

»» February 2019

# HARNESSING THE POWER OF DATA TO IMPROVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS



GPE/Kelley Lynch

**Data are key for stronger education systems. Without accurate, disaggregated, timely data on education it is impossible to know how many children are not in school or not learning, where they live, why they are excluded or marginalized, and what their education needs are.**

## THE CHALLENGE

- ▶ **The lack of data is holding back progress in education.** Without better information, and analysis and use of data, we will not achieve learning for all.
- ▶ **Fewer than half** of GPE partner developing countries currently gather and communicate sufficient education data.
- ▶ The data that is collected provides an understanding of access to education, but **not enough on the quality of learning.**
- ▶ Education policymakers often **don't have the capacity to analyze available education data** and use it for effective sector planning.

## GPE APPROACH

**GPE is investing more than ever in data to monitor progress and drive better decision-making.**

### DATA FOR EDUCATION PLANNING AND MONITORING

- ▶ GPE funds **education sector plans that are based on data and evidence.**
- ▶ To receive a GPE grant, a partner country must demonstrate it is **reporting national data** for use by the international development community or that it has **a data strategy in place.**
- ▶ GPE encourages **evidence-driven policy dialogue** through annual joint sector reviews that use data to evaluate sector progress.

## DATA AS A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD

- ▶ **GPE's Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX)** is a funding mechanism and learning exchange platform to support developing countries to create and use knowledge and innovation for stronger education systems.
- ▶ Through KIX, GPE will work with partners at global and national levels to accelerate progress in collecting and using data that support **new methods, benchmarks, tools, best practices and innovation.**

## INVESTING IN DATA SYSTEMS

- ▶ A solid education management information system (EMIS) and learning assessment system are core to a country's capacity to produce and monitor education data and evaluate whether children are learning.
- ▶ **94% of GPE grants active in 2018** supported EMIS or learning assessment systems.
- ▶ GPE convened a **task force on EMIS** to determine how to best strengthen countries' capacities to implement and monitor education data systems.

## LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGIES

- ▶ GPE is convening an **Education Data Solutions Roundtable** to take stock of the data challenges and identify innovative solutions to address them.
- ▶ Bringing together the business community, private foundations, international and regional organizations, civil society and developing countries, the roundtable harnesses the expertise and innovation of the private sector to address the following questions:
  - What do countries need to improve their education management information data systems and to effectively use data to achieve results?
  - Are there innovative solutions that can enhance the collection and utilization of data at national and global levels?
  - What global investments can be made to improve the collection and use of data?

## SUDAN

A GPE grant to Sudan supported the development of a rapid results education management information system. Data was first collected from all schools in 2014, and the system has been updated annually to ensure the availability of accurate data. The data provide the most reliable and consistent information on basic and secondary education in Sudan. This tool is helping build the capacity of the education system and lays the foundation for a full education management information system in the future.



## KENYA

With GPE support, Kenya is piloting an online national education management information system (NEMIS) to address disparities in children's access to and completion of school.

Through NEMIS every child gets a unique identifying number, so their learning can be tracked even if they transfer to another school. The portal also gives a unique number to every teacher and every institution in the country from early childhood development centers to universities. This will help the deployment of additional teachers, staff and facilities as per their needs.

