



European
Commission

Education

Case Study

ZIMBABWE – MAKING EDUCATION AVAILABLE TO ALL

FACTS & FIGURES

Education Transition
Fund – II
School Grants
Programme

EuropeAid
contribution

- €19 million (US\$ 24.6 million)

School Grants
Programme Partner

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

School Grants
Programme
Manager

- UNICEF

Duration

- January 2013 – December 2015



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Allow schools greater financial autonomy to eliminate unaffordable levies on parents with children of school-age

“In the past we often had to turn children away because parents couldn’t pay the school fees – around US\$ 10 per child per term. They also couldn’t afford the uniforms, which are important here so you can’t differentiate between rich and poor. Turn-out is much better now that they can pay the fees in instalments.”

Mrs Shamiso Rice, Grade 5 teacher, Belmont Primary School, Goromonzi District.

CONTEXT

Since the onset of Zimbabwe’s economic decline in the late 1990s, its schools have had to operate on minimal funding from the government. Such underfunding has meant that many schools, particularly those in rural areas, have been unable to maintain their facilities and have fallen into a state of disrepair. As a way of meeting maintenance costs and providing basic teaching, schools have been obliged to impose levies on pupils’ parents in addition to school fees. Parents who have been hardest hit by this tend to live in rural areas and be unemployed or living on a minimum wage. Unable to pay the levies and fees, their children have had no option but to drop out of school or not enrol in elementary education at all.

Development
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Case Study - Zimbabwe – making education available to all

OBJECTIVES

- Increase the level of funding provided to schools so that they can improve the learning environment they provide.
- Make education available to all children by enabling schools to fund their own basic resource needs and dispense with the imposition of charges on parents and guardians.
- In the long-term to put into a place a single comprehensive school grants programme that provides funding to all schools for all resource requirements, except the payment of salaries.
- Set up management and monitoring systems in primary and secondary schools and train their staff and members of their School Development Committee in development planning and financial accountability.

IMPACT

- 2013 pilot phase of school grants programme launched and on-going in 100 primary and secondary schools that have particularly limited resources.
- All schools in the pilot phase are developing a School Development Plan which identifies required resources to cover essential teaching equipment and furniture, and materials needed to allow access for disabled children. Funding

will be attributed accordingly, post their review by the educational authorities. Staff and School Development Committee members are being trained in development planning and financial accountability.

TESTIMONIES

“Before the Education Transition Fund started its activities, we had nothing to inspect! We also weren't able to visit schools very often because we couldn't afford the transport fuel costs. The Fund has given us something to inspect. The School Development Plans that the selected schools are preparing are very helpful for us because they let us see what resources they have and where they are intending to spend it. They introduce greater accountability into the educational system and will help us to standardise education in the future.”

Martha Mutseyekwa, School Inspector, Ministry of Education, Zimbabwe.

