

Regional Learning Partners for the Global Partnership for Education's Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX)

DCP Inception Meeting Concept Note and Agenda

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
18th -19th March 2020,
African Union Conference Hall

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the African Union



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Background

Countries in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) are confronted with the formidable challenge of realizing quality, inclusive and equitable education for social transformation and development. This vision is anchored in several frameworks and vision statements, including the SDG 4 – Education 2030 Framework for Action¹ and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2016–2025², as well as other global, regional and national frameworks.

Although access to education has improved in SSA from 59 per cent to 78 per cent over the past decade³, learning achievement and quality of education remain alarmingly low. Many countries face enormous challenges around teacher recruitment, management and professional development, enrolment at pre-primary and secondary levels, gender equity and quality of learning processes and outcomes.

Africa's education ambitions cannot be realized without building effective partnerships and fostering harmonized approaches to integrating SDG 4 – ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all – into national education policies and strategies. Crucially, this ambition requires innovation due to the scale, diversity and rapid changes of education needs amidst high rates of population growth and unemployment in most SSA countries⁴.

In addition, there is little available context-specific evidence about what makes or does not make education interventions work – whether innovative or not – or about the costs of implementing them, particularly in SSA. When evidence is available, dissemination and the capacity to use that evidence is often weak, especially among key education stakeholders in the region. Evidence about how to scale up innovations that improve learning outcomes is key to unlocking rapid and sustainable change towards meeting SDG 4.

The Regional Anglophone Africa Knowledge and Information Exchange (KIX) Hub

The Knowledge and Information Exchange (KIX) Hub has been established through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and with funding from IDRC whose purpose will be to collect, generate, exchange and facilitate effective use of data, knowledge and innovation for education policy formulation and implementation among 19 Anglophone African countries in six thematic areas. These will include (i) strengthening learning assessment systems, (ii) improving teaching and learning, (iii) strengthening early childhood care and education, (iv) achieving gender equality in and through education, (v) leaving no one behind, and (vi) meeting the data challenge in education.

¹ UNESCO is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education. It has been entrusted to lead the Global Education 2030 Agenda through Sustainable Development Goal 4. The roadmap to achieve this is the Education 2030 Framework for Action http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/education-2030-incheon-framework-for-actionimplementation-of-sdg4-2016-en_2.pdf

² http://www.education2030-africa.org/images/systeme_edu/docs/Final_Indicators_Manual.compressed.pdf

³ UNICEF Data (2018). *Primary Education*. <https://data.unicef.org/topic/education/primary-education/>

⁴ World Bank Report (2018). *The consequences of rapid population growth*. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/5967/9780195204605_ch05.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y

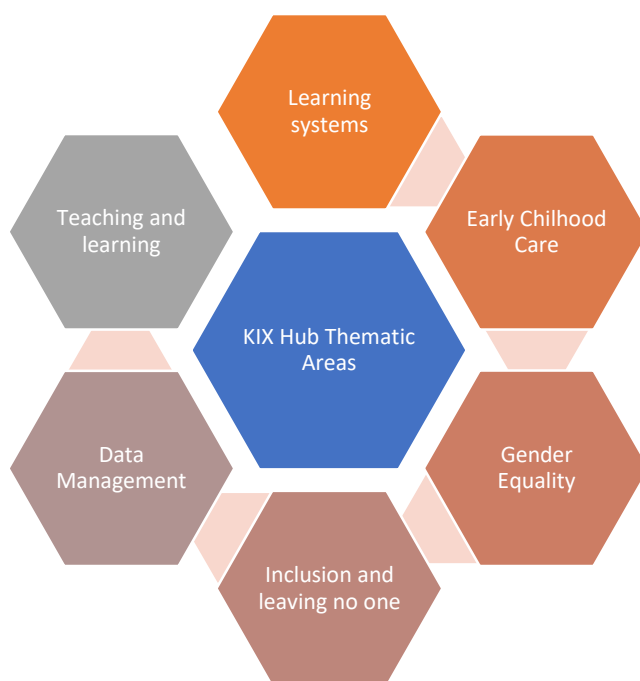


Figure 1: KIX Hub Thematic Areas

The Anglophone Africa Regional KIX Hub provides a timely opportunity to catalyse the provision of quality education through facilitating evidence-based developments in policy and practice, and through identifying and contextualizing evidence in education agendas unique to the region. Given that the Anglophone region has a number of countries affected by conflicts, other context specific education innovations deemed pertinent to the DCPs to foster inclusivity, such as education for crisis-affected and displaced populations, including education for children on the move, will also be included with the overall goal to contribute to SDG 4 aspirations and the realization of GPE’s strategy.

