

Motivation

In order to improve development outcomes in education to ensure that resources reach their intended beneficiaries, there is a need for increased resource allocation to also be accompanied by improvements in the efficiency of public expenditures.

Objectives

A PETS was carried out to increase the government's understanding of the link between public spending and service delivery at the facility level and to contribute to improving the effectiveness and accountability in the use of public funds. It focused on identifying the discrepancies, inefficiencies and delays in public spending execution for selected expenditures in the education sector.

Main findings

The Niger PETS highlights a general lack of systematic information recording. Budget increases did not always lead to spending increases. In addition, supplies do not arrive at facilities on a regular basis.

Other findings

Inefficiencies are apparent for distributions of drawing books and notebooks, especially between district offices and schools. The inefficiencies between MEBA (Ministry of Basic Education) and schools are about 50 percent. The direct distribution of textbooks by MEBA to schools, bypassing regional and district education offices, reduced inefficiencies to about 25 percent.

Sample

3 regional education offices out of 8; 21 district education offices out of 23; 299 primary schools out of 2,736 in the 3 regions surveyed.

Sample design

The PETS sample design was regionally, but not nationally representative. Three regions, Dosso, Tillabéri and CU Niamey were selected based on their close proximity to the capital.

Within each region, districts and service providers were randomly selected.

Resources monitored

Selected government expenditures in education (textbooks, notebooks and drawing books for students)

Recommendations

-Improve resource management transparency by developing a reporting system that can easily trace the amount, the quantity and the unit of resource flows, whether financial or material, and the dates at which transactions take place.

-Identify the reasons behind the budget implementation bottlenecks at the ministerial level.

-Evaluate the capacities of district offices against their mandates, including human resources, skills and incentive structures. Based on the findings, the government should systematically plan and implement district level capacity building strategies.

-Specify criteria (based on existing poverty data and estimated resource needs) to determine public resource allocations among regions.

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Main report

World Bank, (2008) "Niger Public Expenditure Tracking Survey, Education and Health (In Two Volumes) Volume I: Main Report," December 21.