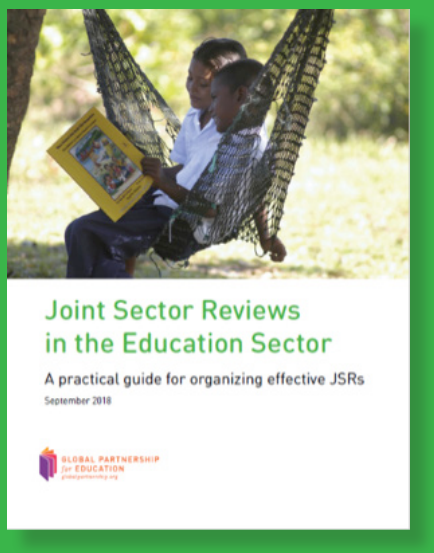
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP *for* EDUCATION

# Practical Guide for Organizing Effective Joint Sector Reviews




The guide is a resource for decision makers and practitioners to engage in a collaborative process around the organization of joint sector reviews

## The guide

- Introduces an effectiveness framework for JSRs
- Provides practical guidance for preparing, conducting and following-up a JSR
- Offers country illustrations and tools to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement around the JSR process

The guide is based on research by the GPE Secretariat and shaped by a consultative process involving developing country partners, multilateral and bilateral development actors, international NGOs, civil society and academia.

## What is a joint sector review?

A joint sector review is a government-led process that brings together different stakeholders to engage in dialogue, review data and monitor expenditure, progress and performance during the implementation of a national education sector plan. JSRs take a critical look at past achievements as well as bottlenecks and propose remedial actions. The process usually consolidates evidence on education progress prior to the actual review.

### ADDED VALUE OF JOINT SECTOR REVIEWS:

- Critical to strengthening policy dialogue and mutual accountability
- Key to making education sector planning more responsive and flexible
- A means to capitalizing on investments made earlier in the planning process to ensure the plan remains on track and achievable

### SUCCESS FOR AN EFFECTIVE JOINT SECTOR REVIEW ENTAILS:

- Considering the joint sector review as a process, not just a meeting
- Strong country leadership, inclusive policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement
- A comprehensive and sound evidence base composed of qualitative and quantitative information included in an annual implementation report
- Solid preparation
- Rigor in following up, and learning from, recommendations and ensuring a review process throughout the planning cycle.

# Why this guide?

Joint sector reviews are at the heart of GPE's strategic objectives and results framework. They reflect the partnership's priority to work with countries for better and more effective monitoring to achieve national education goals.

The guide helps countries organize a collaborative process of review and course correction during the implementation of education sector plans. Reviewing achievements and critical issues identified during the monitoring phase helps adjusting the plan. The guide includes practical solutions for overcoming challenges often faced when organizing joint sector reviews.

# Guidance, tools and practical examples

The guide steers users on the why, what and how of effective joint sector reviews. Here is an overview of its content:

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| **Why?** | **Chapter 1:** JSRs within sector dialogue, planning and monitoring | Defines joint sector reviews and establishes their two core functions: strengthened sector monitoring and responsive planning. JSRs should be an integral process of countries' education policy, planning and monitoring frameworks. |
| **What?** | **Chapter 2:** JSR effectiveness framework | Describes the five dimensions of an effective JSR, highlighting opportunities and benefits for the education sector and education stakeholders, as well as missed opportunities if key aspects are not addressed within the JSR. |
| **How?** | **Chapter 3:** Practical guidance for organizing an effective JSR process | Explains JSRs as a sequential, interdependent process, illustrated through 50 snapshots of country practices showing how education stakeholders have addressed some of the most common challenges to organizing effective JSRs. |

**THE GUIDE PROVIDES 3 TOOLS:**

- JSR self-assessment tool to help countries assess and reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their JSR processes and practices.
- Maturity ladder to progress from initial JSRs to robust, well defined and well managed JSRs.
- Toolbox for facilitating cross-country exchange and learning

**A SERIES OF ONE-PAGERS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ON KEY ASPECTS IN THE JSR PROCESS:**

- JSR terms of reference
- Annual implementation report
- Aide-memoire
- Cross-country exchange of experiences around JSRs
- Overview – key elements of the JSR process

**Access the guide:** **www.globalpartnership.org/content/practical-guide-effective-joint-sector-reviews-education-sector**