SUCCESS STORY

Meeting EFA: Lessons from Complementary Approaches

On November 10 and 11, 2004, Dr. Joseph DeStefano of the Center for Collaboration and the Future of Schooling represented the EGAT/USAID-supported EQUIP2 working group on Education for All (EFA) at the World Bank's Fourth Annual Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Partnership Meeting in Brasilia, Brazil. The EQUIP2 presentation on “Meeting EFA: Lessons from Complementary Approaches” included a draft Issues Brief highlighting complementary approaches to cost-effective, large-scale primary education, supported by draft case studies of School for Life in Ghana, Community Schools in Mali, and Educatodos in Honduras.

EQUIP2’s presentation addressed some of the challenges currently faced by FTI and reviewed the lessons learned from three complementary education models developed and used in Ghana, Mali, and Honduras. The presentation included EQUIP2’s analysis of cost-effective approaches to reaching EFA goals for hard-to-reach populations. EQUIP2’s main argument focused on promoting a policy and program approach based on the cost-effectiveness of improving access, completion, and learning. The meeting was a success and the presentation was welcomed by participants who agreed that there is a need for civil society actors and multiple strategies to respond comprehensively to the challenges of EFA.

As a result of the presentation, representatives from UNICEF have requested more information about EQUIP2 activities in support of and research on complementary education. The Nicaragua Chamber of Commerce has similarly expressed great interest in adapting the Educatodos model for primary education support through innovative NGO-private sector partnerships. “Meeting EFA” also attracted interest from the Bangladesh Campaign for Popular Education to work with EQUIP2 on its evaluation of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) model.