



## EDUCATION

*Investment in education is essential to promote long term development*

### THE CHALLENGE

Thanks to the commitments delivered by the international community, in 10 years the number of children deprived of primary education has decreased from 103 to 75 million. Some achievements are impressive: in Sub-Saharan Africa, primary education attendance rose from 56% to 70%, in southern Asia from 75% to 86%, and in the Arab world from 78% to 84%.

In Ethiopia, the national education budget increased from 3.6% in 1999 to 6% in 2006.

However:

- ✓ For 75 million children primary school is still a dream, and some 60% of these are girls.
- ✓ In Africa there are still some 35.1 million boys and girls deprived of primary education.

### G8 RESPONSE

#### ACTIONS

- Continued promotion of the **Education for All - Fast Track Initiative (EFA/FTI)**<sup>1</sup> with particular attention to **quality education for girls and access to education in conflict and post-conflict areas**.
- Support for the creation of the International Task Force “Teachers for EFA”, to promote the availability of qualified teachers.
- Drafting of the Experts Report and of the **first G8 accountability exercise**.
- G8 support to the **International Education campaign – launched by FIFA** – during the **2010 Football World Cup**, which will be held for the first time in South Africa.

#### FIGURES

- In 2007, G8 countries committed US\$ 7,069.82 million to the world education sector, of which US\$ 1,750 million in favour of primary education (OECD/DAC data). Within this figure, US\$ 923 million were committed for developing countries which were members of the Fast Track Initiative (FTI). In 2007, the G8 disbursed US\$ 20 million to the FTI Catalytic Fund (the main FTI Fund), while in 2008 the resources supporting this fund amounted to US\$ 203 million. Year 2009 contributions are estimated to reach US\$ 72.1 million, of which US\$13 million were committed by the Italian government.

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<sup>1</sup> The EFA/FTI Initiative is a tool for the mobilisation of financial resources for the benefit of primary education initiatives, created in 2002, stemming from the basic principles of the EFA. It aims at supporting national education plans in Low-Income Countries (the majority of the 37 countries that have endorsed the FTI are African). The main fund supporting the Initiative (*The Catalytic Fund*) is a trust fund managed by the World Bank and financed by 18 donors, which disburses resources to developing countries. G8 countries promote this initiative since 2002 and, so far, this programme has enabled primary school access for more than 40 million children.