



## COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER- 02/22

**EDUCATION IS A NECESSITY FOR A BETTER AND FAIRER WORLD**



## *'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'* Rajeev Ranjan

Spring has sprung! Or at least amidst the occasional rain showers present in some parts of our world.

It has been a busy few months since the last newsletter. Our General Assembly was held in conjunction with our Advocacy Forum in March, and it was a great success. It was good to see old faces again in Brussels and meet new ones. Amongst several memorable events were 26 CEOs signing a Letter of Intent, which is committed to "pro-actively seeking out EU-CORD member organisations wherever we are and pro-actively looking at ways that we work together in a range of areas". This act was symbolic, confirming the need to deepen collaboration approaches and partnerships to move beyond relationship building in Europe to deepening partnerships between EU-CORD members and their national implementing partners at the country level. In response to this, we have developed a framework for in-country collaboration and support in-country EU-CORD forums in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Eastern Africa, and Ethiopia.

In addition, the Funding and Partnerships Forum is ending today, having taken place in Almere, Netherlands, hosted by Dorcas. Representatives of 11 organisations met for the first time in person since the last forum held in Helsinki two years ago to strengthen relationships, review ongoing pieces of collective work, and share learning.

As a secretariat, we continue to engage with CONCORD's Regional Alliance Working Group as we seek to ensure that civil society is involved in the implementation of the EU-Africa Summit agreement. We also participated in the Spring session of CONCORD's Inequalities and Sustainable Economies Working Group. The meeting highlighted *Beyond Growth* (a concept that seeks to measure social progress beyond the notion of economic growth). CONCORD will be an organising partner in a conference on Beyond Growth at the European Parliament in May 2023, so we will be sure to see how we can get involved. Finally, the secretariat was part of the IDDC General Assembly (GA) on 9-11 May. There are two notable developments from IDDC's GA. First, our member See You Foundation was welcomed as a new member of IDDC. Second, the GA approved the creation of a new IDDC Task Group focusing on Climate Change. The overall aim of the Task Group is to promote learning and a space for collaborative action among interested IDDC members on climate action.

Finally, the focus of this newsletter is education. Hence, in this edition, we focus solely on the data we are mapping from our education initiative, sharing some essential information in a different style than in previous newsletters.

Happy reading!

Tabeth Masengu



*1 - Picture provided by Red een Kind*

The advocacy hub is currently pursuing an advocacy initiative that includes eight of our members, the largest collaborative initiative since I joined EU-CORD. This initiative results from a decision taken at the advocacy forum in March to explore a collaborative initiative targeting the European Parliament's Development Committee. The objectives of the initiative are two-fold:

1. To showcase the work our members are doing on education broadly, thus establishing our network as one with the necessary expertise;
2. To highlight gaps and opportunities that could stimulate the drafting of an Own Initiative Report or to input into planned research papers on education.

Education is also a priority in the EU-AU partnership, evident in the Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package. Improving education and training is one of Gateway's five pillars. The Investment Package will be delivered through Team Europe initiatives. The education aspect of the Global Gateway package is something we will be drawing our attention to in our advocacy initiative. This will entail joining like minded NGOs in a CSO group focusing on EU advocacy.

Lastly, we will also follow international processes such as the UN Transforming Education Summit and other related proceedings as the secretariat. So, for now, I welcome you to learn about the breadth of our member's work on education.

## Did You Know?



2 - Picture provided by See You Foundation



There are eight EU-CORD members currently working in 34 countries around the globe: See You foundation, Fida, Woord en Daad, The Leprosy Mission International, Red een Kind, Dorcas, Stromme and LM International. Africa has the highest concentration of programmes - 17 countries. Latin America comes second with nine, seven in South and Southeast Asia and one in Middle East. However, Bangladesh and Ethiopia have the highest number of EU-CORD members working on education projects - four in each! Guatemala has two programmes, the highest in Latin America, while Iraq is the stand-alone Middle East with one programme.

