

Multilateral Aid Review: Assessment of Education for All - Fast Track Initiative

Summary	
Organisation: Education for All - Fast Track Initiative (FTI)	Date: February 2011
Description of Organisation	
<p>The Education for All - Fast-track Initiative (FTI) is a global partnership between donors, developing countries, agencies and civil society organisations to drive progress towards the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. The FTI aims to mobilise resources around endorsed education sector plans (ESPs). All low-income countries (LICs) which demonstrate serious commitment to achieve basic education are eligible to receive support from FTI.</p> <p>The FTI provides financial and technical support to countries to develop ESPs, and can also provide funding for their implementation. To date the FTI has endorsed 43 national ESPs of which 36 are supported through allocations from the FTI's Catalytic Fund. In total 60 countries have benefited from FTI Education Program Development Fund (EPDF) support.¹ As of 30 June 2010 the FTI had allocated over \$1.8 billion of support through the Catalytic Fund, and disbursed around \$790 million. All FTI funds count as ODA.</p>	

Contribution to UK Development Objectives	Score (1-4)
<p>1a. Critical Role in Meeting International Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The only significant pooled funding mechanism in education. Significant contribution to MDGs 2 and 3 although attribution is not clear. + Important policy role in steering donors towards alignment behind country plans and keeping Education for All goals on the international agenda. - Limited success in mobilising additional bilateral support for education. = An important piece of the global architecture as the only multilateral solely focused on education; but some weaknesses in delivering on its mission at a country level. 	<p>Satisfactory (3)</p>
<p>1b. Critical Role in Meeting UK Aid Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + FTI is focused directly on delivery of MDGs 2 and 3 and plays a role in delivery of MDGs 4 and 5 through the impact of education in improving maternal and child mortality. + Funding is well targeted at fragile states with almost 50% of total allocations. - Despite some evidence of impact on gender equality, FTI has not shown strong leadership on this issue. - Attribution of impact on delivery of education MDGs is 	<p>Satisfactory (3)</p>

<p>not clear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> = FTI makes a significant contribution to direct delivery of the MDGs – both in education and indirectly in health but its role is somewhat limited by its scale and failure to mobilise more resources, 	
<p>2. Attention to Cross-cutting Issues:</p> <p>2a. Fragile Contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Almost half of FTI funding is allocated to fragile states. + New framework for assessment is better adapted to fragile contexts. – FTI does not produce additional monitoring for fragile contexts and typically has focused more on achieving country endorsement than on consistently supporting implementation. = FTI has adapted its policies to fragile contexts and allocates a significant proportion of funding to these countries, but could do more to monitor and support implementation. <p>2b. Gender Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Specific country evidence of improvements in gender policy influenced by FTI. – Historically weak focus on results extends to gender results as well. – Equity and Inclusion Framework is not compulsory. = Whilst there is some evidence of impact at a country level FTI has not shown strong leadership in driving improvements across the range of countries it works with. <p>2c. Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Use of robust World Bank environmental safeguards policy. – Climate change is not a policy focus for FTI. = FTI uses appropriate safeguards but does not play a role in driving forward action or results on this issue. 	<p>Satisfactory (3)</p> <p>Satisfactory (3)</p> <p>Satisfactory (3)</p>
<p>3. Focus on Poor Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + FTI predominantly spends money in low income countries. + It spends 65% of its resources in countries in the top quartile of the index and almost 90% of its resources go to the top two quartiles which is why it scores so well. 	<p>Strong (4)</p>
<p>4. Contribution to Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Can demonstrate reductions in numbers of out of school children and increase in girls' enrolment in FTI countries. 	<p>Weak (2)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Improvement in school completion rates in FTI countries. – Lack of a results framework means aggregate evidence is poor. – Model has weaknesses in resolving delivery problems at a country level. = FTI has made a significant contribution to education at global and country level, but there are weaknesses in demonstrating delivery and in resolving problems with implementation – it is these weaknesses which bring the score down to a 2. 	
Organisational Strengths	Score (1-4)
<p>5. Strategic and Performance Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + New Board structures provide better oversight, a clearer mandate and will provide for better beneficiary voice. + New Results Framework will enable better performance management. – Recruitment processes remain slow and difficult. = FTI's new governance and results structures provide for greater clarity, accountability and results tracking, but reforms are in the early stages of implementation and progress has yet to be demonstrated. 	Weak (2)
<p>6. Financial Resources Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + FTI offers three-year predictability of funding and has a framework which prioritises according to needs and performance, based on resources available at the time. + Recent reforms have opened up the Supervising Entity role to organisations other than the World Bank, which allows for increased flexibility in the use of different instruments. – Because of FTI's own lack of visibility of forward funding, they find it difficult to advise countries on the level of future support. – Disbursement remains slow although it has significantly improved, but FTI has not been consistently proactive in tackling blockages and managing poorly performing grants. = FTI provides countries with multi-year commitments, prioritises according to an agreed framework, and has improved its capacity for flexibility in the use of funding instruments, but has a weak record on disbursement and proactive management of poorly performing grants. 	Weak (2)
<p>7. Cost and Value Consciousness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Positive engagement with countries on cost control and management. + FTI's own administrative costs have remained low, although the leanness of the Secretariat has restricted its 	Satisfactory (3)

<p>capacity to deliver on its objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of a results framework means cost-benefit is not systematically assessed. = FTI encourages and supports partners to keep costs down, and restricts its own costs, but with some impact on performance. 	
<p>8. Partnership Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + FTI model supports donor alignment behind Government plans and is flexible, country led, and Paris-compatible. + FTI supports policy development capacity especially on key issues of equity and inclusion. – Weak or inflexible Supervising Entities or donor groups at country level can seriously undermine delivery. = FTI has a very strong partnership model which is appropriate where there is high implementation capacity and flexibility, but which has not always enabled the proactive resolution of problems where these have occurred. 	<p>Satisfactory (3)</p>
<p>9. Transparency and Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + FTI has a disclosure policy which promotes openness. + New Board structure improves partner country representation. + Country-level model is inclusive and consultative. – Country profiles available on website but detailed and meaningful reporting on progress of FTI-supported plans is missing. – Not an IATI signatory. = FTI is in principle committed to transparency and publishes the data it gathers, but could do more to collate and publish strong information on implementation. 	<p>Satisfactory (3)</p>
Likelihood of Positive Change	
<p>10. Likelihood of Positive Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Major reforms to governance, financing and results were approved at the November 2010 Board. Reforms will improve FTI relevance and effectiveness. – Delays and difficulty in recruitment remain a brake to progress. = Though progress has been relatively slow these are extensive reforms and demonstrate the serious commitment of management to improvement. 	<p>Likely (3)</p>

ⁱ FTI submission to the MAR, August 2010