

Comments on EFA FTI Global and Regional Activities Program (GRA) Consultation Document, Draft 2.
Thematic Area: Education Financing
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Activities recommended in Draft 2 of GRA paper:

Note: overall there is a lot to achieve through these activities and it will be important to ensure that it is not the same countries involved in the pilots/activities as it could potentially create additional strains on capacity at a country level even if in the long run countries should benefit from participation.

Activity # 1 Development of a methodology to improve national reporting systems on financing flows

This is a multi-faceted activity and may need to either be focused on one particular activity that is considered to need strengthening in a particular country or an approach in a country that is willing to take on numerous strands of work. It is important to note though technical solutions will not address all these aspects and their may need to be a more political economy approach to addressing some of these issues.

In addition this activity needs to consider

- In terms of approaches for assessing the quality of education financing flows some form of self-evaluation is key. the quality of reporting on financing flows is often so dependent on issues beyond the control of the finance team (EMIS etc), so it needs to remain constructive rather than highlighting deficiencies. If possible it should also incorporate civil society views and LEG in terms of usability of reporting.
- As well as focusing on the LEG as key to understanding improved financial analysis there is also need to facilitate improved understanding by non-financial staff /economists in the planning departments of the MoE.
- Ensuring that enhancing the capacity of civil society to demand accountability goes beyond capacity building and looks at systematic ways in which the activities and engagement of civil society can facilitate improved accountability.

Finally consideration needs to be given to the precise aims and objectives of the international/regional workshops as highlighted to make sure they are targeted and that the right people attend. This applies to other activities that include an international/regional workshop.

Activity #2 - Development of a tool to assess the fiduciary risk in the education sector

Overall the proposed activities and deliverables for this activity are more focused and manageable than in Activity #1. Therefore it is possible that one partner could lead on this activity and link up with partners/governments/agencies in countries for the piloting. The range of countries used needs to consider countries with different levels of decentralisation as well as different levels of fiduciary risk and fragility.

Activity #3 - Development of financing initiatives tightening link of resources to results

Whilst this is an important area and the desk based research and evidence gathering are likely have interesting outcomes. The pilot projects however could be difficult to set up and it may be difficult to get political support from both the government and local donor groups. This should be considered in the initial set up of this activity as the partner best placed to lead on the first part may not be best placed to lead on the facilitating the pilot work, at least at the country level.

Activity # 4 - Development of integrated funding approaches for equity in education

Activity 4 needs to take into account the fact that it can be very difficult to get accurate private sector information and there needs to be clarify on the seed funding - will this be focused on the public sector only or also include the private sector? In addition diagnostic assessment and integrated funding approaches for equity in education, should be consistent with EMIS as well as the ESP and budget approach of each country. Finally for the design of integrated equity funding models it would be interesting to include private sector finance in this, plus integration with other ministries – health, gender, social services/protection.

Activity #5– Development of an approach for implementing innovative financing for education

This builds strongly on the work of the Task Team on Innovative Financing and the work of Results for Development and consideration should be given to this in taking it forward.