



School-based Businesses:

Bridging the Gap between
Education and Enterprise Development

The International Rescue Committee and Fundacion Paraguaya invite you to engage in this participatory learning event by submitting a proposal to present at the *School-based Businesses* workshop, to be held on *Thursday September 10th, 2009* at the International Rescue Committee offices in *Washington DC*.

Background

Paying for education is a challenge that governments and communities face universally, but is felt particularly acutely in developing and conflict-affected countries. On the supply-side, the goal of universal primary education has encouraged many governments in less developed countries to craft policies of free and compulsory education. While this has encouraged enrollment,¹ governments and local education authorities (whether formal or non-formal) struggle to ensure that even the most basic educational infrastructure is in place, including physical structures, equipment and teachers' salaries. Often the greater part of government funds (sometimes up to 90%) available for education goes towards paying teacher salaries, leaving very little for other types of school improvements. Similarly in post-primary education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions suffer from high costs of basic physical infrastructure and equipment and greater complexity of implementation (particularly in emergency and conflict-affected contexts), as well as large gap in financing by either the government or foreign aid assistance. It is estimated that approximately 50% of total foreign aid for education is directed to basic education, despite the greater costs of post-primary education provision.

Local community structures such as Parent Teacher Associations and (Vocational) School Management Committees, which have traditionally been charged with monitoring the quality of educational provision and discrete fund-raising initiatives for specific educational costs, now commonly seek income-generating activities to support any school improvement effort such as construction/ maintenance of facilities, provision of basic school and teaching supplies, and even some teacher salaries. Importantly, the challenges of meeting costs associated with education are not only felt at the primary level, but also at the post-primary level through secondary and vocational education –sectors which are largely under-funded by governments and the aid community.²

Despite these challenges however, educational institutions, NGOs and communities have devised means to incorporate enterprise development into education programs, developing pockets of promising practice as a result. These practices have for the most part, developed in isolation and in response to specific resource needs identified at the local level.

Goal, Objectives and Outcomes

The goal of the School-based Businesses workshop is to empower practitioners through learning and exchange to design programs that incorporate enterprise development initiatives that respond to market opportunities and are appropriate and feasible in educational programs.

The objective of this workshop is to identify, promote and disseminate replicable approaches for market-based education provision and to consider the effectiveness of these strategies.

¹ Sub-Saharan Africa alone raised its average net enrolment ratio in primary education from 54% to 70% between 1999 and 2006, representing an annual increase six times greater than during the decade before Dakar World Education Forum held in 2000 (*EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009*)

² Roughly 50 percent of all aid for education over the last decade has been directed at basic education (*EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009*)

Workshop to be held at:

**International Rescue Committee, Conference Room, 1730 M Street, NW - Suite 505, Washington DC
Thursday September 10th, 2009**



The main *outcomes* of this workshop will be:

- Dialogue between practitioners from the fields of education and enterprise development in relation to strategies for de-fraying costs of education;
- Development of a common understanding of the challenges associated with paying for education from a supply and demand side perspective;
- Knowledge about innovative enterprise development practices for implementation in education programs;
- Exploration of the evidence base to identify effective entrepreneurial approaches to education programming in a range of development and conflict-affected contexts;
- Exchange on the relative strengths and weaknesses of practices as they relate to cost, implementation, sustainability and scaling up;
- Identification of possible areas for synthesis or collaboration of enterprise development and education programming approaches.

Presentation Guidance

In order to ensure that the event fosters learning and exchange, presenters will be asked to structure their presentations around the following key questions:

- What are the objectives of your project?
- What is the context and who is the target population for the project?
- What are the expected results from the enterprise development component(s) of the project and how are they expected to contribute to achieving the project's objectives?
- If relevant, how are enterprise development activities expected to de-fray costs of education from the supply (educational institutions) or demand (households) perspective?
- What is the structure and design of the enterprise development component(s) of the program? Please highlight engagement with partners, where necessary.
- What does monitoring and/ evaluation data demonstrate about (i) the success of the enterprise development component(s); and (ii) the success of the enterprise development component(s) in achieving the project objectives?
- What are three key strengths of the approach adopted in this program?
- What are three key pieces of advice for other practitioners who are considering replicating this approach?

Registration

Participation in this workshop is open to practitioners, policy-makers, funders, educators and other professionals engaged in the fields of education and enterprise development. There is no fee for attending the workshop, but participants are asked to commit to attending for the full day to ensure productive dialogue. Since there are limited (20) spaces for participants at this event, we ask that interested parties send an email expressing their interest to Mary Liz Kehler at mlkehler@fundacionparaguaya.org and Radha Rajkotia at radha.rajkotia@theirc.org by **Monday August 17th**. Emails should include a one-paragraph abstract (no more than fifteen lines) describing how proposed presentations will address the presentation guidance questions above. Follow-up calls will then be made to elicit more information on presentation content. Presentations will be selected on the basis of their relevance to the workshop's objectives and their complementarity with other proposed presentations. Participants who are not interested in submitting a proposal are also welcomed to attend and should send an email to the addresses above to ensure that a place can be reserved.

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