



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS FOR
THE EDUCATION AND GENDER
MDGs**

**Presentation
to Civil Society Forum
15 October 2008**

Presentation Outline

- The Education and Gender MDGs
- EC Priorities and Action on MDG Goals 2 and 3
- Main EC Actions to Date in South Africa
- South Africa Progress
- Objectives of Panel Discussion
- Introduction of Civil Society Speakers



Goal 2

Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3

Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

EC Priorities and Actions on the Way Toward 2015

Goal 2

- **Reinforce the EC support to the Fast-Track Initiative – SA not part of the Initiative. Support efforts by developing countries to ensure a minimum standard of service delivery of primary education and a pro-poor distribution of resources between regions and target groups.**
- **Enhance strategies for achieving gender equality in national education systems (for example as prioritised by NEPAD).**
- **Support specific targeted actions for most affected groups, including orphans, children suffering worst forms of child labour and children with special needs.**

EC Priorities and Actions on the Way Toward 2015

Goal 3

- **Through active cooperation with EU Member States and the UN system, ensure systematic mainstreaming of gender equality aspects in all MDGs, by linking them to the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform of Action.**
Integrate the issues of gender equality in the PRSPs.
- **Fully integrate gender aspects in the next generation of Country Strategy Papers by using the tools and experiences from the MTR process.**
- **Pursue efforts to mainstream gender in programmes and projects and to reinforce programmes targeted at supporting gender mainstreaming in all areas of cooperation.**

Main EC Actions to Date in the Education Sector in South Africa

- **Early Childhood Development**
- **Primary and Secondary Education**
- **Vocational Education and Training**
- **Higher Education**
- **ABET**
- **Other**
- **Gender is a cross-cutting issue in all EC funded projects and programmes**

Progress in South Africa – Target 3 (Education)

- **A range of legislative (Bill of Rights, South African Schools Act , Education White Paper 5 on ECD), policy and institutional frameworks developed to enhance the achievement of universal primary education**
- **According to the UN MDG Report for 2008 the total net enrolment ratio in primary education for both sexes in South Africa in 2004 was 93.4% - very likely to achieve MDG target.**
- **The same document quotes the proportion of pupils for both sexes starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary at 77% and the literacy rate of 14-24 year olds for both sexes at 95.4%**

Progress in South Africa - Target 4 (Gender)

- **The 2008 UN Report on MDGs puts the Gender Parity Index in primary level enrolment at 0.96 - suggesting that more boys than girls are enrolled at this level of the education system.**
- **At secondary school the GPI is pegged at 1.07 – an indication that there are more girls than boys enrolled.**
- **At the tertiary level the GPI is 1.24 – illustrating a gender biased enrolment ratio in favour of female students.**

Objectives of Panel discussion (1)

★ CSO views on SAG policies and actions to reach MDGs

- **Role of CSOs in achieving MDGs**
- **How do you see South African civil society's role and current cooperation in the region?**

Objectives of Panel Discussion (2)

- **What is your view on the AAA (Accra Agenda for Action) and aid effectiveness?**
- **Do civil society organisations consider they are in a position to influence policy regarding MDGs?**
- **Are there effective mechanisms for civil society coordination and engagement with Government?**
- **Are there examples of good partnerships between Government and civil society in support of MDGs?**
- **What is your view on EC cooperation with Civil Society in South Africa?**



Introduction of Civil Society Speaker

Mr Salim Vally

Introduction of Civil Society Speaker

Dr Oshandi Mangena

