About Civil Society Education Fund - CSEF

Overall CSEF aim:
to contribute to the achievement of national education goals and Education for All by ensuring the effective participation of civil society organizations and citizens in education debates and sector planning and review.

Objective 1 – Policy Participation:
Formal civil society participation in education sector policy and review processes and engagement with policy-makers and parliamentarians is strengthened and better recognized.

Objective 2 – Public awareness and coalition building:
National Education Coalitions are actively strengthening grassroots capacity to access and participate in education sector debates, through building awareness, knowledge and skills, and opening opportunities to participate.

Objective 3 – High quality research, monitoring and advocacy:
Civil society research and analysis effectively contributes to national government plans, policies, financing and practices that better achieve the right to quality education for all and the six EFA goals.

Objective 4 – Cross-country learning and networks for change:
The CSEF project builds the quality and impact of civil society engagement in the education sector through promoting partnerships, strengthening South-South collaboration, sharing learning, and facilitating impact on global policy processes.

Arab Campaign for Education for All-Acea

CSEF is coordinated through in the East Europe and Middle East (EEME) though the Arab Campaign for Education for All (ACEA) that provides programmatic support to targeted coalition. ACEA is an independent, non-profit coalition, consisting of networks, coalitions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, teachers’ unions, associations and other sectors which are interested in education in the Arab countries. ACEA seeks to consolidate and mobilize the efforts of civil societies to ensure the fulfillment EFA goals.

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**Middle East**

**Yemen**

**Yemeni Coalition for Education for All**

**Goal:** Increasing male and female students enrolment rates

**Objectives:**
- Constitutional text on free and compulsory education with special focus supporting girls’ education in the new Yemeni Constitution
- Increased community participation and monitoring in strengthening children’s right to education
- Strengthening the capacity of the Coalition and member organisations on programmatic, management and financial levels

**Sudan**

**Sudanese Network for Education for All (SNEFA)**

**Global Objective 1**

Achieve the following Policy changes by 2015:

a. Increase the percentage allocated by the government for education to reach 1.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 5% of the General Budget through advocacy by 2015.
b. Include the article of Free and Compulsory Education (FCE) in the revised constitution coming out in 2015, amend the Education law to include this article and advocate for its effective implementation.

**Global Objective 2**

Build a strong coalition able of efficiently advocating for EFA goals in Sudan through improving its internal structures, activating the roles of its members and expanding its representation both in Sudan and regionally.

**Somalia**

**Education for All Somalia – EFASOM**

**Goal:** Improving quality of education in Somalia by engaging civil society in policy influencing on curriculum development, personnel training, and inclusive education for special needs of disabilities.

**Objectives:**
- Civil society participation and grassroots capacity in education sector policy debates will be strengthened through building awareness, knowledge and skills, and opening opportunities to participate discussions on new curriculum, personnel training, and inclusive education for special needs of disabilities.
- The coalition and the civil society engagement will be strengthened in policy participation and review processes with policy-makers, local authorities, and media workers in new curriculum, personnel training, and inclusive education for special needs of disabilities.
- Civil society research and analysis will be developed to contribute to the governmental plan for the new curriculum.

**East Europe**

**Georgia**

**Georgian Coalition for Education for All**

**Goal:**

Enhance quality and equity of general education in Georgia

**Objectives:**
- Increase civil society participation in Education sector policy dialogue to promote achievement of EFA goals in Georgia
- Ensure effective implementation of inclusive education state policy in general education system in Georgia
- Promote Decentralization of the teacher professional development system in Georgia by increasing role of schools communities in identification of trainings needs and provision of services
- Ensure sustainable development of schools board of trustees institution in Georgia

**Albania**

**Albanian Coalition for Child Education – ACCE**

**Goal:**

Strengthen civil society organizations participation in influencing educational sector policy and advocacy to ensure quality education for all children.

**Objectives:**
- Set up the Albanian Coalition for Child Education as an independent entity, democratic, accountable, transparent and formal network of non-profit organizations
- Monitor the implementation of legislation and national public policies and addresses the issues of concern within the Albanian Educational System in achieving education for all
- Strengthen the capacities of the Albanian National Coalition members’ to advocate for the right of the child to education and budgeting based on the monitoring of legislation and policy implementation
**Policy Participation**

They took positive steps towards increasing the budget of the GDP and the general budget as the Vice President, during the Ministerial Education forum meeting, announced the increase of Education budget of the state budgets to 3% instead of the current 1%, and asked the governors to allocate 3% of their budgets for education.

