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In BiH almost **40%** of human capital is lost due to deficiencies in health and education



DEFICIENCIES IN EDUCATION UNDERMINE THE FUTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN BiH

When going to school doesn't necessarily mean learning

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Only **14%** of children in pre-school education

The most valuable resource that Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has are its people – the real wealth and the main engine for prosperity. But to reach its potential, people need to have the skills and education that are needed in the labor market. It is unfortunate that deficiencies in education undermine the future of the population and of the country as a whole. It is particularly unfortunate since the Governments spend a significant proportion of budgets on education, but this does not translate into high quality services for the population.

Several challenges in the quality of pre-university education in BiH are critical to develop human capital of the country that needs to boost productivity and curb declining population trends. Quality of learning in BiH is below that of the EU and regional peers while both future job-seekers and employers are dissatisfied with the education system. With only 14% of children enrolled in preschool programs, and even fewer among the most vulnerable population, the country will find it quite difficult to tackle inter-generational poverty effects. Education spending is roughly on par with other countries in the region and the EU, but staffing costs represent 90% of total spending, leaving little room to improve quality. At the same time, organization of instruction in the education system is increasingly inefficient – smaller classes and lower student-teacher ratios mean that Governments have fewer and fewer resources to focus on improving quality of learning.

WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?



In BiH, human capital comprises a smaller share of national wealth than in neighboring countries. Quality of learning-not just years of schooling is vital for boosting human capital development and economic growth in BiH. In a country with high unemployment, especially among youth, matching needs of the labor market with the skills acquired through education can prove to be critical in improving the quality of jobs, firm growth and job creation.

HOW CAN THIS BE ADDRESSED?

The report provides a system-level review of efficiency of services. Based on this, there are several directions for improving the quality of basic education and for additional analysis going forward. These directions include:

ENSURE TEACHERS ARE SKILLED AND MOTIVATED

- ✓ Effective professional development
- ✓ Motivation and incentives
- ✓ Teaching to the level of the students

ENSURE LEARNERS ARE PREPARED AND MOTIVATED

- ✓ Investing in the early years
- ✓ Removing financial barriers
- ✓ Preparation for training

IMPROVE TEACHER-LEARNER INTERACTION

- ✓ Instructional leadership
- ✓ Feedback for teachers
- ✓ Data and management tools

ENSURE SCHOOL INVESTMENTS COMPLEMENT STUDENTS LEARNING FROM TEACHERS

- ✓ Learning materials and inputs
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Infrastructure