What is PEDP?

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The Primary Education Development Plan (PEDP) is the Government's program to improve primary education for all children in the country. This includes girls and boys, rich and poor, and children with disabilities – no one should be left out. As this is a national program, all public primary schools in the country are meant to benefit from it. It is a five year program from 2002 to 2006.

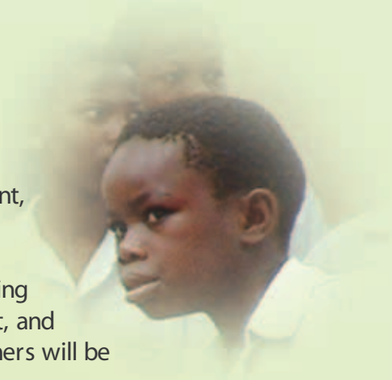
What are the main components of PEDP?

PEDP is a program that takes a comprehensive approach to primary education development. Its four key components are access, quality, capacity building, and finance and institutional arrangements. It also intends to focus on the critical cross-cutting issues of gender and HIV/AIDS.

PEDP recognizes that all components are equally important, and that they depend on each other. For example, it is not good enough to enrol thousands more children in school if the teachers are not there or the quality of education is worthless. This could quickly result in children dropping out of school.

How will PEDP improve access?

According to PEDP, all school age children will be enrolled in primary school by 2004. To ensure that no child is denied access to school, the Government has made primary schools free by abolishing all school fees and compulsory cash contributions. To accommodate



increased enrolment, between 2002 and 2006, 54,000 new classrooms (including toilets) will be built, and 46,000 more teachers will be recruited.

Each school that needs additional classrooms will receive a development grant to cover the costs of construction. Districts which have higher shortages, such as Kahama, will receive more grants than areas that have lesser shortages. Communities do not have to pay for construction, but will be encouraged to contribute their time and labour.

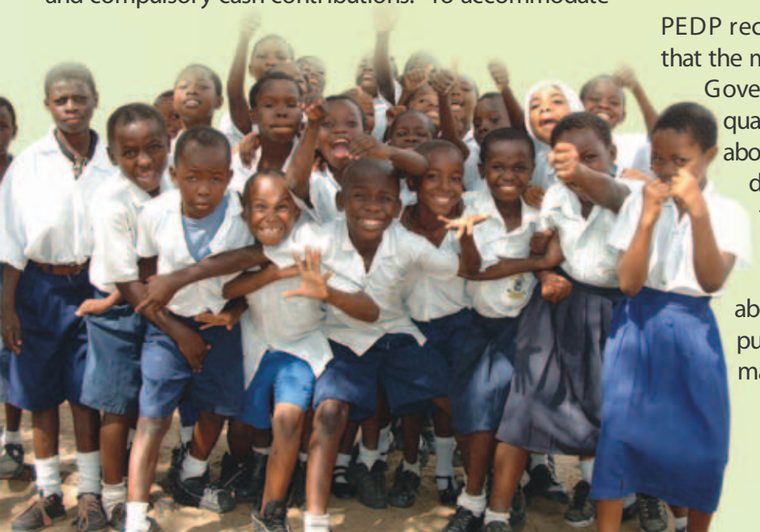
For older children who have not enrolled by age 10 years or who dropped out of school for various reasons, the Government is committed to providing non-formal education through programmes such as COBET. The idea is that every child in Tanzania should enjoy their right to primary education.

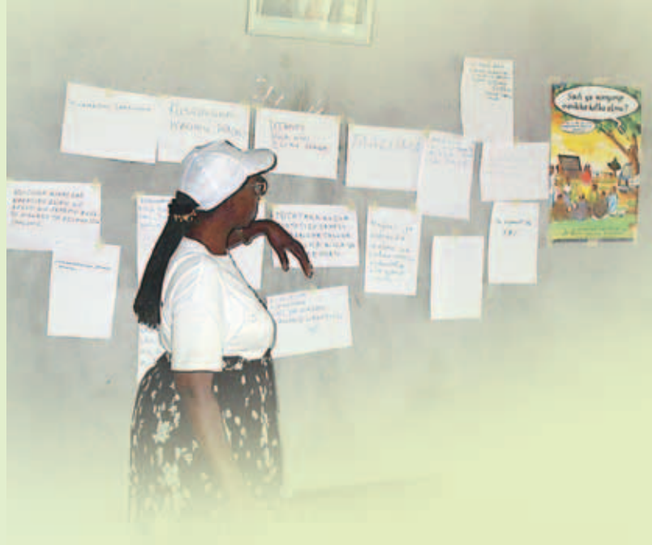
How will PEDP improve quality?

PEDP plans to improve quality of primary education by recruiting additional teachers, and by providing in-service training and pre-service training for teachers that focuses on academically sound, child-friendly and gender sensitive teaching methods. Schools will also be able to acquire adequate textbooks.

How will PEDP ensure adequate finances for education?

PEDP recognizes that improvements need money, and that the money needs to reach the school level. The Government has committed to allocate one quarter of its budget to education, of which about 62% will go to primary education. The donor partners have also agreed to support the Government plan to meet any budget shortfall. Most importantly, a new "capitation grant" has been introduced. Through this about Tshs 10,000 (US $10) for each enrolled pupil will be sent to the school each year to make improvements in the quality of education.





How will PEDP improve management of education?

Classrooms, teachers, books and money are essential, but education must also be well managed. This is why having good "institutional arrangements" is one of the four key pillars of PEDP. Consistent with reforms in local government, schools are to be managed in a way that involves the full and meaningful participation of people.

At the school level, school committees that include democratically elected parents and pupils are to have more powers and resources to make decisions. Schools are no longer to be governed by a few "bosses" but by the people's representatives in an open and transparent manner. District officials are not meant to only issue directives, rather they are to see their roles as providing a service to the communities and be accountable for their actions. At the national level, roles of the key ministries are to be clarified, and policy development will involve all stakeholders, including civil society organizations. To make this possible, a major capacity development program is planned, with special emphasis on the district and community levels.

What about gender, HIV/AIDS and disability?

Gender and HIV/AIDS are recognized as cross-cutting themes that affect all four components. It is recognized that while girls and boys begin and complete primary school in roughly equal numbers in Tanzania, the school environment is much more hostile to girls. Girls often do not get an equal chance to participate in classroom interaction, the curriculum reinforces negative stereotypes, girls lack critical facilities such as user friendly toilets and water, and they are more vulnerable to sexual harassment. HIV/AIDS is having a major impact on teachers' health, and more than a million children have lost one or both parents from the disease. PEDP aims to address these issues directly, but the actual ways in which this will be done has not yet been spelled out. In early 2003 The Minister of Education and Culture also directed that issue of disability be properly integrated into PEDP.

How can I know more about PEDP?

Everyone has a right to information, and everyone has a right to know about PEDP. Now that you know about the core components of PEDP, you can see if they are happening in your community and ask questions if they are not. For example, you can assess if all four components of PEDP are being implemented. You can ask if the money for PEDP is reaching your school, and if it is being used as intended. You have a right to ask questions, and get clear answers. According to Government reforms, it is no longer acceptable for leaders just to give orders and not listen to the people. Of course change takes time, and one cannot expect everything to be perfect right away. But you have a right to see progress being made on all key areas of PEDP.

You can get information on PEDP from the head teacher, District Education Office, your Ward Counsellor or Member of Parliament. You can ask for information at the Village/Mtaa Assembly or at Council meetings. You can also ask NGOs that are active in your area, or contact HakiElimu.



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