Meanwhile, the coalition through an expertise committee drafted the article of Free and Compulsory Education to be included in the revised constitution coming out in 2015.

The effort is continuous to engage community in the process through driving their attention towards the output of the work of the budget analysis committee in order to mobilize them to put pressure on the government.

The Sudanese Coalition for Education for All is a member in these national process/forums: Girls education forum, Ministerial Coordinating Meeting, National Council for Adult Education and Literacy.

**What has been done?**

Two committees had been formed: A committee to analyze education-related public policies and monitor their implementation. It is an expertise committee its work is done and they came up with drafted the article of Free and Compulsory Education; A committee to analyze the government’s budget allocations for education and monitor its progress towards meeting the global objective. It is formed but had not finished its work yet.

The technical committee for the budgets and legislations made an analytical study on education in Sudan, and made their recommendation which emphasized the importance of increasing the budget allocated to education, to ensure quality education for All in addition to the analytical study made to include the right to education in the constitution.

The media had been utilized extensively through conferences and campaigns highlighting their role in the educational public policies and finally they organized a workshop for 49 journalists and media personnel on reporting skills and advocacy within the education framework and came up with agreement with mass media organizations to hold regular forums in order to discuss and promote issues concerning education.

As for building the capacity of its members, training courses on Monitoring and Evaluation, and good governance in the work of the coalition had been conducted in addition to advocacy training and project cycle management done at the regional level.
**Policy Participation**

The Yemeni Coalition prepared a proposal to add a clear text on free and compulsory primary education with special focus supporting girls' education in the new Yemeni Constitution. The proposal was submitted officially to the committee of the National Dialogue Conference that is in charge of formulating the new constitution. The efforts of the Yemeni Coalition resulted in including the constitutional text in the draft constitution which is expected to be approved through referendum.

The coalition succeeded into engaging all stakeholders and community in the mechanisms of the enforcement of free compulsory education law in order to gain their endorsement and make pressure on the government.

Yemeni Coalition is not officially part of the committee of the national dialogue conference, but three of its members are members in this committee.

The Yemeni Coalition is a member in the Ministry of Education Forum for Education for All

**What has been done?**

Besides media campaign for the free and compulsory education for all, a special focus had been made to the girls' rights to education.

Tribal leaders, rural communities, parents and students were involved in this campaign. The coalition increased the community participation in promoting children's right to education by establishing community monitoring committees in the local communities composed of mothers' and fathers' councils, members of the local council, and engage tribal and religious leaders.

As for building the capacity of its members, training course in the fields of programs, management and finance had been conducted for 33 members for two days in Dec. 2014 in addition to advocacy training and Project Cycle Management done at the regional level.
The coalition succeeded to sign an MOU with the Ministry of Education to institutionalize a collaborative partnership.

There is now a criteria of selection for teacher recruitment. It was agreed upon in a 2 day policy forum that Somali coalition organized in August 2014 in Galkacyo. This agreement has dropped down number of unqualified teachers recruited in primary schools since then.

Somalia coalition was the lead role to bring the education stakeholders and the MOE in a 2 day policy forum that took place in Mogadishu in September 2014 in order to generate the Special Needs Education Policy. The final draft of SEN is produced.

A 2 day Policy Forum on the National Education Priorities had been held in September 2014 focused on implementation of the curriculum, schools regulatory policy and the special needs education, and the implementation of the unified curriculum.

School assessment is done by Somalia coalition members by selecting sampling of only 20 primary schools on 24-30 November 2014 and the report has been published.

What has been done?

They conducted mass media campaigns over the years 2013- 2014 during the Global Action Week.

A 2 day Forum on Gender Discrimination In Education was held in May 2013.

A 2 day Workshop on Curriculum Development and Examination Regulatory Systems had been conducted in March 2014 in addition to a 2-Day Workshop On Inclusive Plan For Special Needs on 31-Dec-2013 to 01-Jan-2014. Also, a 2 day workshop conducted in June 2014.
A strong technical work group of representatives on NGO Alliance and other interested parties is established.

