

UNESCO Pakistan launches the 2017/8 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report



UNESCO Islamabad, in collaboration with I-SAPS (Institute of Social and Policy Sciences) launched the GEM Report 2017/8 - “Accountability in education: meeting our commitments”.

The national launching ceremony held on 16 November 2017 which was followed by the global launch on 24 Oct 2017 in Mozambique. Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan and Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training officially launched the report.

The Report looks at the different ways people and institutions should be held accountable for reaching the Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education. It stresses that accountability is indispensable in achieving the global education goal. It describes accountability in terms of how teachers teach, students learn, governments act, private sector behaves and donors respond. The Report warns that disproportionate blame on any one actor for systemic educational problems can have serious negative side effects, widening inequality and damaging learning. There are 264 million children and youth out of school and 100 million young people currently unable to read. The Report cites an accountability vacuum with donors not delivering on their aid commitments for those in need. The share of aid to education has fallen for six years in a row. At the same time, donors increasingly demand that in exchange for aid, countries achieve results that sometimes divert energy away from systemic improvements in the education system.

The launch was followed by a panel discussion facilitated by Dr Salman Humayun, Executive Director of I-SAPS to discuss the education accountability issues in Pakistan especially from the provincial perspective on accountability. Dr Jamila Razzaq, co-author of the national case study (Pakistan) introduced the panel discussion. The panel members included - Mr. Qamar Ul Islam Raja Chairman Standing Committee on Education Punjab, Ms. Syeda Rana Ansaar Member Standing Committee on Women Development Sindh, Dr. Muhammad

Khalid Khan Special Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Mr. Aziz Ahmed Jamali, Additional Secretary, Government of Balochistan were also present at the ceremony.

A wide range of representatives from government, development partner agencies, civil society, academia, and media attended the event.
