



European
Commission

Education

Case Study

REVITALISING EDUCATION IN ZIMBABWE

FACTS & FIGURES

**Education
Transition Fund**
(Multi-donor
programme)

**EuropeAid
contribution**

- €8 million
(US\$ 10.5
million)

ETF Partner

- Ministry of
Education,
Sports, Arts
and Culture,
Zimbabwe

ETF Manager

- UNICEF

Duration

- September 2009
– December
2011;
- Implemented
nationwide.



Multi-donor programme to raise the quality of primary and secondary school education in Zimbabwe

"In 2008, we had no textbooks. We really had no materials at all as we couldn't afford them. Still, the parents of our pupils, most of them farmers, wanted their children to come to school. Today, we have our textbooks from the Education Transition Fund. Most of our children can read now and our pass rates have improved. More children are turning up to school. There is a lot of community pressure to go to school here. If people find out that a child is not going to school, it's slightly shameful." **Ms Zamuchiya, Acting Head, Belmont Primary School, Goromonzi District.**

CONTEXT

Until the late 1990s, Zimbabwe enjoyed the reputation of having one of the best educational systems on the African continent. It famously had the highest recorded literacy rate in sub-Saharan Africa. By 2008, the situation had changed dramatically. The country's educational system was in disarray: 8,000 schools had closed, an estimated 20,000 teachers had left their posts and learning materials were in drastically short supply or, in some schools, non-existent. The educational sector's systemic collapse was the result of the severe economic decline that Zimbabwe suffered during the 2000s. The Educational Transition Fund, launched in 2009, set about to revive the educational sector by providing emergency teaching materials to primary schools; its first year of activity was so successful that the programme expanded its activities to include secondary schools too.

Development
and Cooperation
- EuropeAid

Education

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Case Study - Revitalising education in Zimbabwe

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the number of children dropping out of school by procuring and distributing textbooks and stationery to Zimbabwe's 5,644 primary schools and 2,337 secondary schools;
- Reach a 1:1 pupil/textbook ratio in core subjects covered by ETF textbooks – English, Maths, Environmental Science and Shona/Ndebele (Primary school). Maths, English, Shona/Ndebele, Science and Geography (Secondary School);
- Increase the involvement of parents in primary school management by training members of School Development Committees in educational resource management.

IMPACT

- 15.4 million textbooks delivered to primary schools;
- 7 million textbooks delivered to secondary schools;
- 12,677 steel cabinets and 9,391 stationery pallets distributed to 5,760 primary schools;
- 21,879 primary school School Development Committee members trained;
- Quality of reading improved at school level;
- Morale among teachers improved and renewed confidence of parents in schools.

TESTIMONIES

Daisy Mushandu, 19, came to Rusike High School in Goromonzi District, an hour east of Harare, two years ago. Today, she is the school's Vice Head Girl. "I like it here. Everyone's very sociable. Since I've been here, we've been given textbooks to learn from and I now use the school library, which has just opened. I want to complete A-levels in History, Geography and Sociology and then I'd like to do a degree in Human Resource Management. Not many pupils drop out here. If they do, it's because they can't afford the school fees. Sometimes young girls have to leave school because they get pregnant. There's a good atmosphere here - though maybe we could do with some more furniture and a few more decorations on the walls."

Rusike Head Boy Godknows Joseph Tirivavi, 18, came to the school in 2011 when his parents divorced. His mother is a nurse at the school clinic. "My mother isn't so interested in my studies. I motivate myself. My father is my real mentor. The teaching is good here – they are always willing to assist you. I'm one of the keen ones – I want to do my A levels. Many children get to O level and then leave school. I want to be a lawyer. My dream would be to go to Harvard."



