EDUCATION PROGRESS IN SOUTH ASIA

The dynamics between access, equity and learning

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Agenda

- The South Asia Context
- Progress in Education
- Profiles of Excluded Children
- What is being done?
- Conclusions
SELECTED FACTS

End Poverty and Hunger
34% of the population live in extreme poverty

Primary Education
88% of primary-school aged children are enrolled in schools

Gender Equality
18% of seats in parliament are held by women

Child Mortality
66 children for every 1,000 live births do not reach the age of 5

Sources: 2012 MDGs Report; 2012 EFA Global Monitoring Report
Children 0-14 years old account for a third (31.5%) of the total population in South Asia.

Child population as a percentage of the total population, 2010

Source: UN ESCAP Statistical Yearbook for Asia-Pacific 2011; Data for Belgium from OECD Country Statistical Profile
6 in 9 persons in South Asia live in rural areas

% of population living in urban and rural areas, 2011

Source: UN ESCAP Statistical Yearbook for Asia-Pacific 2011; Data for South Asia includes Iran and Turkey; UN Population Division – data for Belgium
The total number of children in enrolled in primary schools in South Asia of 188 million is 18 times the total population of Belgium.
South Asia has the highest number of children in primary schools worldwide, accounting for 27.3% of global enrolment. The South Asian Context

Proportion of primary school enrolment by region, 2010

- 27.3% South & West Asia
- 19.2% Sub-Saharan Africa
- 26.8% East Asia and Pacific
- 9.6% Latin America/Caribbean
- 7.4% N. America/W. Europe
- 6.0% Arab States
- 2.8% Eastern Europe
- 0.8% Central Asia

Sources: 2012 EFA Global Monitoring Report
Progress in Education in South Asia
Progress in Primary Education since 1990

Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education, South Asia, 1990-2010

- Total
- Boys
- Girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: UIS/GMR data for South Asia includes Iran
188 million children are enrolled in primary education in South Asia in 2010, up from 155 million in 1999. Nearly half or 48% are girls.

However, many still lack basic literacy and numeracy skills due to poor quality education.
The difficult journey through primary education

The example of Pakistan

- **Primary school entry age pupils:** The cohort of primary school-age children
- **Net Intake rate:** The number of children who enrol in Grade 1 at the right age
- **Net cohort completion rate:** The number of children who complete primary education

**Source:** 2012 EFA Global Monitoring Report
Millions of children in South Asia do not complete primary education

Dropout Rates to Last Grade of Primary Education in 1999, 2004, 2009

In 2009:
- 13.54 million children dropped out of primary education
- 9.1 million children repeated a grade

**OOSCI and Administrative (UIS) OOSC Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension / Level of Education</th>
<th>OOSCI 4 countries</th>
<th>UIS* South Asia Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimension 1 / primary</td>
<td>23.8 million</td>
<td>13.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimension 2/ lower secondary</td>
<td>15.6 million</td>
<td>30.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39.4 million</td>
<td>43.6 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*UIS figures are based on the May 2012 data release covering school year 2010 and covers the whole South and West Asia region which includes 8 South Asian countries plus Iran*

Different data sources, methodologies, number of countries covered, school years covered account for the difference.
Pakistan: Primary aged children in and out of school

- 34.4% are OOSC
- 65.6% are in school

Bangladesh: Primary aged children in and out of school

- 15.9% are OOSC
- 84.1% are in school

Source: Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children national reports
India: Primary aged children in and out of school

Sri Lanka: Primary aged children in and out of school

Children still excluded from primary education

Source: Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children national reports
Profiles of excluded children
Children from the poorest households are more likely to be out of school. If in school, they are likely to drop out due to schooling costs and poverty.
Girls particularly from poor families living in remote rural areas are among the most disadvantaged in education.
Children from ethnic minority groups are often marginalized in education and society in general.
Profiles of Excluded Children

Children in rural areas are more disadvantaged than those living in urban areas.
Profiles of Out-of-School Children

- Children from **poorest households** more likely to be out of school
- **Girls** more excluded in Pakistan and India while retention of older **boys** a challenge in Bangladesh; gender gaps more pronounced in poorest households
- Children in **rural areas** more likely to be excluded; also pockets of urban children with high rates of exclusion (slum dwellers in India, Bangladesh)
- Children in **child labour** more likely to be out of school, particularly older children (disparity highest in Pakistan)
- Children from **ethnic and religious minorities, schedule caste and tribes** often more marginalized
The urban-rural divide: what the data shows
Video from Far Western Nepal

Video from Far Western Nepal
6 in 9 persons in India live in rural areas

Source: 2011 India National Census
India has 159 million young children aged 0-6 years old

Nearly 75% or 118 million live in rural areas

Source: 2011 India National Census
Children in rural areas are more likely to drop out.

Dropout Rates, by Grade and Location, **Pakistan**

Rural area dropout consistently higher than urban rates

Source: *Pakistan OOSCI Report, data from DHS 2007-08*
Non-attendance in pre-primary and primary is higher in rural areas

Attendance and non-attendance rates, by level of education and location, Pakistan

Source: Pakistan OOSCI Report, data from DHS 2007-08
Children in rural areas more likely to be underweight

Proportion of under-five children who are underweight, urban and rural, 2006/2010

Source: 2012 MDG Report
Multiple Disparities - What the data shows
Girls in rural areas most disadvantaged: Pakistan

Percentage of out-of-school children by gender, level of education and location, Pakistan

Rural area percentage of OOSC consistently higher than urban area

Source: Pakistan OOSCI Report, data from PSLM-HIES 2007-08
Beyond Averages: multiple exclusion, India

- Extreme education poverty
- Poorest quintile
- Richest quintile
- Urban
- Rural
- Rich urban girls
- Rich urban boys
- Poor rural boys
- Poor Bihar boys
- Poor Bihar girls

Average years of schooling

- India
- Honduras
- Cameroon
- Bangladesh
- Bolivia
- Indonesia
- Cuba
- Ukraine
- Somalia
Current Efforts
What is being done?

1) Systems Strengthening:
   • From projects to SWAPs
   • Equity focused policies
   • Child Friendly Education
What is being done?

2) Engage stakeholders
   • Reality check for policies
   • UNGEI
   • Welcome to school campaigns

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvVghLGRXaA&feature=youtu.be
What is being done?

3) Make an impact on an area
   • Convergence districts
   • Institutions building
   • Schools as Zone of Peace
   • Reach out interventions
School as Zone of Peace, Nepal

- Increased school opening days - 84 to 99% in targeted schools
- Codes of Conduct and strengthened SMC/PTA
- Over 1200 teachers participated in “Conflict-Free classroom” training
- National steering committee formed
“As long as there are politics involved education will never come out right.”

- Quote from a student in Terai.
What is being done?

4) Use of data
   • Impact monitoring
   • EMIS
   • Bottleneck monitoring
   • Learning from Innovations
Conclusion

• Equity focus means to be bold
• Interrupt the multiple factors of exclusion
• Emergency Education
• All strategies, all levels
Bhutan

• Population 726,000

Landlocked Himalayan Kingdom

Only 8% of land is used for human habitation

Map source: UNCS, Europa Technologies. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: UN Population Division, 2010 World Population Prospects Volume II
The canteen
First grade rural school
First Grade Urban school
Catchi Class/pre school rural school
Catchi Class (pre school)
Thank you