



The World Bank's Work in the Education Sector

An Analysis of FY11 Education Operations

In the 2011 fiscal year (FY11), the World Bank's Education Sector Board (ESB) approved 19 education operations. Each year, EdStats reviews the project documents for these lending operations and codes them into the [World Bank Education Projects Database](#). The database now holds detailed information on the activities, components, and subsectors of 341 World Bank education projects approved between FY98 and FY11 plus 15 FY11 non-ESB operations with more than \$10 million devoted to education activities.

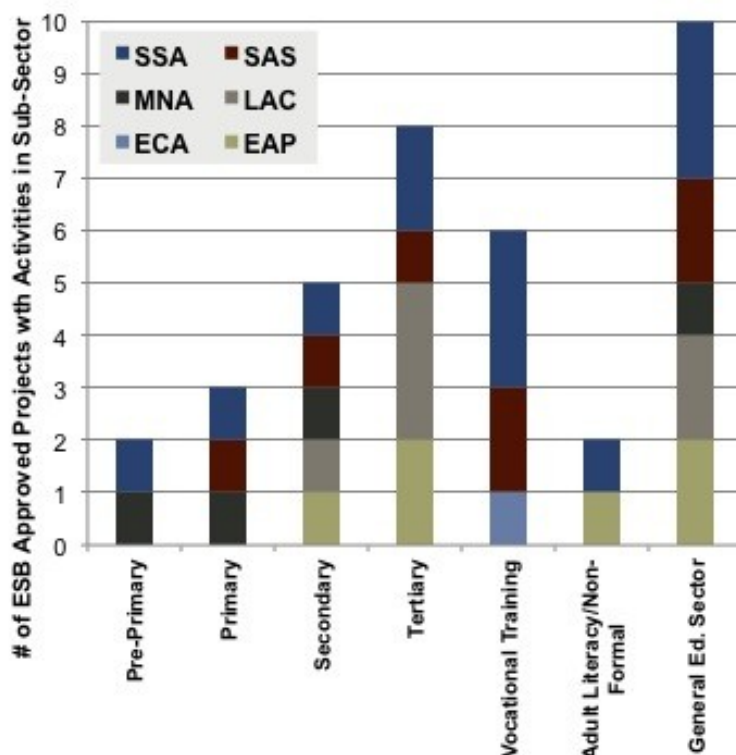
This newsletter will present a brief analysis of 18 FY11 ESB-approved education operations — 17 new operations and 1 additional financing operation that included new education activities.** For more information on World Bank education operations in a specific country, search the database [by country](#) to generate a list of education projects, project components, and activities carried out in the specified country.

I. World Bank Education Operations by Education Sub-Sectors (FY11)

World Bank education operations are classified into one or more of the seven subsectors listed in Figure 1 based on the activities included in the project. Ten of 18 FY11 operations included activities that addressed the general education sector. These operations have activities that support the central functions of the Ministry of Education and strengthen its capacity to provide better education services through improved policymaking, monitoring and evaluation, education research, quality assurance, financial management, etc.

Among the educational levels, the data show more of a focus on tertiary (8 projects), vocational (6) and secondary (5) education than on primary education, which was only included in 2 new projects and one additional financing operation. Pre-primary and adult literacy were also included in 2 projects each.

Figure 1. Education Sub-Sectors of World Bank ESB-approved Operations (FY11)



Source: World Bank Education Projects Database, Oct 2011

II. World Bank Education Operations by Education Activities

The [World Bank Education Projects Database](#) includes around 130 potential [activities](#) that are commonly proposed in education operations. Table 1 summarizes the most commonly proposed activities in FY11 education operations.

Over 80 percent of all FY11 World Bank education projects included system-level professional training/management strengthening and two-thirds of operations included institutional development of education management institutions.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities proposed in over 80 percent of FY11 operations and EMIS activities proposed in around 40 percent of operations show an emphasis on improving the collection of education data to monitor project performance and education system performance. Almost three quarters of operations proposed education research activities to collect data and systematically study the effectiveness of proposed or piloted reforms or policies.