## Were you aware?



3 - Picture supplied by LM International



*4 - Picture from See You Foundation*

Our members work across at least 13 different thematic areas of education. Namely:

- a) Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- b) Primary school education for out-of-school children
- c) Disability Inclusive Education
- d) Parent Training and Support
- e) Teacher Training and Support
- f) TVET
- g) Adolescent Empowerment Programme
- h) Digital Learning Tools and E-learning
- i) Active/Adult Literacy
- j) Child Exploitation
- k) Education for Minorities
- l) Safe Living Environments for Children
- m) Crisis education

Our members recognise that their interventions are not just to fulfil a current need. The long term objective is education for sustainable development. This means education that encourages changes in knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to enable a more sustainable and just society for all. Societies are comprised of both adults and children, and the breadth of these programmes is evidence of what sustainable education can look like.

## What is required for successful implementation of education programmes?



5 - Picture provided by Stromme.



Cooperating with stakeholders is necessary to ensure efficient, inclusive and timely education intervention. Therefore, our members don't just work with national, regional and local governments, but they collaborate with other key players. Amongst them:

- Local communities and parents
- Local CSOs and INGOs
- Faith-Based organisations
- Universities
- Organisations of People living with Disabilities.

It has been [argued](#) that if we truly develop collective responsibility in education, then we have to develop collective responsibility *for* education. We have to hold ourselves, our elected officials, and our communities accountable for making the changes in our society to end segregation and discrimination, create equitable educational opportunities, and provide the support that everyone needs to thrive. Thus, the effort needed is not just from the educational establishments but also from those affected by education in their communities and those whose responsibility it is to see that education is effective. In



addition, the role of CSOs, especially in the uncertain times we are living in, cannot be overemphasised. Hence working with a range of collaborators ensures that our members work in tandem with critical partners in each community.

## Want a few facts that show that our members' programmes are standing out?



6 - Picture courtesy of Red een Kind



7 - Picture provided by LM International

- **Stromme:** Their Speed School initiative provides access to education for out-of-school children (OOSC) aged 8-12 and enables them to enrol in formal school to complete their primary. Originally developed in Mali, it has since been expanded to Burkina Faso and Niger upon the request of their respective national governments.
- **Red een Kind:** Developed the Parenting Challenge, which aims to improve the parenting skills of mothers, fathers, and other caretakers to provide adequate and relevant support to their children. Other NGOs have now replicated this nine module challenge.

- **Fida:** Pioneered a model of inclusive education with YDCP (part of the Country Programme) in Tanga, Tanzania. It has resulted in the Tanzanian government initiating ten pilot schools for inclusive education where the government implements physical improvements in accessibility (ramps, water and sanitation).
- **LM International:** In Honduras, Panama, and Brazil, LM International's partners have agreements with the government prison system to conduct Literacy, Basic Education, Citizenship trainings and others in which the inmates are volunteer facilitators.
- **The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh:** Has established organisations for People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) in every sub-district of above 5 Districts level. These are registered and recognised by the government and work as representative organisations for PLWDs in their area.
- **Dorcas:** Implements the Employable Youth in Ethiopia (EYE) programme in conjunction with Woord en Daad which aims to create new education and employment pathways for youth and help give them a fresh perspective on the world around them. At least 50 TVETS will be part of the programme which is fully in line with the government TVET policies.
- **See You Foundation:** In Cambodia, See You's partner is the only NGO member that has a permanent seat on the Disability Action Council that advises all ministries on issues around disability inclusion.
- **Woorden Daad:** Using the International Network for Christian Education (INCE) model in Guatemala, Woord en Daad has developed a strategic relationship with the Ministry of Education. This collaboration has reached all 140 000 public school teachers in Guatemala.

## Pray



Russia continues to wage its brutal war on Ukraine, resulting in global consequences. On 22 May, [UNHCR](#) noted that a record 100 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide - representing 1% of the global population. As our members continue to assist those in need, may we remember to pray with and for them.



Apart from displacement, food insecurity has also multiplied and the Horn of Africa is facing what's been described as its worst drought since 1981. Up to 20 million people across the wider Horn of Africa region could go hungry this year as delayed rains exacerbate [extreme drought](#) amid soaring prices of food and fuel as well as a shortfall in humanitarian aid, according to the World Food Programme. May we remember this and other forgotten crises globally as we seek God's intervention and wisdom.