

BACKGROUND 2 – November 2007

Case study – Mozambique

Primary education is central to the Mozambique government's strategy of addressing poverty and promoting Education for all, and it has made substantial progress in improving access to primary education in recent years. However, about 1 million school age children still do not go to school – more than half of them are girls.



Mozambique's struggle to provide education has been hampered by the impact of HIV/AIDS, with almost 14% of the population infected. The cost to the government of providing education increased by 5% in 2006, largely due to the need to replace primary education teachers who have become ill or died. Mozambique estimates that it will need around 7,000 new teachers each year in the period between now and 2009. The current pupil:teacher ratio is around 70:1, a number which its plan aims to bring down

to 50: 1 – if it can find the money to train and employ these teachers.

Since 2002, Mozambique has built 2,000 new schools. In 2005, the government dropped school enrolment fees, giving every child a chance to go to school. But Mozambique desperately needs additional funds to do much more – to accommodate the children still out of school. Each year, between now and 2009, it will need to construct around 2,500 classrooms. The cost per classroom is estimated to around US\$10,000-20,000.

The government has neither the resources nor the capacity to finance and implement the necessary changes in the education system on its own. But despite having gained FTI approval, the Education Sector Plan is still underfunded by a staggering \$132 million per year.

Donors' contributions would make a huge difference in regards to enabling more children in Mozambique to receive a higher quality education, and help ensure a positive future for a country deeply affected by poverty and illness.

Case study – Winnie's story

Winnie Adhimabo is an orphan. She never knew her father and her mother died last year from AIDS. She has 2 older brothers, the eldest is boarding at secondary school - she lives with her younger brother and sister in a one-roomed house. Winnie is the head of the household and does all or most of the housework, 'It's what women do' she told us. So after school she has to wash school uniforms, cook, wash utensils, fetch water, fetch and buy food, take care of her siblings and revise for school! Despite these difficulties, the policy of free education in Kenya has enabled Winnie to go to school. For her, the most important things in life are education and parents. Winnie is 13 years old.

