

## Funding Change: Sustaining Civil Society Advocacy in Education

Since 2002, CEF has supported civil society driven education work in 16 low-income commonwealth countries. This was made possible through a £12 million grant from the Department for International Development. *Funding Change* is based on a research commissioned by CEF in 2006 aimed at exploring ways in which its mission could be sustained at national level as the CEF programme draws to a close in 2008.

The report offers a comprehensive analysis, which reveals that civil society does not benefit significantly from the present direct budget support international aid architecture. International donors are coordinating aid efforts behind sector-wide education plans through mechanisms such as the Fast Track Initiative. However, while these are welcomed they are more often than not focused on ministries of education with little space for the active engagement of civil society. Yet the commitments made at the World Education Forum in Dakar 2000, promised the systematic involvement of civil society in the development and monitoring of national education plans.

The report points out that there is a need for Civil Society Education Funds (CSEFs) registered in each country and managed by inter-agency boards with small, independent secretariats. These national CSEFs, if managed properly, could provide the funding safety nets that civil society coalitions will need to stay above water for the next few years. They would support CSOs to engage with and advocate to their own

governments on education policy work that proves difficult to fund through existing mechanisms.

The report suggests developing CSEFs drawing on lessons from previous experiences of funding broad-based CSO work at national level. It also draws attention to the need for widespread support for establishing CSEFs that are nationally owned and which could provide long-term solutions for civil society engagement in national education sector planning.

Download this report at [www.commonwealtheducationfund.org](http://www.commonwealtheducationfund.org)



## Education Rights: a guide for activists and practitioners

*Education Rights* is a practical resource pack that was developed by ActionAid for the Global Campaign for Education. It is meant to serve as a guide for anyone working on education issues and interested in using a human rights based approach with a focus on people-centred advocacy and power. The pack draws on over 30 years of

experience in education work by a wide range of activists and practitioners in more than 15 countries around the world, highlighting how different initiatives can contribute to the human rights based way of working. Based on these practical experiences, the pack develops a range of ideas and methodologies to put the approach into practice.

The pack offers analysis and reflection on the rights based ideology and focuses on six strategic areas, which also make up the six sections of the pack, they are:

- Understanding and securing the right to education
- Working with excluded groups
- Financing of education
- Citizen participation in education
- Securing rights in education
- Advancing a full EFA agenda

Each section discusses a range of activities under the broad theme and offers case studies and examples from practice as to how the work can be implemented, it goes on to offer methodologies and even participatory tools that can be used directly or be adapted to suit any context. Work at local level is prioritized, with discussions on how this can be linked to national and international level policy influencing and campaigning. The ideas proffered are framed in a participatory manner to support work and engagement with a wide range of actors on pertinent education issues.

The pack aims to encourage critical thinking and debate on the use of the rights based approach to education on issues that affect people from different perspectives.

Download the rights pack at [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

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