of her lecture, which starts at 3.00pm GMT, at www.kapuscinskilectures.eu

EU education assistance amounted to €4.2 billion **between 2007 and 2013**: €2.9 billion for basic (primary and secondary) and vocational education in 42 countries and €1.3 billion for higher education programmes. **Between 2014 and 2020**, total EU funding for education in developing countries is expected to total some €4.5 billion. This includes €2.8 billion for basic and vocational education, the bulk of it, again, through bilateral cooperation, and €1.68 billion to the higher education programme. 51% of the countries supported are 'fragile' (countries currently affected by conflict and post-conflict countries) – an increase of almost 10% up from 2013.



Pupils in uniform heading to their new primary school in Hinche in Central Haiti - funded by the EU. The facility also provides teacher training.

Between 2004 and 2012, thanks to EU support:

- 7.7 million people received technical and vocational education and training
- 1.2 million primary teachers were trained
- 37,000 schools were built or renovated
- 13.7 million pupils were enrolled in primary education

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-741_en.htm?locale=FR



Zimbabwe - Making education available to all. Improved funding for schools in Zimbabwe makes it possible for poor parents to afford sending their children to school



“When I grow up, I will become a school teacher and teach children. I will not let them work like me, only study and play,” says Sabina Akhter.

Sabina is enrolled in the **Supporting the Hardest to Reach Children Through Basic Education (SHARE)** programme in Bangladesh, a six-year initiative funded by the EU (€52 million, 95% of the total budget). Working with local and international partners, **SHARE** provides basic education to hard-to reach children – those living in economically vulnerable or geographically remote areas, from indigenous communities, or with special educational needs. During its first year, 137,000 boys and 144,000 girls enrolled in the programme; almost 5,000 non-formal primary schools were established and 5,600 teachers recruited and trained. By 2018, more than 650,000 children are expected to have completed pre-primary and primary education.