



AFRICA EDUCATION WATCH: MADAGASCAR

GOOD GOVERNANCE LESSONS FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION

Over the past decade primary education in Madagascar has undergone reforms in both its management structure and its curriculum. In 2002 it became free, and following the 2004 Education Act, it was extended from five to seven years with the first five years exclusively in Malagasy.

As part of the three-year Africa Education Watch programme, Transparency International Madagascar assessed whether new decentralised education management systems are effective in controlling and preventing corruption in the country. The study examined whether school administrations are genuinely accountable and whether participatory governance systems bring public service closer to the user, particularly parents.

The key objectives of the programme are to:

- identify approximate levels of resource leakages or delays in resource transfer from the central government to school level
- determine the extent of (illegal) fees and other costs to parents, and
- assess decentralised accountability structures and determine how effective they are at controlling resources and preventing corruption.

AFRICA EDUCATION WATCH RESPONDENTS: MADAGASCAR

General Public (parents/guardians)	1,200
Head Teachers	60
Parent Teacher Association Chairs	60
School Management Committee members	60
District Directors of Education	12

COUNTRY FACTS*

Primary Education in Madagascar	FREE
Length of study	7 years
Population 2007	20m
GNP per capita 2007 (PPP US\$)	932
Percentage of Population living on less than US\$1.25 per day	67.8%
Public current expenditure on primary education as % of GNP (2007)	1.6%
Net enrolment ratio primary school (2007)	98%
Primary-age children (2006)	2.7m



FINDINGS

- Lack of public access to information about school finances and parent contributions to school budgets.
- Budget information and education spending at the district level is not publicly available.
- 58 per cent of head teachers and 72 per cent of School Management Committee members have not received financial management training.
- The majority of schools (65 per cent) do not post budget information, even though this is a requirement.
- 69 per cent of schools have either no or incomplete financial documentation.
- 24 per cent of parents report paying registration fees, which are illegal.
- Schools are rarely inspected and when they receive inspectors it is not clear what these visits are for.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Teachers should receive higher salaries to improve motivation and standards.
- More school inspections.
- More training and support for School Management Committees.
- The establishment of formal procedures for releasing financial resources (both subsidies and materials) from the Ministry of Education and from outside donors.
- More controls when supplies are handed out free to stop them being sold off for private gain.
- Better communication about the roles of School Management Committees and Parent Teacher Associations.
- Parents should be informed of how SMCs manage school finances so they can get more involved.

Contact

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