

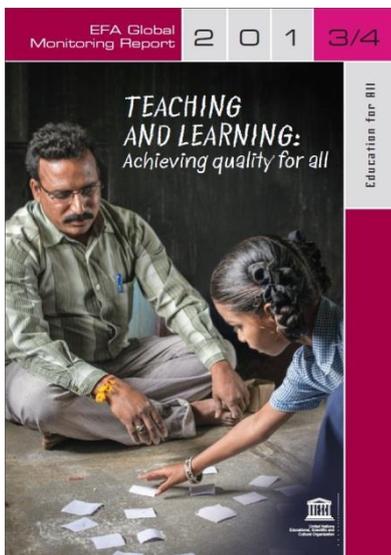
The state of education for all

The latest UN figures tell a worrying story

UNESCO's **Education For All Global Monitoring Report** is the world's authority on progress towards the six 'Education For All' Goals that were agreed by world leaders in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. The six goals, all with a deadline of 2015, are:

1. Expanding and improving comprehensive **early childhood care and education**, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
2. Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances, and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to, and **complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality**.
3. Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate **learning and life-skills programmes**.
4. Achieving a **50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015**, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults.
5. Eliminating **gender disparities** in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality.
6. Improving all aspects of the **quality of education** and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

The latest report, published on 29th January 2014, tells a worrying story which demonstrates the urgency of our campaign for a successful replenishment for the **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)**...



“With the deadline for the Education for All goals less than two years away, it is clear that, despite advances over the past decade, not a single goal will be achieved globally by 2015. This year’s EFA Global Monitoring Report vividly underlines the fact that people in the most marginalized groups have continued to be denied opportunities for education over the decade. It is not too late, however, to accelerate progress in the final stages.”

“Insufficient financing is one of the main obstacles to achieving Education for All. The finance gap to achieve good quality basic education for all by 2015 has reached US\$26 billion, putting the goal of getting every child into school far out of reach. Unfortunately, donors seem more likely to reduce their aid than increase it in coming years. Unless urgent action is taken to change aid patterns, the goal of ensuring that every child is in school and learning by 2015 will be seriously jeopardized. With little time left before 2015, closing the financing gap might seem impossible. But analysis in this

Report shows that the gap could be filled by raising more domestic revenue, devoting an adequate share of existing and projected government resources to education and sharpening the focus of external assistance.”

“Teachers have the future of this generation in their hands. We need 5.2 million teachers to be recruited by 2015, and we need to work harder to support them in providing children with their right to a universal, free and quality education. We must also make sure that there is an explicit commitment to equity in new global education goals set after 2015, with indicators tracking the progress of the marginalized so that no one is left behind.” - UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova

“What’s the point in an education if children emerge after years in school without the skills they need? The huge numbers of illiterate children and young people mean it is crucial that equality in access and learning be placed at the heart of future education goals. New goals after 2015 must make sure every child is not only in school, but learning what they need to learn.” - Pauline Rose, the director of the EFA Global Monitoring Report

A few headline statistics from the latest report

- **The number of children of primary age out of school was 57 million** in 2011, half of whom lived in conflict-affected countries.
- In **sub-Saharan Africa, only 23% of poor girls in rural areas were completing primary education** by the end of the decade. If recent trends in the region continue, the richest boys will achieve universal primary completion in 2021, but the poorest girls will not catch up until 2086.
- In 2011, **69 million adolescents were out of lower secondary school**, with little improvement in this number since 2004. In low income countries, only 37% of adolescents complete lower secondary education, and the rate is as low as 14% for the poorest.
- Around **250 million children are not learning basic skills**, even though half of them have spent at least four years in school.
- In addition to **3.7 million teachers needed** to replace those leaving the profession (due to retirement, ill health, or change in job), **1.6 million additional teachers are needed to achieve universal primary education by 2015**.
- In around **a third of countries, less than 75% of primary school teachers are trained** according to national standards.
- In 2012, **25% of children under 5 suffered from stunting**.
- In 2011, **around half of young children had access to pre-primary education**, and in sub-Saharan Africa the share was only 18%.
- In 2011, there were **774 million illiterate adults**, a decline of just 1% since 2000.

Find out more:

You can download the full UNESCO report, along with presentations, infographics, pictures and more at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/efareport/>