Funding mechanisms, typically in the form of grants to fund school, university, or vocational institution development plans, were proposed in two-thirds of the operations. In 44 percent of operations, grants were paired with school development planning for the schools, universities or vocational institutions to create development plans to compete for the grants.

Infrastructure investments in the construction, furnishing, and equipping of educational buildings were proposed in over half of operations, but many operations with infrastructure investments planned to furnish and refurbish facilities rather than construct new buildings.

For further information about the countries, operations and components with the proposed activity, please search the [database by project activity](#).

Table 1. Most Commonly Proposed Education Activities in World Bank Operations

Rank	Project Activity	Operations with Activity	% of FY11 Operations with Activity
1	Professional training & dev./Mgt strengthening	15	83.3%
1	Monitoring & Evaluation—building capacity for M&E	15	83.3%
2	Education research	13	72.2%
3	Institutional development	12	66.7%
3	Funding mechanisms	12	66.7%
4	IEC Campaigns	11	61.1%
4	Furnishing and equipment	11	61.1%
5	Quality assurance & accreditation	10	55.6%
5	Curriculum	10	55.6%
5	Linkages with private sector	10	55.6%
5	Educational buildings	10	55.6%
6	Educational planning & strategy	8	44.4%
6	EMIS	8	44.4%
6	School development planning	8	44.4%
6	Financial management	8	44.4%
7	Stakeholder and beneficiary needs analysis/consultation	7	38.9%
7	Private sector provision of education and privatization	7	38.9%
7	Teaching and learning materials	7	38.9%
7	Education-to-work transition	7	38.9%
7	Tracer studies	7	38.9%
7	Occupational standards/ Certification of Vocational Learning	7	38.9%

Source: World Bank EdStats, October 2011

III. A Closer Look at World Bank Vocational Education Operations

The World Bank Education Projects Database holds detailed information about a variety of specific education topics. For example, the **vocational education** subsector was a focus in six of 18 FY11 operations. By analyzing the common activities in those operations, users can understand more about the Bank's work in vocational education.

The most commonly proposed activities of the six projects (Table 2) show focuses on: **1)** Collecting data through M&E activities, tracer studies, studies on vocational topics, and labor market information systems; **2)** Training of vocational administration at the institution and policy levels; **3)** Grants to vocational institutions with development planning; **4)** Linking vocational education to private sector/labor market needs; **5)** Revising curriculum of vocational subjects to meet newly revised or created occupational standards used to certify levels of vocational learning; and **6)** improving vocational facilities and equipment.

A variety of detailed queries for specific topics and activities can be conducted using [World Bank Education Projects Database Search by Project Activity query](#). For more information about conducting a query, please see our database [tutorial](#).

Table 2. Most Common Activities in FY11 Vocational Education Operations

Rank	Project Activity	% of Vocational Operations with Activity	% of All FY11 Operations with Activity
1	Monitoring and Evaluation--building capacity for M&E	100%	83%
1	Technical/Vocational institution administration training	100%	33%
1	Funding mechanisms	100%	67%
1	Linkages with private sector	100%	56%
1	Occupational standards/ Certification of Vocational Learning	100%	39%
1	Furnishing and equipment	100%	61%
2	Institutional development	83%	67%
2	Education research	83%	72%
2	IEC Campaigns	83%	61%
2	Quality assurance and accreditation	83%	56%
2	Professional training & development/Management strengthening	83%	83%
2	Vocational study subjects	83%	28%
2	Labor market information systems, market analysis	83%	28%
3	School development planning	67%	44%
3	Private sector provision of education and privatization	67%	39%
3	Curriculum	67%	56%
3	Education-to-work transition	67%	39%
3	Tracer studies	67%	39%
3	Educational buildings	67%	56%

Source: World Bank EdStats, Oct 2011

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