Commentary on UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report Concept Paper for 2017
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• Again, although the focus is on “accountability in education”, the focus is entirely on “schools” as opposed to ECD programmes/pre-schools. There are many accountability issues in regards to such programmes and pre-schools but they seem entirely neglected in this framework.

• I would add in the paragraph on corruption some focus on headteacher/principal recruitment, placement, and, re-appointment – also open to corruption. A particular dilemma in a country such as Indonesia (where I am now) is the politicisation which went along with the process of decentralisation — with district government heads elected and then having to reward (and also extract money from) their supporters through political appointments to head sectoral district offices such as education; these new appointees then have to extract money for themselves and to pay off the district government head from their own staff and headteachers — who in turn have to extract money from their teachers and the parents of their students. How to bring accountability into this kind of system is particularly problematic — especially when there is a tradition of school committee ineffectiveness and parental non-involvement.

• The professional accountability of educators has to go beyond mentoring, peer observations, etc., to include a discussion of a more serious process of induction and probation; too often probation processes are mere formalities.

• Under learning outcomes, there is no discussion of EGRA — certainly the rationale for and implementation and use of EGRA was a major topic of debate at the CIES meeting, especially given the inclusion of grade 2/3 testing in the SDG indicators.

• Given the ever large number of children around the world not being raised by their parents (once due largely to AIDS deaths but now also to migration — 60 million in China, 8 million in the Philippines, etc.), I think it important to use another word, such as “primary caregivers”, instead of “parents”, or at least to footnote that “parents” is being used as a substitute for a much larger range of people who are now raising children in the absence of their parents.