

May 2004

A joint 2005 FAO - ADEA – UNESCO Africa Regional Meeting on Education for Rural People, a key issue for increased access to quality basic education, for poverty reduction and food security

Geneva, Switzerland
14-15 April 2004

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Presented to the Steering committee of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)

Promoting access to education for rural people in Africa is crucial to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Africa is the region in which the knowledge gap among urban and rural areas is most accentuated. Often, countries with a gross enrolment in primary education of around 90 percent in urban areas, reach less than 30 percent of the same target in rural areas. Illiteracy is a constraint to food security, poverty reduction and rural development policies. This paper proposes to focus common efforts between ADEA, FAO and UNESCO in building the national capacity of policy makers and planners in Ministries of Education and Ministries of Agriculture to address the basic education needs of rural people.

(Also available in French)
