

## Adult Literacy in sector wide reform Is this the way forward?



BALID/UKFIET workshop on  
Fresh Hope for Literacy for Life  
EFA Global Monitoring Report  
2006  
24 January 2006

## Adult Literacy – a Global Cinderella



- Charity orphan
  - Low government and donor priority
- No money for teachers or running costs
- Ugly sisters
  - Bureaucracy and male chauvinism
- Fairy Godmothers
  - NGOs?
- Coach to the ball
  - Sector Wide Programmes?

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## Why the problem?

- Primary education has to be first priority
  - Education MDG
  - Cause of ongoing illiteracy
- Primary and Higher Education compete for available funds
- Consequent very low Adult Literacy budget
- Adult literacy has proven difficult to reform

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## Adult Literacy provision still important

- Not just old people – most are young
- Most are women (gender MDG)
- Priority in poverty reduction
- Not enough information/feedback

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## Adult literacy an issue for the education sector as a whole

- Second-chance education
  - Need to plan for this
- Literate mothers send girls to school
- Literate communities raise school standards
- Sharing resources
- Formal education can learn from Adult Literacy (e.g. flexibility)

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## Sector wide programmes

- Balanced approach to sector as a whole
- Chance for Government and Civil Society to work in partnership
- Strategic debate and follow-up
- Looking at finances (budgetary support)
- Looking at resources and interactions
- Restructuring to improve efficiency

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## Problems with Sector programmes

- Most sector programmes aren't very sector-wide
- Even basic education programmes often exclude Adult Literacy
- Adult literacy still sidelined?
- NGO complaints of loss of project funding and some exclusion

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## Will Adult Literacy in Sector Programmes detract from UPE?

- Will adult literacy in sector-wider reform give more balanced approach to education?
- Will it support the interactions with formal education?
- Will it detract resources and attention from universal access to high quality primary education?

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## Will it detract from NGO programmes

- Will government-donor discussions on adult literacy in SWAps detract resources and attention from NGO programmes?
- Should anything be done to prevent this?
- Should Governments and NGOs be encouraged to work more closely together in an integrated programme?

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## What are the key issues?

- Progression from adult literacy to formal education?
- Parental literacy?
- Using schools and teachers (retrained?) for adult literacy?
- Getting lessons from AL (e.g. flexibility) into formal education?
- Other?

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