

AFRICA EDUCATION WATCH: MOROCCO

GOOD GOVERNANCE LESSONS FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION

The Moroccan government started the process of decentralising the management of the education system in 2002. This is still continuing today and although there is a legal framework in place to ensure transparency in the financing of education, the roles and responsibilities of the decentralised authorities are still unclear.

As part of the three-year Africa Education Watch programme, Transparency Maroc, the national chapter of Transparency International in Morocco 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: MOROCCO

General Public (parents/guardians)	1,040
Head Teachers	60
Parent Teacher Association Chairs	53
District Financial Officers for Education	15

COUNTRY FACTS*

Primary Education in Morocco	FREE
Length of study	6 years
Population 2007	31m
GNP per capita 2007 (PPP US\$)	4108
Percentage of Population living on Less than US\$1.25 per day	2.5%
Public current expenditure on primary education as % of GNP (2007)	1.8%
Net enrolment ratio primary school (2007)	89%
Primary-age children (2006)	3.7m



FINDINGS

- 90 per cent of parents reported paying registration fees, which are illegal.
- 94 per cent of schools had either no or incomplete financial documentation.
- There are no financial structures for reporting how, when and where funds are used.
- The majority of parents are not satisfied with their children's schooling.
- 77 per cent of head teachers and 93 per cent of School Management Committee members have not received financial management training.
- Head teachers and SMCs have very little autonomy.

“ 94 per cent of schools had either no or incomplete financial documentation ”

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clarify the relationships, prerogatives and responsibilities among the central, regional and provincial levels of administration.
- Introduce budget reforms and the necessary mechanisms to monitor and control these reforms.
- Improve financial training for those who work in the national education system.
- Offer high-quality financial and management training to all those in charge at the various levels of school management.
- Reorganise and strengthen the management and decision-making structures at the regional and local levels.
- Empower regional administration committees and the School Management Committees to carry out the decentralisation reforms.

Contact

To find out more about this programme, please contact:
Africa and Middle East Department
Transparency International Secretariat
Alt Moabit 96
10559 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49-30-34 38 200
Fax: +49-30-34 70 39 12
Email: ti@transparency.org