

Adolescents twice as likely to be out of school as primary school-age children say UNESCO and UNICEF

New report shows why 'business as usual' won't lead to universal primary or secondary education

Around 63 million adolescents between the ages of 12 to 15 years are denied their right to an education according to a new joint report from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and UNICEF, [Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All – Findings from the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children*](#). The report and the related data tool were funded by the [Global Partnership for Education](#).

Globally, one in five adolescents is excluded from the classroom, compared to 1 in 11 primary school aged children. So, adolescents are twice as likely to be out of school as their younger counterparts. The report shows that, as children get older, the risk that they will never start school or will drop out increases.

In total, 121 million children and adolescents have never started school or dropped out despite the international community's promise to achieve universal primary education by 2015. Data show that there has been almost no progress in reducing this number since 2007. Children living in conflict, child labourers and those facing discrimination based on ethnicity, gender and disability are the most marginalised. There is also a growing concern that previous gains in expanding access to education will erode without a major shift in policies and resources.

As pressure mounts to include universal secondary education in the post-2015 global development agenda, the report shows the way forward to break the barriers, often related to poverty, that keep children out of school. Key findings are presented in an [interactive data tool](#) illustrating why millions of children are being left behind. In Nigeria, for example, the data tools shows that two-thirds of children in the poorest households are not in school and almost 90 per cent of them will probably never enrol. In contrast, only 5 per cent of the richest children are out of school and most of them are expected to start in the future.

The report calls for action to invest in better data and demonstrates that reaching the most marginalized may cost more but that better statistics and innovative tools can help governments and donors to spend their education budgets more wisely.

To learn more:

Report available in [English](#) and the executive summary in Arabic, English, French and Spanish
See our [data exploration tool](#) better understand which children are out of school and why at Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children (<http://www.allinschool.org>)
eAtlas of Out-of-School Children presents a range of interactive maps and charts for countries around the world - available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)
Short video on the global numbers of excluded children in [English](#) and [French](#)

Direct links:

Complete report in English - <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/oosci-global-report-en.pdf>

Executive summaries

English - <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/oosci-global-exsum-en.pdf>
French - <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/oosci-global-exsum-fr.pdf>
Spanish - <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/oosci-global-exsum-es.pdf>
Arabic - <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/oosci-global-exsum-ar.pdf>

Data exploration tool

English - http://www.uis.unesco.org/_LAYOUTS/UNESCO/oosci-data-tool/index-en.html#en/cover
French - http://www.uis.unesco.org/_LAYOUTS/UNESCO/oosci-data-tool/index-fr.html#fr/intro
Spanish - <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/oosci-global-reportES.aspx>

Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children - <http://www.allinschool.org>

eAtlases

English - <http://tellmaps.com/uis/oosc/>
French - <http://tellmaps.com/uis/oosc/?lang=fr>
Spanish - <http://tellmaps.com/uis/oosc/?lang=es>