



research
for inclusive
education
in international
cooperation

Hannover, Germany
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Zomba, Malawi
April 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are happy to announce the launch of the innovative project *refie* - Research for Inclusive Education in International Cooperation. With this letter, we would like to introduce the project to you and, at the same time, let you know that our project website is already up and running. For up-to-date project information, please visit www.refie.org.

Top Story

refie works at the interface of research and development cooperation, which is quite novel in the field of education. It aims to improve the strategies of inclusive education and develop promotional instruments on the basis of proven scientific facts (www.refie.org/about/project).

The research work is carried out under the mandate of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The consortium is led by GOPA Consultants and partnered by the Leibniz Universität Hannover (www.refie.org/about/management).

Team Insights

Research Director of our intriguing project is Prof. Dr. Rolf Werning of the Leibniz Universität Hannover. Rolf Werning has had many years' experience of research in the fields of inclusive education, school development, teacher education and inclusive transition. Besides, international knowledge in education, as well as development cooperation, round off his team's expertise. Our national team leaders on the study locations will play a very important role in the success of *refie*: Marta Caballeros Ruiz in Guatemala, and Dr. Grace Chiuye in Malawi. Myriam Hummel, based at the Leibniz Universität Hannover, is facing the challenge of coordinating the entire research team's work and responsible for the smooth, day-to-day management of the research.

Please meet all our team members at www.refie.org/about/researchers.

A Scientific Advisory Board, composed of leading scientists and experts in the field of inclusive education, also supports the work of the *refie* team (www.refie.org/about/advisory-board).



News & Events

To ensure the most purposeful start to the project, a number of stakeholder meetings were held in Guatemala, Malawi and Germany. At www.refie.org/news/ you can find brief news items on these meetings, as well as links to the respective documentation on the events.

On 19 February 2014, the *refie* team and GIZ conducted a stakeholders' workshop in Lilongwe. On the overall question "*How can research contribute to design an inclusive education system in Malawi?*", experiences, lessons learnt and practices were shared between representatives of civil society, the academia, the donor community and ministries. Lively discussions evolved around the current status of inclusive education in Malawi and expectations of *refie*. One major outcome was the need to apply a broad understanding of inclusion. This means not only focusing on the inclusion of persons with disabilities but, in accordance with the [Salamanca Statement](#), taking into account the educational situation of the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

[Workshop documentation](#)

Featured Publications & Links

As an additional service for you, we are making available a comprehensive collection of public *refie* documents and reports, and general inclusive education documents, as well as links to other websites relevant to inclusive education. Please take a look at www.refie.org/resources.

In this pre-issue of our newsletter, we would like to feature the new "Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2013/14 - Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality for All". Developed by an independent team and published by UNESCO, the Education for All Global Monitoring Report is an authoritative reference document that aims to inform, influence and sustain genuine commitment towards Education for All. The latest report shows why education is pivotal to development in a rapidly changing world. It explains how investing wisely in teachers, and in reforms aimed at strengthening equitable learning, transforms the long-term prospects of people and societies. Visit the UNESCO website and [have a closer look at the report](#).



Newsletter

We hope that after reading through this letter you will be as excited about our project as we are. In order to receive project updates in the future, please be sure to sign up for the *refie* newsletter at www.refie.org/newsletter. The newsletters will provide you with detailed information on *refie*, including research design, progress and results, and will also give you insight into experiences, episodes and particularities of the on-going work. In addition, you will be able to read about events, publications and important news in the field of inclusive education.

Contact

If you have any questions about the project and its research, please be invited to contact our research coordination office:

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With best regards,
The *refie* Team

