

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Workshop on *Quality Education for Out-of-School Children*, 6-8 October, Nairobi Kenya

ESARO Basic Education and Gender Equality (BEGE) section organized in Nairobi from 6-8 October 2015 an Out of School Children (OOSC) workshop gathering Government delegations from Ministries of Education from nine countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, namely Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, representatives from partnerships such as UNESCO/Institute for Statistics, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), participated actively in the workshop. UNICEF Colleagues from UNICEF NYHQ PD Education and Disability Sections, eleven UNICEF Country Offices (Mozambique and Somalia, in addition to the 9 countries mentioned above), and UNICEF ESARO colleagues from Social Policy and Research, Communication for Development, Early Childhood Development, Peace Building and Education Advocacy, Health, WASH, ICT/Innovation, HIV/AIDS, Child Protection and Basic Education and Gender Equality team provided high level technical advice.

The workshop was to support UNICEF's Strategic Plan to provide quality education for all children, and to ESARO's regional priority # 3 to reduce, by 2017, the number of children that are out of school by at least 3 million, and improve student's learning outcomes.

The workshop successfully reached its objectives to review, learn from and promote countries' evidence-based experiences and to provide countries with tools and methodologies to reduce the number of out-of-school children. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the workshop, as they learnt about good practices and lessons in the region and discussed how best to scale up successful initiatives.

The workshop achieved the following results:

- Participating countries agreed to continue sharing and learning from each other on good practices and lessons learnt on the complex issue of Out-of-School Children. South-South cooperation and country visits were discussed and agreed as a way forward, and UNICEF Country Offices and ESARO BEGE are committed to facilitate such initiatives.
- Participating countries have learnt about and committed to apply the Global Out-of-School-Children Initiative operational manual, particularly its framework to address out-of-school children in three steps: 1) understand *who* the out-of-school children are; 2) analyse *why* these children are not in school and learning; and 3) *what* policies and strategies should be developed and implemented to bring and keep the children in school and learning, and *how to monitor* progress and results. The Regional Office team will continue to provide technical support to countries in our region to meet Regional Priority # 3, in collaboration with colleagues from NYHQ and UNESCO/UIS.
- Participating countries have committed to revisit their existing education policies and strategies and further analyse the data on out-of-school children, in order to improve and strengthen targeted interventions to bring all children into school and learning. Each country has identified concrete actions to put in place over the next six months, and the Regional Office will follow up with Country Offices to ensure these actions take place.
- UNICEF Country Offices are committed to support Governments in gathering relevant evidence on key education indicators to monitor progress and results of policies and strategies to address out-of-school children in their Education Sector Plan monitoring framework, both at the outcome and output levels, taking into consideration the regional priority output indicators.

ALL IN SCHOOL

Out-of-School
Children Initiative

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- UNICEF ESARO, in close collaboration with UNESCO/UIS and GPE, will look at how the region can ensure that children living in countries affected by conflicts or natural hazards, girls and children with disabilities all go to school and learn.