



## Education governance

### Advisory service

#### The challenge

In many of our partner countries, education systems are hardly efficient or effective. Lack of financial resources and weak capacities in education planning and administration further aggravate the situation. This has negative consequences in many areas: There is a shortage of trained teachers and teacher salaries are low; infrastructure is lacking completely or partly, teaching and learning materials as well as curricula are non-existent or outdated. Moreover, transitions between educational levels are often not well coordinated. The performance of an education system is not only based on good teaching. It also depends on how well education planning and management is coordinated between complex, interrelated fields of work - such as education administration and management, personnel management, education financing or lesson planning. Inclusive and equitable quality education systems need good educational governance.

#### Our approach

GIZ regards the strengthening of educational governance as part of a systemic approach, hence we consider all levels of the education system. At the macro level, we work with central government education organizations and other education authorities. Partners at the meso-level are decentralized authorities as well as professionally organized educational institutions and regional school supervisory authorities. At the micro level, we work with local authorities, school administrations, parents' associations and civil society organizations. Our consulting services are always geared towards the requirements of the partners. We take the mutual influences between the areas of work into account and support planning and management at all levels of the education system. Dynamic coordination between

these areas is an important prerequisite for making procedures and processes efficient and effective in the long term. Our services include political, technical, process and organizational consulting.

#### Our services

Through expert advice and consulting services we support our partners in making their education systems more effective and inclusive as well as ready to provide equitable opportunities for all students. We achieve this by strengthening education governance at national and decentralized level. We always bear in mind that improving education governance is a task for all levels and areas of work, and that all those involved must coordinate their efforts. At the national level, we support ministries of education in education planning and management, in implementing national education strategies and inclusive sector policies, in decentralization processes and the development of institutional structures, and in matters of public funding. We promote the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems, support the development of modern curricula and the production of teaching and learning materials. At decentralized level, we strengthen regional education authorities and other relevant institutions in decentralization processes or in improving their capacities for supervision and support of schools. We also support schools directly, for example by training school directors and promoting the participation of communities in school management, by setting up school networks, parents' councils or other bodies from civil society. This way we strengthen civil society participation, administration and accountability in schools.

#### The benefits

Education is a human right: all children and youth must have access to inclusive, equitable quality education. With the Agenda 2030, the international community has set



itself ambitious goals for sustainable development and stressed the importance of education for a self-determined life without poverty. A well-educated population is key to economic and social development. Effective education governance is a basic prerequisite for achieving these goals. It helps to ensure that education reforms are planned and implemented based on sound evidence. Effective education governance is a prerequisite for efficient planning and administration of budgets and for the deployment of teachers, teaching materials and infrastructure where they are needed. This way, effective education governance makes an important contribution to promoting inclusion and effectiveness of an education system. It lays the foundations for ensuring that children, youth and adults can acquire the necessary skills and competences to make full use of their economic and social potential today and in the future.

### An example from the field

In Honduras, an ambitious education law was passed in 2012, which grants 13 years of universal education. However, the envisaged goals for improved enrollment rates, quality of teaching and learning performance have not yet been achieved. Dropout rates remain high, the quality of education is inadequate, and neither the compulsory pre-school year nor access to secondary education (grades 7 to 9) is offered across the board. Children and young people in rural areas or from poor segments of the population are particularly disadvantaged - especially girls. With the aim of decentralizing education management and making education processes more transparent and pedagogically more valuable, we are advising the Honduran Ministry of Education at central level and six district school administrations in the structurally weak western part of the country. In doing so, we are promoting the digitalization of

processes to ensure that information arrives more quickly where it is needed and therefore creates greater transparency. Local school administrations and school networks are particularly important for decentralization. In order to strengthen administrative capacities at the decentralized level, we are developing a blended learning program for managers as well as administrative and teaching staff in cooperation with a university center and regional training centers. The training consists of face-to-face sessions and digital learning offers. In addition, we are promoting dialogue forums, committees and educational networks to strengthen the participation opportunities of students, parents' associations and civil society. For example, the project has developed the "VaClase" app ("app-in-the-school"). For the first time, it gives parents throughout the country the opportunity to monitor the 200 days of lessons per year.

### Imprint

**Published by:**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

**Responsible/Contact:**  
Dr. Michael Hollaender and Britta Lambertz  
Competence Centre Education, Vocational Education and Training, Labour Markets  
Division Economic and Social Development, Employment  
E: [bildung@giz.de](mailto:bildung@giz.de)

**Photo credits:**  
Front page (from left to right): GIZ/Thomas Imo/photothek.net  
Back page (from left to right): GIZ; GIZ/Thomas Imo/photothek.net; GIZ/Olliver Girad

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

Eschborn, February 2022