

Summary Assessment of Swap for Education Sector

By Robert Schoellhammer

Education Sector: most SWAPs to date have been in the education sector. Key factors which make this sector fertile ground for SWAPs include:

- *Policy and Planning:* as education provision is generally dominated by the public sector this allows donors to work directly with Government in formulating the sector policy/plan. In most DMCs there are a limited number or just one Executing Agency for education SWAPs. Another key factor is that the boundaries of the sector can be easily defined. Policy formulation and planning processes are, therefore, relatively straightforward when compared to other sectors.
- *Implementation:* providing education services is commonly the principal responsibility of local governments (especially for primary and secondary education). This often requires working with numerous local government units which can prove difficult. However, where education services are fairly uniform, monitoring of a SWAP's implementation can be undertaken based around standard indicators.
- *Sector Financing:* education is normally financed mostly by public expenditures. This dependence on national/local budgets makes planning of sector financing manageable. In addition capital and recurrent financing for education can be forecast with a fairly high degree of reliability.
- *Donor Mix:* a wide range of donors support education, including bilateral and multilateral agencies, implying that there will be a good support for SWAPs from many agencies.

The above factors make the education sector an ideal one for SWAPs.