

Foreword

One of the strengths and defining characteristics of the Commonwealth is the sharing of experiences based on common values. All Commonwealth countries have committed to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to providing Education for All (EFA). Despite the commonality underlying these global goals, there is great diversity – and innovation – in the initiatives designed to help meet them.

Even as Commonwealth countries increase their focus on achieving those goals, the difference in the rate of progress between countries is significant. It is recognised that, although a ‘one size fits all’ model is not the best approach, there are many excellent practices taking place that may readily apply to other countries – if the innovations are known and shared.

Accordingly, there is a need to identify the most successful initiatives, and share them with other Commonwealth countries. This will allow all countries to benefit from more innovation, particularly in improving quality, and in making education more relevant, participatory and inclusive.

This guidebook is intended, therefore, to provide Commonwealth governments and their partners with a platform to share their particular expertise, and as resource for other countries to use when considering introducing a particular education initiative.

Specifically, the guidebook:

- Reports on a range of good initiatives which have improved teaching and learning in education in a cross-section of Commonwealth countries;
- Provides a practical resource to inform and advocate for greater attention to education quality and inclusion across all countries; and
- Showcases excellent education projects, programmes and activities across the Commonwealth.

Although designed primarily as a government-to-government resource, the document also contains information about solutions to educational challenges found by the non-government sector.

Two immediate outcomes of this sharing of successful initiatives will be to offer policy-makers a wider range of contextualised examples of solutions to particular educational challenges and to provide a contact point for decision-makers from other countries when seeking to gain more detailed information.

It is hoped that the longer-term impact of this resource will be the continued sharing of best practices and experiences within and across regions.

I commend this guidebook to you and trust that you will use it to contribute to a better alignment of education practice and policy goals, through evidence-based educational strategies, and greater innovation across those strategies.

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