Countries participating in the KIX Hub

The Regional Anglophone Knowledge and Information Exchange (KIX) Hub will facilitate the collection, generation, exchange of data, knowledge and innovation for education policy formulation and implementation in 19 developing country partners (DCPs) in Anglophone Africa which include Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland), South Sudan, Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Objectives of the Regional Anglophone Africa KIX Hub

The specific objectives of the Hub are to:

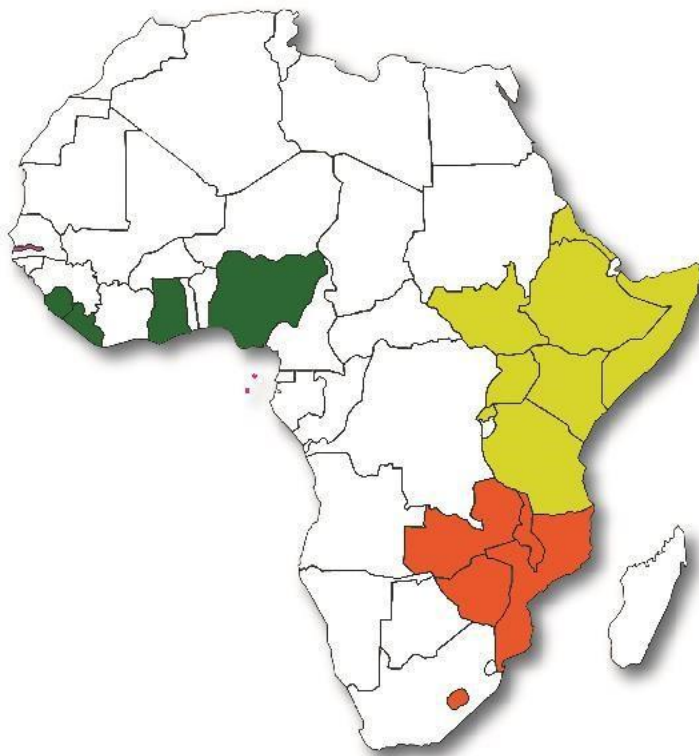
1. Establish and manage the regional Anglophone Africa KIX Hub with an emphasis on DCP engagement, continuous learning and adaptive management;
2. Synthesize knowledge and set regional knowledge and innovation agendas for education policy formulation and implementation in support of realising quality,

inclusive and equitable education through incorporation of gender responsive approaches; and

3. Support knowledge sharing and mobilization along cross cutting themes and innovation agendas throughout the project cycle in order to facilitate monitoring and sharing of good practices across the DCPs.

Management of the KIX Hub

The KIX hub will be managed and coordinated by a consortium of Research Learning Partners (RLPs) – lead by UNESCO’s International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, UNICEF’s Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa and the African Union. The hub will be expected to provide and disseminate the information, evidence and insights to 19 countries,¹ through a network of national partners committed to evidence-based, innovation-driven and context-relevant policy making and practice, in order to close the educational and learning gaps between rich and poor children, and boys and girls on the continent.



19 GPE Countries selected for the KIX Hub:

1. Eritrea,
2. Ethiopia,
3. Gambia,
4. Ghana,
5. Kenya,
6. Lesotho,
7. Liberia,
8. Malawi,
9. Mozambique,
10. Nigeria,
11. Rwanda,
12. Sao Tome and Principe,
13. Sierra Leone,
14. Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland),
15. South Sudan,
16. Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar),
17. Uganda,
18. Zambia and
19. Zimbabwe

Figure 2: KIX Hub Countries

¹ Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland), South Sudan, Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The DCP Inception Meeting

An inception meeting has been organized for all the 19 DCPs and their RECs, such as EAC, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); bilaterals, multilaterals and other UN agencies to foster a shared understanding on the role and functioning of the KIX regional hub towards strengthening national education systems and accelerating educational progress. A call to action with a clear road map will be prepared to provoke an immediate response from countries and provide strategies and actions to guide countries on how to address these challenges faced by DCPs in the six thematic areas through the KIX Hub.

Objectives of the DCP Inception Meeting

The DCP inception meeting will provide participants with an opportunity to:

1. Discuss the role and functioning of the Hub towards strengthening national education systems and accelerating educational progress;
2. Map existing knowledge and priorities that will inform the establishment of the thematic groups;
3. Identify the most salient policy challenges faced by DCPs in the six thematic areas;
4. Identify innovations and solutions related to the identified policy challenges that can be adopted by other countries;
5. Provide an opportunity for LEG members to present their national interests to ensure knowledge and lesson learned support country-level policy dialogue and implementation; and
6. Document the meeting outcomes in form of a regional call to action which will define priorities related to policy challenges that will be addressed through research and scalable innovation during the implementation of the Hub.

Proposed date and Venue

The inception meeting will take place from 18th – 19th March 2020 at the African Union Conference Hall, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participant will be accommodated at a hotel venue to be identified in Addis Ababa.