The Government of Moldova recognizes the civil society contribution and consults it for the development and review of EFA policies and procedures.

The NGOs Alliance work group engaged in policy dialogue with the Ministry of Education and member of Parliament to advocate for inclusive education. It contributed to draft regulation for Inclusive education policies and the Action Plan for inclusive education.

The NGOs Alliance work group was consulted in issuing the New education code which was approved in July 2014 and in force since Nov 2014 (includes Inclusive education, lifelong learning .....

The NGOs Alliance work group is a member in two educational legal groups: First, in the Coordination Committee for Deinstitutionalization and Inclusive Education programme at the Ministry of Education as 5 members of the work group are members in the council. Second, due to the importance of the topic, the National Council for Child Rights Protection has established a working group on Inclusive education in Oct. 2014; 6 members of the work group are full members of this group.

What has been done?

The project helped to develop knowledge and skills to the CSOs to participate in educational policy discussion as they established thematic group on Inclusive Education and conducted four training workshops for 2 days each on inclusive education policies, practices and legislations had been conducted end of Oct. 2014 for 82 of NGOs in inclusive education policies, practices and legislations. In addition, a training workshop in July 2014 was conducted for the technical work group of the NGOs alliance on lobbying, advocacy, policy development, research; watchdog skills, monitoring, use of public money etc.

A group of researchers had been identified to conduct the in-progress assessment on the implementation of the Inclusive Education Programme (2011-2020) in order to analyse the efficiency, effectiveness, achievements and challenges of the education sector; as well as the spending of public money for Inclusive Education Programme.

They conducted an awareness raising campaign during Sept. 2014- March 2015 including video spot production, participation in media events, 4 national TVs broadcasted the video, the campaign was launched within CIVIC FEST event. (a 3 day forum of civil society with participation of policy makers .. such as prime minister and MOE.. etc.) in which at least 75 people are involved.
Policy Participation:

The project is built around the importance of participatory approach and wider stakeholder involvement in monitoring, evaluation and planning of interventions in the general education sector both on macro and micro (school) level.

Starting from spring 2014 the coalition was actively involved in developing MES’s main strategic document of 2014 and facilitated this process throughout various forums. Thus it became engaged in other working groups at MES. Signing the memorandum of understanding and cooperation with MES also promoted to engagement of coalition in different groups.

The coalition succeeded in pushing the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) to adopt the policy of inclusive education in general education system, but because school infrastructure is not adaptable, now they are developing a new standard for inclusive education infrastructure to respond to needs.

The coalition was keen keep a regular cooperation with the Ministry and thus, public meetings at least once a quarter between civil society actors and MES are organized.

The parliament of Georgia has pass the bill on new scheme “Beginning of Teaching Practice, Professional Development and Carrier Growth Scheme” and Prime Minister’s office formed a state commission to further review and develop specific instruments of the scheme’s activation by February 20, 2015. The Coalition made a written agreement with Teacher Professional Development Centre (state agency) to form a working group which will develop specific model and recommendations for state policy on teachers' professional association development.

The national coalition and its representatives were permanent members of various working groups throughout the whole process of development of the new scheme and education development strategy document and are represented in the state committee developing specific mechanisms and assessment system for the scheme activation.

The coalition member organization ESFTUG (Teachers Union) conducted significant advocacy work related to teachers’ base salary increase and protecting teachers' rights in correlation with the new professional development scheme.

In its effort to ensure effective implementation of inclusive education state policy, the coalition implemented infrastructure monitoring visits in 22 public schools of Georgia engaged in state inclusive education program. A report that includes recommendation was presented to MES, which formed a working group to develop education environment standard based on recommendations.

Within the efforts to strengthening community participation in school governance system, General recommendations on school board of trustees enhancement is presented to MES and now they are developing this specific concept of the model.

The following written submissions have been made as a result of the working group:

- “Beginning of teaching practice, professional development and carrier growth scheme” – working group process;
- Working group of MES’s long term strategic document “The Main Strategic Directions for Development of Education and Science”
- The commission developing “Proceeding of Teachers disciplinary regulations”
- Working group developing a structure and strategy for Teachers Professional Development Centre
- “Increase of basic wage for public school teachers and determination of salary policy” – sub working (advocacy) group in correlation with new scheme and MES long term strategy

What has been done?

