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## Enhancing Teacher Education for Bridging the Education Quality Gap in Africa

### Welcome message by the ADG

Dear partners,

**Welcome to the first CFIT newsletter.**

Through the UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust (CFIT) project on “Enhancing Teacher Education for Bridging the Education Quality Gap in Africa”, UNESCO and the Government of the People’s Republic of China, together with 8 project countries – **Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Namibia, Congo, DR Congo, Liberia, Tanzania, and Uganda** – are joining hands to enhance quality teacher education and professional development in Africa.

The initiative marks the beginning of a new partnership: this is the first time UNESCO has received financial support in this area from China. The 4-year initiative aims at assisting 8 African countries to train sufficient qualified teachers to achieve the EFA goals, by increasing the capacity of teacher training institutions. With information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a major component, project activities will boost national capacity in teacher

training, including enhancing staff skills and competencies as well as ICT resources.

The project is in line with UNESCO's work on Education for All, the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Secretary-General's Education First initiative. It is implemented within the context of UNESCO's new teacher strategy and within the framework of south-south cooperation, with heavy emphasis on institutional capacity development and country ownership.

This newsletter gives you the latest updates of the CFIT project. It is also linked with the CFIT webpage: click on '[Read more](#)' if you would like to get more details.

I hope you enjoy reading the first issue of this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Qian Tang

Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

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## Background of the project

The UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust (CFIT) Project, titled 'Enhancing Teacher Education for Bridging the Education Quality Gap in Africa', aims at increasing the capacity of teacher training institutions in enhancing the quality and quantity of trained teachers in the 8 target countries. The project has a heavy ICT element.

(Read more: <https://en.unesco.org/enhancing-teacher-education-bridging-education-quality-gap-africa>)

Since the commencement of the project in late 2012, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Ethiopia**, **Namibia** have already finished their needs assessment phase, and have just started their implementation of activities. **Congo**, **DR Congo**, **Liberia**, **Tanzania**, and **Uganda**, which joined the project in late 2013, have also started their needs assessment period.

## Focused area of each country

After the needs assessment phase (Read more: <https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/CFIT%20Needs%20assessment%20synthesis%20report%202013-June.pdf>), each country has identified their own focused area:

- **Côte d'Ivoire:** Capacity development of school inspectors and pedagogical counsellors to enhance in-service teacher training
- **Ethiopia:** Strengthen capacities in the targeted teacher education institutions in the areas of teacher education, ICT in education, and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Teachers
- **Namibia:** Capacity development for quality in pre- and lower- primary teacher education

## Côte d'Ivoire

### CFIT formal launch, 12-13 September 2013, Abidjan

The launch was attended by the Minister of Education of Côte d'Ivoire, *Ms. Kandia Camara*, and the Director General of UNESCO, *Ms. Irina Bokova*. The National Centre for Education Resources, which is partly sponsored by the Chinese enterprise Huawei, and German enterprise Heidelberg, was also inaugurated.



The DG Ms. Irina BOKOVA at the launching of the CFIT Project in Côte d'Ivoire 12-13 September 2013. (From left to right: H.E. Ms. Denise HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY, Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to UNESCO, Ms. Kandia CAMARA, Ministry of Education of Côte d'Ivoire, DG).



*The National Centre for Education Resources, Abidjan*

### **Open and Distance Learning (ODL) workshop, 16-20 December 2013, Abidjan**

The workshop held in the National Centre for Education Resources aimed at strengthening the capacity of 37 academic supervisors in ODL, particularly by using Moodle. 5 modules of continuous teacher training are being developed in [www.foad.dpfc.ci/](http://www.foad.dpfc.ci/) as a result of the workshop. They are downloadable at: (*Read more: <https://en.unesco.org/events/cfit-open-and-distance-learning-odl-workshop-16-20-december-2013-abidjan>*)





*Mr. Rachid El BOUSSARGHINI (behind) training academic supervisors: Mr. Bondoukou BOUADI and Mr. DIABAGATE.*



