

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

Countries	Prim.	Sec.	Tert.
Sub-Saharan Africa	24.3	18.2	11.2
Asia	19.9	13.3	11.7
Eur + N.-Amer.	15.5	11.2	10.6
Lat.-Amer.	17.9	12.8	12.3
OECD	14.4	10.2	8.7
World	18.4	13.1	10.9

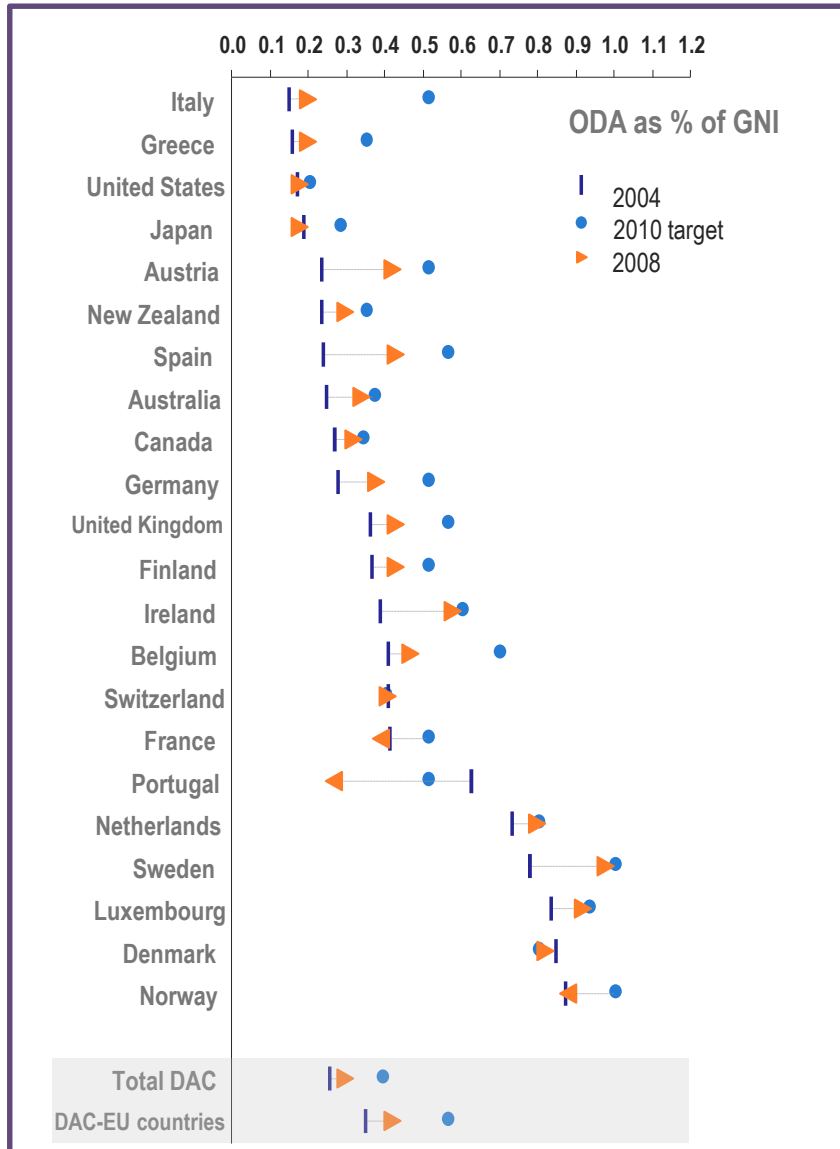
Source: Psacharopoulos (1994)

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

Donor performance



- 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

A GREAT MISSION FOR EDUCAID !