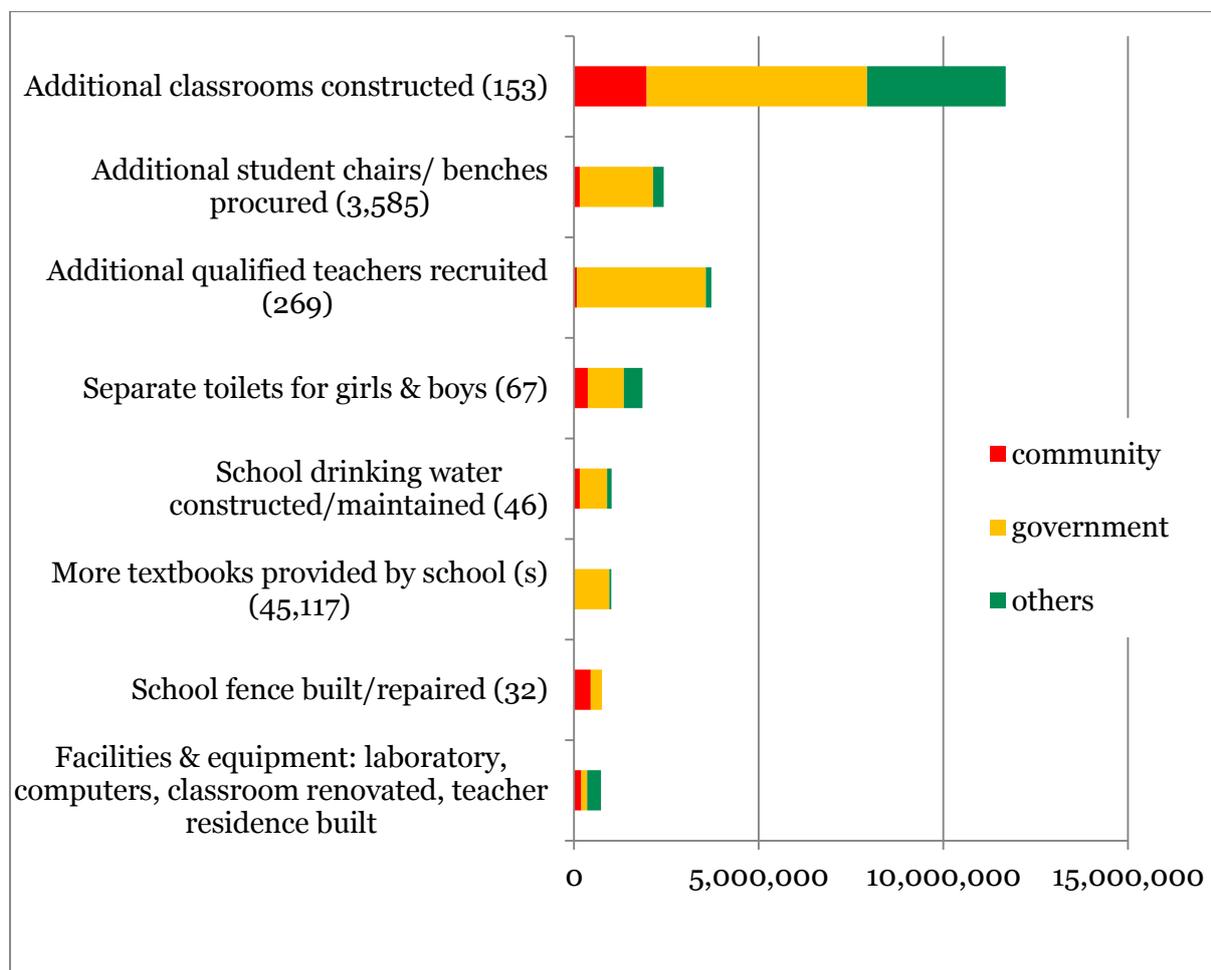


## ESAP2 – RESULTS, FINDINGS AND ACTIONS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

The Ethiopia Social Accountability Program2 has seen 42 social accountability implementing partners implementing education sector interventions in 297 schools in 95 woredas across all regions of Ethiopia. This summary presents the most interesting results and investments, the main findings about sector performance, and the key joint actions that were undertaken by communities, service providers and local governments.

### Service Improvement Results and Investment

Social Accountability projects facilitated joint actions among community, government and others (e.g. NGOs and private sector) that led to investments that achieved the following service improvement results by March 2015:



*“In the education sector we have an extensive checklist which looks at the standard of education provided. The SA process allowed us to look beyond that and take action to protect our students.”*

Head of the Woreda Education Office in Addis Ababa Woreda 3

## Joint actions to solve education problems

Communities, service providers and local governments agreed on and implemented the following joint actions to overcome problems in the water sector:

1. Knowing and meeting ‘the standard’ in education: SA leads to physical school improvements and additional staff and staff training. Student-teacher, student-text book and student-desk ratios improved in all schools where these were problematic.
2. SA leads to improvements in cross-sector issues such as water supply, toilet construction and access to electricity in some schools. SA brought various sector offices together for such solutions.
3. SA leads to the empowerment of Parent Teacher Associations, engaging communities and improving relationships between key school actors – students-teachers and school administration. Parent-Teacher Associations were revived, took charge of budgets where they used to be left unspent, and created better learning-teaching environments.
4. SA helps to improve vulnerable children’s access to education. There are many heart-warming stories of schools and communities who have made it possible for vulnerable children to access education for the first time. SA reduced disability stigma, and many facilities were made disability friendly. Funds for special needs education were put to good use as demand for such education emerged through SA.
5. SA leads to the greater awareness of the challenges faced by girl students. This has led communities and schools to stop harassment by fencing schools, removing nearby bars and chat houses, and by organising transport services. In several cases facilities for girls in their menstrual cycle were made available, as this proved to be a reason for girls dropping out of school.
6. SA addressed the standard of teaching and educational attainment, as parents’ complaints about children not being able to read in grade 4, and children being routinely passed to the next grade were taken seriously. Students played a role in creating better discipline. Teachers were given short-term training courses over summer, received long overdue grade and step promotions, and were assigned to subjects for which they were trained. As a result, drop-out rates reduced and more children passed their exams.
7. SA assists in addressing teacher absenteeism. Higher vigilance of the PTA, and improved teaching-learning environments, but also construction of teacher residences and toilets were among the solutions that enabled teachers to be present on time.
8. Improving education in remote locations, like Gambella, through SA.
9. SA is sustained through SA clubs in schools, which use slogans such as ‘give honest feedback’ and ‘take responsibility for your school’. SA clubs also advise students that misbehave, and generally play a role in awareness raising about entitlements and duties of all stakeholders.

### *Girly solutions*

KMG: Tunto high school managed to obtain 218 free sanitary pads for girls at school from UNICEF and more are planned to be purchased with the school budget

HIDA: Service improvements focusing on gender perspective are taking place. For example, the first aid room is open to girls during their menstrual period.