AFRICA
EDUCATION WATCH

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP II PROJECT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Development of Pre-Tertiary Education Financing Brief

1.0 Background

Africa Education Watch (Eduwatch), with the support of OXFAM is implementing the Strategic Partnership II Project, aimed at ensuring that the Ghana government improves investment in public basic education to promote access and equitable quality education for all learners.

The 2020 Africa Economic Outlook indicates that, almost half of all African countries are meeting both of the recommended education financing targets set by the United Nations[1], (i.e., allocation of 4%-6% of GDP and 15%-20% of Government annual budget to education) with Ghana not being an exception. Eduwatch's computation from various reports by the Ministry of Education has shown that from 2011 to 2020, the average education expenditure as a percentage of Government expenditure was 22.5% and the average education expenditure as a percentage of GDP was 5.7%. Despite meeting international benchmarks over the years, there is a decreasing trend in these benchmarks. While education expenditure as a percentage of GDP has decreased from 6% in 2011 to 4.6% in 2020, the education expenditure as a percentage of government expenditure within the same period also decreased from 27% to 17.6%.

With the highly competitive financial demands from other sectors of the economy on limited public resources, the trend may continue, and given the priority Government has placed on the implementation of the free Senior High School (fSHS) programme, basic education will continue to bear the brunt, as already, the sub-sector has been deprived of adequate resources in favour of the fSHS programme implementation since 2017. Evidently, within the five years of the fSHS programmed implementation, the percentage of budgetary allocation to the basic education sub-sector has decreased by 10% (i.e., from 32% in 2016 to 22% in 2022), whereas that of SHS education has increased by 10%

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[1] Africa Development Bank. 2020. African Economic Outlook 2020: Developing Africa's Workforce for the Future

(i.e., from 12% in 2016 to 22% in 2022) with the two sub-sectors having almost the same resource allocations in 2022 – 3.9 billion to basic education and 3.8 billion to SHS – even though there are about 6 million pupils in basic school whereas about 1.3 million students are in SHS. The inadequate funding of public basic education and inefficient use of resources allocated to the sub-sector are to a large extent, the driving factors of poor educational outcomes.

Ghana is one of the five African countries where education spending has remained unchanged from 2019 (pre-COVID-19)[2]. However, with the learning progress of learners disrupted by the COVID-19 crisis, and the learning crisis in the education system exacerbated, Government would have to invest more in education than it did pre-COVID-19.

As part of the Strategic Partnership II Project, Eduwatch wishes to commission a consultant to develop a Policy Brief on pre-tertiary education financing in Ghana with a focus on public basic and secondary education, including TVET. The Policy Brief will be used to advocate for equitable deployment and utilization of the resources to achieve equity in quality learning outcomes.

2.0 Objective of the Assignment

To undertake a critical assessment of government spending in the pre-tertiary education sub-sectors, with a focus on basic and secondary, including TVET.

3.0 Scope of Work

i. Undertake a desk-top review of government education spending focusing on trends, size, composition and type of public spending between 2017 and 2020, and subject to the availability of data, 2021.
ii. Highlight the implications of financing trends on access and quality, and make policy recommendations.
iii. Present the findings and recommendations of the review at conference of policymakers and stakeholders.

4.0 Assignment Time-frame

The assignment shall be for a maximum of 10 working days starting from Wednesday, 21st September, 2022 to Tuesday, 4th October, 2022.

5.0 Qualifications

1. An advanced university degree in education, economics, development studies or

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[2] UNICEF. 2021. Analysis of education spending in the West and Central Africa region: A Policy Brief for Ministers of Education and Finance

other equivalent qualification.
2. Knowledge and understanding of the education financing issues in the education sector of Ghana
3. Documented experience of undertaking policy research in education.

6.0 Bidding Process

Eduwatch invites interested consultants to submit a letter indicating Expression of Interest, their CVs containing evidence of similar assignments undertaken and a budget for the assignment to info@africaeducationwatch.org or hand delivered at our office in 25 Nii Torgbor Avenue, East Legon no later Friday, 16th September, 2022. The subject of the email should read: ToR for Education Financing Brief – SPII.