Towards a Belgian Strategy for education and development

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Five key lessons learnt

• Education has enormous leverage effects on all dimensions of human development: economic, social, health, governance...
• ECEC and basic education have highest returns on investment, particularly among the poorest (countries)
• Multilateral support has drawbacks (bureaucracy, predominance of neoliberal pro-globalist agenda, less technical assistance) but also major advantages (unity of purpose, impact, transparency, integration in national poverty reduction strategies)
• Agreed list of top priority countries (mainly SSA)
• Education = ‘eating the dragons’ => eat them before they eat you
# SOCIAL RETURNS TO EDUCATION

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<th>Countries</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>11.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
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<td>Eur + N.-Amer.</td>
<td>15.5</td>
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<td>Lat.-Amer.</td>
<td>17.9</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
<td>14.4</td>
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<td>World</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>13.1</td>
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Source: Psacharopoulos (1994)
Education = eating dragons

=>...if you don’t eat them quickly, they eat you

– Health problems (undernourishment, AIDS)
– Population growth and movements
– Economic conditions
  • Government debt
  • Poverty of population => education is lesser priority / opportunity cost of child labour
– Wars
– Poor governance
Overall aid levels are rising, but projected shortfall against commitment (US $20 billion deficit on US$ 50 billion 2010 promise)

- Financial crisis is a threat to aid budgets
- Collective effort data masks mixed picture

Source: EFA Global Monitoring Report 2010
Towards a Belgian strategy

• develop a shared vision on the role of education and the priorities
• Raise share of aid to education
• Shift emphasis to ECEC and basic education
• Co-ordinate between federal and regional govts and engage together into multilateral aid
• Concentrate more on poorest countries (SSA etc.)
• Act quickly: the faster, the more efficient because of synergy effects

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