OUT OF SCHOOL GIRLS
PARTNERS MEETING
12–13 JUNE 2018
Dakar, Senegal

CONCEPT NOTE

“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world”
Nelson Mandela
1. Context

The Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People’s rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo protocol) outlines clearly the rights of the girl-child, the girl and women to be protected from all forms of violence that can challenge their own development at personal, socio-cultural, economic levels.

In its vision, the African Union clearly states its aspiration to a “Peaceful, Integrated and Prosperous Africa led by its peoples.” This has been reiterated in the Agenda 2063, in the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and many other adopted policy frameworks. Unfortunately, more and more African countries are facing serious challenges resulting from low level or absence in schools, putting them in fragile and vulnerable situations with various and specific needs.

Obviously conflicts, war, terrorist attacks create and/or impose increased vulnerability to a large number of women and children who are denied access to school, education, learning and training opportunities in safe environments. Some of them have simply dropped out of school for multiple reasons, mainly gender-based discrimination. These specific factors put those girls and young women in critical and vulnerable conditions, preventing their personal development and economic empowerment for sustainable livelihoods.

AU/CIEFFA will help in implementing some of these commitments, from policies to ground interventions. Many organizations and institutions have developed and implemented programmes targeting girls’ education in difficult conditions such as gender-based discrimination and violence, early marriage, conflicts, etc. Formal and non-formal education remain away out for many girls victims of these situations. In fact, education is the entry point for skills development, among other in-depth interventions. AU/CIEFFA would like to identify and learn from existing experiences from other institutions, in order to bring complementary approaches, innovative strategies for change and contribute to sustainable results.

2. Goal and Objectives of the meeting

2.1. Main goal

The overall goal of this meeting is a State of Art concerning out of school girls in Africa by sharing experiences and interventions with partners and other stakeholders, taking into account that the term “out of school” is a widely used term including school drop-out girls and illiterate girls.

The main concern is to develop a better perception of the problem and to reflect towards required actions and strategies to ensure impact and sustainability of continuous delivery of education and strengthening girls and young adolescents in vulnerable situations.

AU/CIEFFA is thus ambitioning to make learning safe and secured for learners by facilitating access to learning opportunities to out of school girls through both formal and non formal knowledge and skills acquisition.

2.2. Specific objectives

The following outlines the specific objectives of this meeting:

- Present a factsheet underlining the statistical status of the targets during the last decade in Africa
- Present a State of Art through existing experiences that have stimulated access (return to school) and retention of the target groups for a positive change
Identify key initiatives in the efforts of bringing back the girls to school, in safer teaching and learning environments

Envisage what type of collaboration and synergy of action could be established to build stronger partnerships and strengthen impact on girls’ education through common commitment.

3. Expected outputs

The following outputs are expected at the end of the meeting

- Better understanding of the statistical status of out of school girls in African educational systems
- Established State of Art and clarified to participants (and may facilitate reflection and planning)
- Experiences of existing interventions and key initiatives by the relevant institutions are shared
- Collaboration and synergy among relevant partners on out-of school girls

4. Venue, date and duration of the meeting

The two-day meeting will take place in Dakar, Sénégal from 12-13 June 2018.

5. Format of the meeting

The development and execution of activities during this meeting will happen in the form of panel presentations and discussions

- presentation of institutional interventions and debates
- Way forward
- Partnership building for effective collaboration and synergy of action

6. Participants

Under the leadership and the coordination of the AU/CIEFFA, the African Union will appreciate the presence and contribution of the following relevant partners from international & continental institutions as well as regional organizations to share their work experience in the concerned areas.

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<td>Peace and Security Department &amp; AU liaison offices</td>
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