



research
for inclusive
education
in international
cooperation

Hannover, Germany
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Zomba, Malawi

March 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are happy to present our 6th newsletter and hope you will enjoy reading through it. Please also visit www.refie.org for more information.

Dear colleagues,

After 14 months of intensive research work the *refie* project is now coming to an end. We are happy to present the research results to you (www.refie.org/resources/report/) which have or will be presented and discussed with relevant stakeholders in Malawi, Guatemala and Germany. A direct transition from finalizing the research by *refie* to implementation of first measures by GIZ marks one of the mayor characteristics of this applied research project. It is the *refie* team's strong desire to thank everyone who was involved in the one or other way during the research implementation. It could only turn out to be successful with the support and participation of various stakeholders in Malawi, Guatemala and Germany.

Thank you, Gracias, Zikomo, Malitox, Ch'jonte', Dankeschön

Final meeting in Guatemala

After 14 months of work, on January 22, 2015, an event was organized to present the results of the inclusive education study in Guatemala. During the days before this event, a German delegation visited the country to accompany the national team and to participate in the presentation.

Dr. Thomas Cieslik, Head of the German Cooperation and the Inclusive Education Program of the Technical German Cooperation (GIZ) hosted a cocktail on the occasion of the presentation of results on January 21, 2015. The German Ambassador to Guatemala, Mr. Matthias Sonn, and the GIZ Resident Director and Legal Representative, Dr. Lothar Rast, attended the cocktail, in addition to officials of the Education Ministry and members of the international cooperation, among others.

To conclude the research process, it was deemed important to summon the individuals who participated in the investigation and contributed to the

understanding of the perspectives, barriers and opportunities to achieve an inclusive education system in Guatemala.

One hundred fifty seven persons participated on the event of January 22. They participated actively in the presentation of results and working groups that allowed the obtention of information about proposed future actions to work for an inclusive education system in Guatemala. Among the attendants were members of the staff of the schools where the investigation was carried out, authorities of the Education Ministry, government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, members of international cooperation agencies, among others.

Of particular significance for the event was the participation of the Education Minister, Cynthia del Águila, who together with Dr. Luis Enrique López, Director of the EDUVIDA program, gave the welcome speech and expressed that the research would provide valuable input to promote actions in favor of inclusive education in the country. Also present were Vice-Minister Evelyn de Segura and Vice-Minister Eligio Sic, as well as the Directors General of Education, among them Luisa Müller and Jeannette de Cacacho.

A key element in the program was the presentation by Dr. Alfredo Artilles, International Advisor, who provided information on the theoretical reference framework and explained the scope of the results and their relevance to understand the issue in developing countries.

Afterwards, the members of the national team, Marta Caballeros (National Coordinator), and the investigators Héctor Canto, Gerson Sontay, Magaly Menéndez and Cristina Perdomo, presented the main results of the investigation. This presentation was supported by a video summarizing the investigation and its main findings. This facilitated the understanding and awakened the interest of the public on this matter. The video is available on the *refie* project page at www.refie.org/resources/videos.

The attendants participated in tables assigned depending on the sector where they work. They discussed the results and implications for the work each one of them carries out in favor of education in the country.

The event concluded with the participation of Stephanie Petrasch from GIZ, who explained the next actions to be taken as part of the Inclusive Education Program in charge of GIZ. Furthermore, Dr. Lothar Rast, expressed his satisfaction for the successful conclusion of this stage of the investigation.

A press conference was organized on this date to inform the media about the work carried out. This conference was organized by the German Embassy in Guatemala.

For the national team of the *refie* project it was fulfilling to conclude the task entrusted to them. They are grateful to the German Cooperation for the support provided to carry out the investigation, whose results can contribute to future discussions on education, as a pillar for the country's development.

Video about *refie* findings

The Guatemala *refie* team has chosen one additional way of presenting the research findings besides the final report. The following animation visualizes main fact about inclusive education in Guatemala and the country-specific research results. For further dissemination the animation will also be available in the Mayan languages K'iché, K'achiquel, Mam and K eqchi.

(www.refie.org/resources/videos/)

Final *refie* report

The *refie* team is very proud to announce that the final research report is now available online. You can download the executive summary in English, Spanish and German, the full report in English and Spanish as well as all individual chapters and annexes in both languages as pdf files. Please follow this link to the reports page: www.refie.org/resources/report/

Presentation of *refie* Findings

Presentation of *refie* Findings on 16th and 17th of March 2015 in Bonn

After a year of intense work the *refie* team presents its findings and final results at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Bonn (Germany) on the 16th and 17th of March. After final workshops in the two study countries Guatemala and Malawi; new perspectives have been discussed on the development of inclusive educational systems. The event in Germany aims at a mutually beneficial collaboration in the field of research and practice.

On the 16th of March the presentation of the research results and an evening reception will take place in the BMZ. On the following day the floor will be opened for discussions and workshops about topics such as, how research and practice can contribute to inclusion; which conditions need to be fulfilled and which methods and working instruments are effective in inclusive environments. Representatives from politics, research and civil society, who are actively involved in the field of inclusive education, will be invited to contribute their different perspectives regarding these questions. The Open Space will be accompanied by the artist label CommunityArtWorks.

The registration link can be found at the following address, please register till 20th of February 2015:

<https://www.giz.de/fachexpertise/html/anmeldung.html>

For further information please contact: inclusive-education@giz.de

Outlook

Everybody who already has been involved in research knows that any answer that has been given is followed by a couple of new questions. The finalisation of the work of *refie* leaves us with many interesting answers and insights in the area of inclusive education, but also raises questions regarding the implementation of the results – transferring research into practice.

The aim of the global research project funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by GIZ is to promote inclusive education in partner countries and use context-related and evidence-based research results and instruments that are relevant to development policy. In the following 1,5 years it will be the objective of the GIZ research coordination office to develop together with different partners – mainly in Guatemala and Malawi – approaches and methods to integrate inclusion to educational system development.

The results will be discussed and distributed among different stakeholders from development cooperation, civil society and science.

We are happy that some of the future work will be also accompanied by different members of the *refie* team in Germany, Guatemala and Malawi.

The work of the GIZ coordination office can be followed by a bi-monthly newsletter that will be automatically received if you already have been signed for the *refie* news. The *refie* website will remain online and continue to deliver the latest project information.

Contact

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

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With best regards,
The *refie* Team

If you received this newsletter as an email forward from a colleague please be sure to sign up for future issue of 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.

A note to those who subscribed to the newsletter already: We had to rebuilt the newsletter tool and moved you to our new subscriber list without asking you for an additional confirmation. We hope you agree with this procedure. However, if you change your mind about your subscription you always can unsubscribe : <http://www.refie.org/?id=45> .

