Accountability in education: MEETING OUR COMMITMENTS
ACCOUNTABILITY helps show who is responsible for what, and how problems can be fixed

A FEW KEY TRUTHS:

Ambitious education outcomes rely on multiple actors fulfilling shared responsibilities

While responsibilities are shared, accountability is not

People should not be held accountable for outcomes beyond their control

Accountability mechanisms may be effective in some contexts and detrimental in others
Accountability starts with governments
CREATE SPACE FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT TO BUILD TRUST

1. Encourage dialogue with multiple stakeholders, especially those not in government

2. Involve parliamentary committees in reviewing education policy

Over 60% of teacher unions are never or rarely consulted on teaching material development
DEVELOP CREDIBLE EDUCATION PLANS AND TRANSPARENT BUDGETS

1. Prepare plans with clear lines of responsibility
2. Make budgets open to scrutiny and audit spending independently
3. Publish national education monitoring reports regularly

It's hard to hold anyone accountable if you don't know who's responsible.

Only 1 in 6 countries have published a national education monitoring report annually since 2010.
ESTABLISH, MONITOR AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

1. Make clear and transparent registration/accreditation and bidding/contracting processes

2. Mainstream equity and quality into education regulations

There are no regulations on class sizes in almost half of countries
BUILD DON’T BLAME

1. Use student test scores to improve teaching and education quality, not to sanction or reward teachers and schools

2. Support struggling schools; do not punish them by encouraging parents to move their children elsewhere

HIGH STAKES TESTING CAN LEAD TO TEACHERS ONLY TEACHING THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO DO WELL

Of 11 PISA countries with test-based accountability, 5 saw some increase in learning, from 2003 to 2015, while 6 saw a decrease
Enabling environments
BE COMMITTED: FUND EDUCATION

1. Spend at least 4% of GDP on education, or allocate 15% of total government expenditure

2. In their aid programmes:
   - Allocate 0.7% of income to aid and at least 10% of that to education
   - Be careful of results-based financing

In 2015, 1 in 4 countries missed both funding benchmarks; the share of aid to education has fallen for six years in a row
BE SUPPORTIVE: BUILD CAPACITY

1. Set up strong institutions to detect and deter corruption in education
2. Train teachers and school evaluators
3. Invest more in those who represent the country in international organizations

In the **European Union**, there was more risk of corruption in education and training than in the construction sector
Let’s get accountability right

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