*The trainers, Mr. Rachid El BOUSSARGHINI (middle, in white blue checked shirt) and Mr. Julien MORICE (middle, in dark blue shirt), and the academic supervisors of the ODL workshop.*

## Ethiopia

### **Open and Distance Learning (ODL) workshop, 16-20 December 2013, Addis Ababa**

The workshop attended by 25 participants, mainly from **Bahir Dar University**, **Hawassa College of Teacher Education**, and the **Ministry of Education**, aimed at training the participants in designing and deploying an ODL platform for Teacher Education in Ethiopia. The ultimate goal is to have a solution which can scale to provide an ODL platform for use throughout Ethiopia which will be used by all

Colleges of Education and Faculties of Education to deliver both initial teacher training and continuing professional development at a distance. The platform will also need to be usable in a variety of situations including those connected by high/low bandwidth broadband connections, land based connections or satellite and using computers and hand held devices to access. (*Read more: <https://en.unesco.org/events/cfit-open-and-distance-learning-odl-workshop-16-20-december-2013-addis-ababa>*)



*The ODL workshop at Addis Ababa.*

**Namibia**



**CFIT formal launch and training workshop for the design of a research protocol to conduct case studies in primary schools, 23-25 February 2014, Windhoek**

More information about the launch and workshop will be available soon.

## CFIT Timeline

### 2011

#### 11 August

Ms. Irina Bokava, Director-General of UNESCO met with Mr. Hu Jintao, former President of the People's Republic of China in Shenzhen, China, at the opening of the 26<sup>th</sup> UNIVERSIADE and discussed the potential collaboration between UNESCO and China.

### 2012

#### 2 March

The Framework of Funds-in-Trust Agreement between the Government of China and UNESCO regarding the support to UNESCO's activities in favor of education development in Africa was signed by Ms. Irina Bokova, and Mr. Hao Ping, Vice Minister of Education and Chairman of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO at UNESCO HQ, Paris.

#### 22 November

Ms. Irina Bokova launched the CFIT project at the close of the 2012 Global EFA Meeting (GEM) together with Mr. Hao Ping, with the presence of Mr. Qian Tang, ADG for Education UNESCO, and representatives from the delegations of the first 3 project countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Namibia.

#### **26 November – 17 December**

The CFIT Project Proposal titled “Quality Teachers for EFA: Enhancing Teacher Education for Bridging the Education Quality Gap in Sub Saharan African” was submitted to the donor and was approved.

#### **17 – 18 December**

The 1<sup>st</sup> CFIT consultative meeting was held at UNESCO HQ, Paris, with the participation of representatives from the first 3 project countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Namibia, to prepare for the needs assessment period.

### **2013**

#### **11 – 12 April**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> CFIT consultative meeting was held at UNESCO HQ, Paris, with the participation of the first 3 project countries to finalize the implementation plan.

#### **September**

Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Namibia entered implementation phase.

#### **9 – 10 October**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> CFIT consultative meeting was held at UNESCO HQ, Paris, participated by

representatives of all 8 project countries. Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Namibia, Congo, DR Congo, Liberia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

### **12 – 13 September**

The Côte d'Ivoire CFIT project was formally launched in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, with the attendance of Ms. Kandia Camara, Ministry of Education of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Ms. Denise Houphouët-Boigny, Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to UNESCO, and Ms. Irina Bokova.

## **2014**

### **23 – 25 February**

The Namibia CFIT project was formally launched in Windhoek, Namibia, with the attendance of Hon. Dr. David Namwandi, Minister of Education, Mr. Li Yigang, Deputy Chief of Mission of China, Dr. Marius Kudumo, Secretary General, Namibia National Commission for UNESCO, and Mr. Qian Tang.

### **February – March**

5 countries: Congo, DR Congo, Liberia, Tanzania, and Uganda enter the needs assessment phase.

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**CFIT webpage:**

<https://en.unesco.org/enhancing-teacher-education-bridging-education-quality-gap-africa>

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