SUCCESS STORY

Education Decentralization and Accountability

On October 19 and 20, 2004, Dr. Donald R. Winkler of the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International represented the EGAT/USAID-supported Education Quality Improvement Program 2 (EQUIP2) working group on education decentralization at the International Working Group on Education (IWGE) meeting on Governance in Education in Washington, D.C. The International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP)-chaired IWGE meeting was attended by the principals from 50 major bilateral and multilateral donor organizations in the education sector.

As part of the EQUIP2 presentation on “Education Decentralization and Accountability: Lessons from Latin America,” each participant received a CD-ROM containing several of EQUIP2’s Policy and Issues Briefs and draft workshop tools on education decentralization. The presentation addressed and put into the Latin American and education decentralization contexts five key factors affecting accountability in education:

1. Clarity in assignment of functions
2. Influence of client voice
3. Degree of access to and understanding of information
4. Strength of consequences for good or bad performance
5. Effectiveness of education management in translating goals to actions

As a result of the meeting, several donors have expressed interest in additional information on EQUIP2’s education decentralization work. Both IIEP and The World Bank will use EQUIP2 Policy and Issues Briefs and workshop tools in future training activities, including a course on public expenditure tracking to be held in South Africa in Spring 2005.