Overview

Education for Competitiveness (E4C) is an initiative designed to support countries in strengthening their education and training systems for improved outcomes, including higher productivity, growth, social cohesion and inclusion. E4C adopts a regional approach that responds to MENA countries’ common educational challenges based on guiding principles:

1. **A Global Reach, Regional Perspective, and Local Solutions:** E4C is designed to address individual member countries’ needs through tailored solutions to enhance the contribution of their education and training systems to country growth and competitiveness as well as social cohesion and stability. As such, E4C will define regional targets, promote regional cooperation and exchange, tap into potential economies of scale, and support education as a regional public good. Despite regional commonalities, countries also have their own specificities and needs.

2. **Deeper and Wider Partnerships:** Traditional partnerships, like those between the WBG and the IsDBG, will be strengthened, while new partnerships with international, regional and local stakeholders are being identified for advocating for, financing, and sharing knowledge within the initiative.

3. **Innovative and Transformational Interventions:** E4C aims to identify innovative and potentially transformational interventions that include successful approaches from other regions that can be adapted to the MENA context, and effective programs within MENA that can be scaled up and replicated in other countries in the region.
Promoting Information for Accountability in Education

The E4C initiative has identified Promoting Information for Accountability as one of five key programs. The objective of this program is to strengthen accountability in education systems through the generation and dissemination of reliable indicators for school improvement. Accountability in this case refers to the entire set of relationships among educational actors: the state, service providers, and citizens. The program will support interventions around the use of information to strengthen social accountability, external accountability, and internal accountability.

Why Information?

To improve schools, and to measure this improvement over time, policymakers and citizens need rigorous information on school performance, including learning outcomes. Relevant, standardized, and comparable information about the quality of educational services in schools has largely been unavailable to stakeholders in the MENA region. International evidence has shown that the production and dissemination of a set of robust indicators on the quality of service delivery at the school-level has the potential to transform the relationships between schools, parents, policymakers, and civil society. This intervention will support the development of tools—such as Service Delivery Indicators, school report cards, and others—that can help hold schools accountable for improving their performance.

Why Focus on Accountability?

Research has pointed to the failure of input-based schooling policies to yield improvement in student achievement\(^1\). In many countries, education systems suffer not from a lack of resources, but from service delivery failures. Adopting purely technocratic approaches to education reform in the absence of strong accountability mechanisms leads to the failure of education interventions, such as teacher training, curriculum reform, or the provision of technology. The 2004 World Development Report “Making Services Work for Poor People” identified types of accountability relationships that can break down and lead to service delivery failures. Strengthening the ability of both the state and the citizen to hold providers accountable is essential for improved service delivery.

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Why MENA, and why now?

A 2008 flagship report on education in MENA, The Road not Traveled, highlighted that the region focused too much on “engineering” education and too little on incentives and public accountability. No systematic attempts have been made to link the performance of schools and teachers to student results, or to make information about school performance available to parents and students. Addressing the quality of education is critical in any efforts to reform education systems and build more competitive economies in the Region.

As the region transforms, as societies move towards more openness and transparency, as civil society and the media are empowered, and as technology becomes cheap and accessible, the demands for accurate, reliable, and meaningful information will increase. The challenge is harnessing its potential for improving education quality.
Objectives of the Workshop

The 2-day workshop will expose policymakers to research and practice on the power and limitations of information for accountability. It will also enable them to begin conceptualizing the design and implementation of Information for Accountability tools that are appropriate for their respective countries, taking into consideration national specificities and strategies for dissemination and use of information generated by the tools. The workshop will:

1) Introduce the theory of change of how the generation and dissemination of information on school performance can lead to school improvement
2) Present international and regional practices on the use of a range of Information for Accountability tools and mechanisms, such as school report cards, Service Delivery Indicators (SDIs), national inspection units
3) Discuss the symbiotic relationships between school-based management, decentralization, information, and accountability
4) Discuss the development of country-specific indicators and country-specific information for accountability strategies

- **Audience:** Ministry of Education representatives responsible for strategy, planning, quality assurance/quality measurement, monitoring and evaluation; directors of national centers for education/human resource development; selected civil society representatives; selected academics

- **Outcomes:** At the regional level, the event will a) build awareness of the importance of Information for Accountability, b) equip participants with foundational knowledge and skills to develop a roadmap for implementing national information for accountability systems, c) create a regional community of practice around information for accountability issues including quality indicators, methodology for data collection, dissemination, and communication.

- **Format:** Presentations, hands-on small group activities, and plenary discussions
Promoting the Use of Information for Accountability in Education

Regional Workshop, September 12-13

September 12:

**Part 1. Establishing a Shared Framework for Understanding Accountability in Education**

9:15  Registration and Welcome Coffee

9:30  Welcome
   Mourad Ezzine, Manager, CMI
   Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Manager, CMI

9:45  Improved Education Quality in MENA
   Samira Halabi, Education Specialist, World Bank

10:15  Keynote Address – Information for Better Learning: International Lessons
   Manos Antoninis, Global Education Monitoring Report Director, UNESCO

11:00  Coffee Break

11:30  Information for Social Accountability
   Tamar Atinc, Visiting Fellow, Brookings and Lindsay Read, Independent Researcher

12:15  Lunch break

13:30  Information for Decentralization and School-Based Management
   Cameron Harrison, Lead Education Consultant, Harrison Leimon Associates

14:15  Coffee break

14:45  Roadmap Working Sessions – Country Teams

16:15  End of Day

20:00  Dinner
   *Le Rhul, 269 Corniche Kennedy*
September 13:

**Part 2. Information for Accountability**

8:45  Welcome Coffee

9:00  Synergies in Information for Accountability Across the Educational System  
     Shahram Paksima, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank

9:45  Australia: The “My School” data platform  
     Tamar Atinc, Visiting Fellow, Brookings and Lindsay Read, Independent Researcher

10:15 Departure to Main Office Building

10:30 Jordan: Education Quality and Accountability Unit  
      H.E. Dr. Omar Razzaz, Minister of Education, Jordan (via video connection)  
      *Main Office Building*

11:15 Coffee Break

11:30 Service Delivery Indicator Survey  
      Samira Halabi, World Bank

11:50 Morocco Service Delivery Indicator Survey: Lessons Learned  
      H.E. Dr. El Hassan El Mansouri, Secretary General, ONDH Morocco

12:30 Lunch

**Part 3. National Roadmaps for Development of Information for Accountability**

13:45 Roadmap Workshop

Country teams will construct and present roadmaps for developing information for accountability tools in their respective systems. Working from guiding questions and using knowledge and examples gained from previous sessions, country teams will present on crucial areas of improvement in their service delivery systems and concrete strategies to tackle those challenges.

15:00 Country Presentations

16:00 Concluding Remarks