

## **DRC Summary**

On December 6<sup>th</sup> the Brookings Center for Universal Education hosted the minister of education from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Maker Famba Mwangu, and his delegation for a meeting with donors and partners of the country. Minister Mwangu presented an overview of the government's new education strategy, which outlines three priority areas: 1) improving access to education by providing free education and reducing the number of out-of-school children, 2) improving the quality and relevance of education through distributing of textbooks, creating a national policy to add value to the teaching professions and new training centers, and initiating curriculum reform, and 3) strengthening education governance by implementing reform setting standards and monitoring implementation, strengthening parent-teacher committees and nationalizing school management entities. He discussed the main challenges the government is facing, which include: a \$270 million financing gap, an aging teacher population – the average age of teachers is 50 years old – 7 million out-of-school children and youth, conflict in the Eastern parts of the country which make management of the school system there difficult or impossible, and challenges reaching the entire country with education materials and lessons because of its vast size and rural areas.