Conference “For General education Reform” was held on November 13, participated by the deputy minister of MES, TPDC director, MES, CSO representatives and education experts;

Expert panel meeting to make system gap analyses attended by leading education experts was held on October 30, 2014.

As for building the capacity of its members, training course on design and implementation of advocacy campaigns for 11 coalition members had been conducted in August 2014. In addition, 2 of the coalition represented trained on Project Cycle Management (PCM) and advocacy workshops organized at regional level.

The following studies had been made:

- Promote development of general education system through decentralization of the teacher professional development system in Georgia by increasing role of schools communities in identification of trainings needs and provision of services;
- Desk study on several countries experience regarding state policy promoting school based teachers’ professional development model and teachers’ professional associations
- Focus groups study on development of state policy regarding school based teachers' professional development and teachers' professional associations
- Development of school board of trustees – analysis and recommendations based on focus group study conducted in July-August 2014
- Monitoring of ramp conditions and standards implemented within the project “Tree of Life” throughout the city of Tbilisi by Bank of Georgia
Albanian Coalition for Child Education (ACCE) built strong coalition with 18 member organisations. The government strongly acknowledged the participation of civil society organisations represented in the coalition that participated in 3 parliamentary hearing sessions providing relevant information to parliamentarians and supporting parliamentary events.

ACCE started to take actual steps towards influencing education policies in Albania by engaging in a dialogue with the Minister of Education and Sports and parliament. It organizes regular meetings with Minister of Education and Sports (MES) and schools to promote the role and work of the coalition. Furthermore, the coalition experts participate actively on in the round table discussion in the new education reform.

It is the first time for ACCE collaborated with the Institute of Education Development in relation to the new education reform that the MOE has undertaken. As a follow up of this collaboration, representatives of ACCE have delivered a set of recommendations. So far, they have lobbied for the provision of supporting teachers in schools where disabled children are present, and a guideline by the MES has been delivered to all Regional Education Directorates for immediate implementation.

ACCE is a member in various groups including in the WG on Early Learning and Development Standards where ACCE gave its contribution in drafting new standards that will lead the preschool reform initiated by MES; a WG of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth for the strategy for Social Inclusion 2014-2020 and a set of recommendations have been delivered by the coalition; a WG that will develop and suggest the best practices for the implementation of intercultural dialogue in Albania in the framework of the reform of Social Inclusion the MES and Ministry of Culture, where ACCE and member organizations become part of this group and play an active part; and a group of education experts have been engaged by the MES and UNICEF to design new standards of pre-school education sector.

On October 2014, Albanian Parliament and the European Integration Committee initiated the consultations with CSOs for drafting the Manual of Cooperation between the Albanian Parliament and Civil Society Organizations. For this reason, ACCE has participated in various meetings held in the integration Committee and gave its recommendations.

They are actively engaged in Work, Social Issues and Health Committee which examined and adopted the draft law “On the order of social worker”. Among others, were defined the criteria for membership into the order of social worker.

In June 2013, ACCE published the Evaluation Report on pre-education sector in Albania evidencing the strengths and weak points of the actual education system. In December, the Ministry initiated the reform of pre-university curricula, in which ACCE was part of the technical group. Most of their recommendations have been taken into consideration by MES. So far they have lobbied for the provision of supporting teachers in those schools where disable children are present. For this reason a guideline form the MES has been delivered to all schools, importance of girl child education has become a priority of the MES, Roma children and their integration in kindergartens is a successful reality.

What has been done?

Building a strong coalition on democratic basis was the first measure taken by the members; a Memorandum of Understanding was approved and signed by all the organizations; besides the media campaign, Invitations sent through e-mails to local NGOs to become members of ACCE till the coalition reached to 18 member organization.

The coalition conducted an awareness raising campaign including TV session and distribution of 1500 awareness materials on ACCE distributed in 12 district of Albania.

The coalition started to create communication bridges with the government through regular meetings to the related ministries including the ministry of education and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. They participated in 3 parliamentary hearing sessions providing relevant information to parliamentarians and supporting parliamentary events.

5 Training workshops had been conducted to build the capacity of ACCE board and members on legal framework of education policy making in Albania.