

Education Finance and Planning Hub

Profile

Education is one of the largest sectors in most government budgets. Whether education budgets are large enough, spent well and funded sustainably can make a huge difference to the life-chances of millions of children. Globally there is a huge financing gap to be closed if publicly funded education systems are to deliver high quality learning opportunities for all children and youth, particularly those at greatest risk of exclusion. Financing gaps are largest for some of the poorest, most fragile, and conflict-affected regions and countries.

Efforts to increase both the level and effectiveness of domestic and external finance for education have intensified in recent years. New types of results-based financing mechanisms and non-traditional financing partnerships are being tried in many low- and middle-income countries. At a global level, new ways have been found to increase finance for education such as the Education Commission's International Finance Facility for Education and the Global Partnership for Education's Multiplier Fund.

Our Education Finance and Planning work supports governments and their development partners to ensure adequate, effective, equitable and sustainable financing of education systems in pursuit of nationally owned sector goals.

What we offer

We provide policy-relevant diagnostics and research on education finance; support for education planning; and bespoke technical assistance and capacity development services. Our key areas of work include:

- Analyzing the fiscal space and potential sources of funding for education.
- Carrying out diagnostic studies to support systems strengthening using tools such as public expenditure reviews and public-expenditure tracking surveys.
- Developing sector costing models and costing specific activities to inform sector needs for planning and budgeting.
- Designing and evaluating financing mechanisms, such as results-based modalities and conditional grant funding to subnational level and schools.
- Evaluating projects from an economic perspective, looking at affordability, value-for-money and cost-effectiveness, to support governments in taking decisions about replication or scale-up.
- Developing capacity of government and development partner officials in aspects of public financial management for better planning, budgeting and implementation in education.

Our work

Education Sector Investment Case Approach (*Global Partnership for Education (GPE), 2017-18*). As part of its new Funding and Financing Framework, GPE's Board was interested to know whether an Education Sector Investment Case (ESIC) approach could help leverage more and better financing for education sectors from traditional and non-traditional sources, in line with the National Education Sector Plan (ESP) development process. Our team reviewed existing costing and financing frameworks in ESPs, investment case approaches in other sectors, and consulted with government officials and potential investors to scope the objectives and ideal products and processes for an ESIC. On the basis of our work, GPE's Board approved a two-year test phase of this approach, with additional support provided by GPE's Secretariat for a small number of low- and middle-income countries.

Design of an interactive training module on Global Education Finance Data (*World Bank, 2022*). As part of a new 'Education Finance Policy Academy' training offering to World Bank staff, we were commissioned to develop the module relating to Global Education Finance Data – application and uses. The Policy Academy is designed as an online training course which participants can work through in their own time, covering a range of topics in education financing. We led the scoping and technical content development for the module, as well as contributing to the design of the final product, delivered on the Moodle e-learning platform.

Pre-primary education cost study in Croatia (*UNICEF, 2019-20*). We worked with UNICEF to conduct a study on the financing of pre-primary education (PPE) in Croatia. We developed a costing model to project total resources needed to provide universal access to PPE, synthesizing information

on governance with budget analysis to understand the current regulatory and financing context. Through key informant interviews and stakeholder engagement, we developed financing options to suggest how the system can meet the estimated costs of universal access.

Verification of Education Programme for Results in Tanzania (*FCDO 2017 – ongoing*). The Education Programme for Results (EPforR) is a nationwide education system strengthening program that has a payment for results financing mechanism. We are the independent verification agent for the disbursement-linked results (DLRs) that trigger annual payments to the government. The DLRs include a set of financing results that require the government to reach a set of pre-agreed spending targets supported by evidence from credible and reliable accounting systems. EPforR is funded by a group of international development partners, and under its first phase which ran until 2021, the annual payment following verification was around US\$80m.

Global course on public finance for children (*UNICEF, 2015-2020*). We were the service provider for the design and delivery of the UNICEF Global Learning Course on Public Finance for Children (PF4C). We developed a blended learning program consisting of an e-learning phase with 11 modules, activities and quizzes online, followed by a one-week face-to-face workshop. The modules cover topics in public financial management and analysis including the budget cycle, fiscal space, decentralized financing, public expenditure analysis tools, value for money and equity analysis. This course was delivered every year from 2016-2020, being adapted to hold a remote residential workshop in 2020 due to Covid. Tailored workshops were held for regional cohorts in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, and Lebanon.

About us

Oxford Policy Management enables low- and middle-income governments to bring about lasting positive change using analytical and practical policy expertise.



For more information,

please contact Georgina Rawle (Education Finance and Planning Hub Lead) at georgina.rawle@opml.co.uk or visit our website www.opml.co.uk

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