The Muscat Agreement: New proposed post 2015 global education goal and targets announced today

A global goal and targets for the post-2015 education agenda, discussed last month at the Global Education For All Meeting in Muscat, Oman, have been announced today. This is the first important step in a process that will culminate at the World Education Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in May 2015 and at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2015.

The proposed new overarching education goal aims to drive the international community to: Ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030

This goal comprises seven new global education targets:

**Target 1:** By 2030, at least x% of girls and boys are ready for primary school through participation in quality early childhood care and education, including at least one year of free and compulsory pre-primary education, with particular attention to gender equality and the most marginalized.

**Target 2:** By 2030, all girls and boys complete free and compulsory quality basic education of at least 9 years and achieve relevant learning outcomes, with particular attention to gender equality and the most marginalized.

**Target 3:** By 2030, all youth and at least x% of adults reach a proficiency level in literacy and numeracy sufficient to fully participate in society, with particular attention to girls and women and the most marginalized.

**Target 4:** By 2030, at least x% of youth and y% of adults have the knowledge and skills for decent work and life through technical and vocational, upper secondary and tertiary education and training, with particular attention to gender equality and the most marginalized.

**Target 5:** By 2030, all learners acquire knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to establish sustainable and peaceful societies, including through global citizenship education and education for sustainable development.

**Target 6:** By 2030, all governments ensure that all learners are taught by qualified, professionally-trained, motivated and well-supported teachers.

**Target 7:** By 2030, all countries allocate at least 4-6% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or at least 15-20% of their public expenditure to education, prioritizing groups most in need; and strengthen financial cooperation for education, prioritizing countries most in need.

All governments are now asked to support these targets in national, regional and global consultations on the post-2015 education agenda and in the ongoing discussions in New York at the Open Working Group on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Next year, the proposal will be put forward for approval at the World Education Forum in the Republic of Korea in May and at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

Meanwhile, the indicators to measure the above targets also need to be defined or developed. We have started a series of blogs on this site debating the ways that the five outcome-oriented targets above can be measured. The first two on school readiness and learning outcomes are already posted.
In addition, our blog has explained the need for this new goal and its targets to be edited by communications specialists so that there is a common understanding of their meaning. The blog has also presented the arguments for and against the need for a finance target to be included in the set above in order to hold donors to account after 2015.

Join us in these discussions via the comments section in our blogs. By working together we can ensure we come up with cohesive ways of shaping ambitions and measuring progress post-2015 to ensure that no-one is let off the hook, and no-one is left behind.

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7 Responses to The Muscat Agreement: New proposed post 2015 global education goal and targets announced today

Kentaro Fukuchi says:
5 June 2014 at 1:27 am

Thank you for this post. I’m pleased that the targets address the gender equality and the most marginalized.

I was wondering why the Target 6 does not explicitly mentions on the equity aspect like Target 1 to 4. As the deployment of teachers seems to be one of the issues in the equity in education, I thought it would be the targets would be more powerful if the words “with particular attention to girls and women and the most marginalized” are added to this target as follows.

Target 6: By 2030, all governments ensure that all learners are taught by qualified, professionally-trained, motivated and well-supported teachers, with particular attention to girls and women and the most marginalized...

Alternatively, I think that another expression can be added as follows.

Target 6: By 2030, all governments ensure that all learners are taught by qualified, professionally-trained, motivated and well-supported teachers, responding the needs and expectations of the learners.

As I understand the targets are agreed after the long debate, my question might not be relevant, However, I just hoped to ask my simple question here. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Ken taro

vdiazapia2000 says:
5 June 2014 at 3:53 am

The proposed educational goals and targets are great. They will help a lot of population to have an equal social environment and economic resources. As a consequence, we will get a better life, but why until 2030? Why do not get an agreement before this year?

Vishnu Karki says:
Target 6 is very much abstract and contextual. There’s a need to alternative thinking on teacher’s role more as a facilitator than a teacher. Promotion of students self (paced)-learning and parent’s involvement in teaching and learning must be ensured as it plays crucial in child’s overall development. In most developing countries, parent’s role in education is almost none. Let us bring back parents to teh schools and appreciate their presence in the school. This will make a huge difference in child’s learning.

Ann Munene says:
6 June 2014 at 5:19 am

I think target 6 is the best thing ever added to education goals. For a long time we have all known that teachers play a key role in children learning and yet we have ignored making concerted effort to ensure that we have great teachers who are motivated, encouraged and supported to make a difference. It’s a high time we did this and i’m glad post-2015 MDGs for education have included this as a key target. Well done people- we can do it- for our children especially the most vulnerable.

Prof Peter Mittler says:
6 June 2014 at 9:57 am

I thought we had learned that using umbrella terms such as ‘the most marginalised’ does a disservice to specific groups who were neither named or included in the first round of MDGs. For example, now that the UN has officially recognised disability as a cross-cutting issue in the reduction of inequalities, we need to develop monitoring and accountability tools to ensure that Education for Some is replaced by Education for All which means what it says. The indicators under development do not seem to reflect this policy.

Dr. Sharda Gupta says:
6 June 2014 at 1:52 pm

I fully agree with the insight and development plan. Unless education system is improved and maximum awareness is created in masses, development will be a long distance dream. Being an educator I am ready to put in all possible by me.

mapmystudy says:
9 June 2014 at 8:16 am

Thank you for the interesting article. There is more to overseas education than just learning a language. In fact you develop various skills and experiences which are more valuable and interesting than the education provided in a classroom setting.