Inception Meeting Methodology

The preparations and moderation of the inception meeting will be held by the consortium partners in collaboration with IDRC and GPE. The format of deliberations for the meeting will be a combination of plenary presentations and focused group discussions. In addition to programme presentations which will be a series of group activities to improve the interaction among the DCPs.

Participants for the DCP Inception Meeting

The 2 day Anglophone Africa inception meeting for the 19 GPE countriesⁱ and RECs, such as EAC, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), bilaterals, multilaterals and other UN agencies will be held with a

participation of about 38 participants from the 19 DCPs; and 20 other participants from the consortium partners, the regional advisory and technical team of the KIX hub.

At country level, the consortium partners UNESCO and UNICEF through their country/antennae offices will facilitate the nomination of the GPE focal point and a Ministry of Education technical person. The AU will support with the nomination of focal points from RECs to participate in the meeting.

Expected outcomes

1. The role and functioning of the Hub towards strengthening national education systems and accelerating educational progress presented and discussed;
2. The most salient policy challenges faced by DCPs in the six thematic areas identified;
3. KIX Hub membership established and in alignment with the thematic groups;
4. A compilation of relevant research, evaluations and innovations to generate priorities and areas of focus for the regional KIX hub documented;
5. A platform provided to the LEG members to present their salient issues to ensure knowledge and lesson learned support country-level policy dialogue and implementation;
6. Capacities strengthened of the Hub members through activities in inception meeting on how the KIX hub will be implemented;
7. A regional call-to-action for innovation with a clear roadmap to improve education and learning outcomes;

The Expected Impact

- Promotion of regional evidence and knowledge agendas in support of improved policy and practice development;
- Enhanced use of evidence to inform policy and practice development and scale innovations in education;
- Creation of new partnerships and networks that will support the sustainability of the enhanced use of evidence in Anglophone Africa.

Appendix 1: Draft Meeting Agenda

Day 1, 17th Tuesday, March 2020

- *Arrival and registration of inception meeting participants*

Day 2, 18th Wednesday, March 2020

Time	Activities	Facilitator
08:00 – 09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration 	Secretariat
09:00 – 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks and introduction of participants • Objectives of the DCP Inception Meeting and expected outcomes 	IICBA African Union Commission
09:30 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the Regional Anglophone KIX Hub and its management 	IDRC/GPE
10:00 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks from Consortium Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Director, IICBA</i> ○ <i>Commissioner, HRST, AUC</i> ○ <i>Regional Education Specialist, UNICEF</i> 	Consortium Partners
10:30 – 11:00	Group Photography & Tea break	
11:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the regional Anglophone KIX Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Project design and objectives</i> ○ <i>KIX thematic areas</i> 	IICBA
11:30 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion: Experiences and lessons learnt on Education policy formulation and implementation along the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Learning Assessment: SACMEQ</i> ○ <i>Teaching and Learning: EI</i> ○ <i>Early Childhood Development: AfECN</i> ○ <i>Gender Equality: FAWE</i> ○ <i>Inclusivity: VVOB,</i> ○ <i>Data Challenge: ADEA</i> 	Session Chairperson, <i>Africa Capacity Building Fund (ACBF)</i>
12:30 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question and Answer session 	African Union Commission
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work; DCP challenges and priorities on education policy formulation and implementation for the six thematic areas 	UNICEF
15:30 – 16:00	Tea break	
16:00 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of DCP findings on policy challenges and priorities for the six thematic areas • Wrap Up 	DCPs IICBA
18:00 – 19:00	Networking Reception	
		All partners

Day 3, 19th Thursday, March 2020

Time	Activities	Facilitator
08:30 – 09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap of day 1 	Secretariat
09:00 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and coordination of the Anglophone KIX Hub The role of DCPs in the implementation of the KIX Hub activities 	Consortium Partners
10:00 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question and answer on the functioning of the Hub 	All
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break	
11:00 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion of the KIX Hub implementation strategy and work plan 	IICBA
12:00 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group work: A discussion on DCP institutional capacity needs and strategies to foster knowledge sharing, networking and learning exchange; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Group 1 - Generation of information and research;</i> <i>Group 2 - Development and implementation of evidence-based policies;</i> <i>Group 3 - Translation of policies into practice;</i> <i>Group 4- Development of innovative strategies to accelerate education progress;</i> 	African Union Commission
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of DCP group work 	All
14:30 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the draft “Regional Call to Action” for the DCP engagement and participation in the Anglophone KIX Hub 	UNICEF
15:30 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on the next steps for the project implementation 	IICBA
16:00 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Director, IICBA</i> <i>Commissioner, HRST, AUC</i> <i>Regional Education Specialist, UNICEF</i> 	Consortium Partners
16:30 – 17:00	Tea Break	

Day 4, 20th Friday, March 2020

- Departure of inception meeting participants*