



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

CapEFA News

Highlights of the Capacity Development for Education for All programme

An extrabudgetary programme created in 2003 with the objective of strengthening national capacities in key areas of education: sector-wide policies and plans, literacy, teachers and skills for the world of work.

CapEFA's visibility raised during the 37th session of UNESCO's General Conference

In November 2013 more than 3,000 participants from 195 Member States gathered in Paris to set the future directions of the Organization. This was an excellent opportunity for the CapEFA programme to raise its visibility. Three side events were organized during this period to reach out to different audiences: (i) a high level Ministerial Breakfast meeting; (ii) an information meeting for delegations from the Arab States on the Regional CapEFA Programme on education planning; and (iii) a presentation and question-and-answer session with the public during the Open UNESCO presentation series.

Ministerial Breakfast Meeting: UNESCO's country level impact through CapEFA



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On 7 November 2013, a Ministerial Breakfast Meeting was organized to share good practices and lessons learnt from countries benefiting from the CapEFA programme. The event was hosted by UNESCO's Director-General Irina Bokova and assembled 64 participants, including 14 Ministers of State and representatives from beneficiary countries, donor countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and observers.

Key note speakers included ministers from Cambodia, Chad and Uganda who presented how, through the CapEFA programme, UNESCO's support is helping their countries address capacity gaps and further mobilize funds for national priority areas of the education sector. Speaking on behalf of the donor group, Sweden stressed the importance of strengthening capacities to ensure sustainability and, together with Finland, called particular attention to gender equality and girls' education. Norway pointed to CapEFA as a model to be followed for North-South-South cooperation and invited new countries to join the donor group. The meeting engaged participants in an informal dialogue on the CapEFA programme reflecting on achievements, challenges, and its future orientations.

Information Meeting with the Arab States: showcasing the regional planning programme



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On 9 November 2013, an information meeting was held that focused on the CapEFA programme for education planning in the Arab Region. Aiming to mobilize new donors to support its next phase, representatives from all Member States in the region and observers from two donor countries discussed the positive results achieved to date, common challenges and areas where concerted action in the region is still needed.

There was common agreement among participants on the relevance and timeliness of activities implemented through the CapEFA programme and the need to further strengthen capacities for educational planning and management in the region, bearing in mind the diverse needs and different levels of development of the Arab States' educational systems.

Participants supported the continuation of the Regional CapEFA programme. Some expressed interest in supporting it financially and suggested continuing to improve coordination between the three training institutions benefiting from the programme in Jordan, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates, as well as with other relevant initiatives in the region.