



EDUCATORS SHAPING FUTURES

A Global Knowledge Exchange on Teacher Preparation and Development

Session Summary and Materials

1. Session

Parallel Session 1b: From Prospective to Prepared Teacher: Building Effective Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Systems

2. Date/Time

Monday, November 3, 2025; 11:30–13:00

3. Speakers and Roles

Moderator:

- **Lily Mulatu**, Education Global Practice Manager for Eastern and Southern Africa, World Bank

Speakers:

- **Laura Gregory**, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank
- **Elyas Abdi**, Director General of Education, Ministry of Education, Kenya
- **Iina Soiri**, Technical Lead in Education, Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa
- **Stephanie Zuilkowski**, Associate Director for Research, Learning Systems Institute at Florida State University; Professor of International and Multicultural Education

4. Session Overview and Key Takeaways

The session focused on initial teacher education (ITE) as the foundation for teachers' lifelong professional growth, emphasizing its role in equipping prospective teachers with core knowledge, essential teaching skills, and a strong professional identity. Participants explored key components of building effective ITE systems, drawing on the World Bank's recent case studies of ITE, insights from Kenya and Finland, and an evaluation of Zambia's recent ITE reforms, offering evidence and lessons learned to inform future efforts in strengthening teacher preparation systems.

The discussion highlighted that well-prepared teachers are crucial for enabling children and youth to acquire the skills necessary for future academic success, employment, and life. It was noted that, despite the critical importance of ITE, it has historically received less attention and investment from governments and development partners compared to in-service professional development. The crucial but difficult task of aligning stakeholders—including government departments (such as ministries of education and higher education), ITE institutions, and schools was explored.

5. Links to Presentations and Materials

- [Parallel Session 1b Slides.pdf](#)

6. Related Resources

- [From Prospective to Prepared Teacher: Initial Teacher Education Case Studies from Around the World](#)

7. Acknowledgments

The session was organized by **Laura Gregory** (Senior Education Specialist, World Bank) and **Stephanie Zuilkowski** (Assistant Director for Research, Learning Systems Institute at Florida State University).

