



What Inclusive Systems Deliver for Stronger & Safer Societies

Education for Stability

Brussels - May 28th, 2026

Snapshot on 2026 Global Education Monitoring Report on access & equity messages

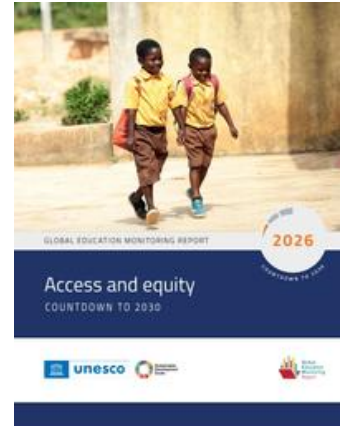
In 2024, **273 million children** and young people were out of school worldwide; **1 in 6** school-age children are out of school. (GEMR 2026)

Fewer than 1 in 10 countries have an education financing approach that strongly prioritises equity. In other words, **most systems are not set up to direct resources to those who need them most.**

That should give pause. Because financing is not neutral. If it does not actively correct inequality, it will reproduce it.

Conflict is no longer a side issue in global education. It is shaping the numbers, the data, and the reality for millions of children. And yet systems and funding models are still struggling to respond at the pace and scale required.

As 2030 approaches, one message stands out: **without equity, access will remain out of reach.**



Reframing the narrative and acknowledging the fundamental contributions from inclusion to education and peace

“Education is not a neutral space: it reproduces inequalities, but it also holds transformative power” – Tamara Jacod

Inequity and exclusion fuel conflicts. Inclusive principles ensure collective commitment to equity and build a safe and peaceful society where each one is acknowledged and given the possibility to develop his/her unique potential. **Equity and diversity** are key pillars of the solutions to current world ailments.





What Inclusive Systems Deliver for Stronger & Safer Societies

1) Protection and preventive peace building

Safe and equitable environment, mental health protection and safeguarding of a future hope

2) Social cohesion

Inclusion at the heart of accepting difference, and responding to all needs

3) Impact and innovation

Inclusion by nature is solution seeking and innovative

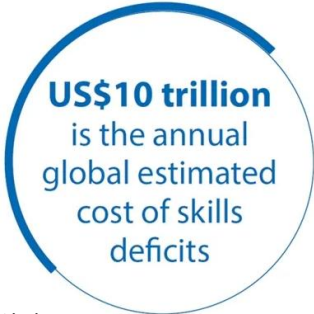
4) Quality instructional design for all

Inclusive education is quality education

5) Building back better

Resilient and accessible reconstruction

1. Inclusion is protective and preventive peace building

A circular graphic with a blue border and a white background. Inside the circle, the text reads: "US\$10 trillion is the annual global estimated cost of skills deficits".

US\$10 trillion
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deficits

- **Inequality & exclusion fuel conflict**

When marginalized groups are systematically denied education, resentment builds.

Inclusion promotes equal access and reduces grievances

- **Inclusive education provides equal opportunities for all**

addressing historical injustices and structural inequalities that can lead to unrest.

- **Inclusive education ensures continuity of education in times of crisis**

Teachers play a vital role in maintaining high-quality, inclusive education and in ensuring the well-being of all students. School provides security (food, MHPSS, etc.) and normalcy to students, helping them and protecting their future.

- **Inclusive education protects the future**

UNESCO findings reveal a stark reality: if no action is taken, the world could face over \$10 trillion in losses by 2030 due to unmet educational needs. This encompasses not just economic costs but also broader social setbacks, including rising adolescent pregnancies, poor mental health, social fragmentation, and higher crime rates.



Chad faces the highest potential social costs (costs borne by the government and society), with the economic burden of uneducated children rising to nearly 58% of its 2030 GDP (UNESCO, 2024)

HI response in Chad: Inclusive child-friendly spaces



Ngourtou Koumboua's child-friendly space activities ; dance, board games, sports and also drawing, relaxation techniques and private room. © HI/SBJ 2022

2. Inclusion brings social cohesion



- **It fosters Social Cohesion and Mutual Understanding**

Inclusive education brings together students from different ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds, creating opportunities for dialogue and empathy.

Exposure to diversity from a young age reduces stereotypes, prejudice, and xenophobia, which are often root causes of conflict. Schools that integrate marginalized groups tend to produce adults who are more tolerant and collaborative.

- **It brings inclusion into school practices, and also governance structures and Community norms.**

- By applying a twin-track strategy (individualized learner support alongside systemic strengthening) we are working to ensure inclusion becomes a collective commitment to equity, not just an isolated accommodation.



HI response in Ecuador: Inclusive Education as a Driver of Social Cohesion

PAIS project Objective: Educational and social inclusion of children with disabilities in Quito, Ecuador (2024-2027)

- It reaches 825 children aged 6–18 in Ecuador: 500 at risk of dropout + 325 with specific educational needs
- Children with Disabilities Face Multiple Forms of Marginalization (Excluded from Mainstream Education, Eroded Trust in Institutions, Fractured Community Bonds)
- Provision of inclusive educational workshops, psycho-educational sessions, catch-up programs
- Results are showing a significant improvement in children and adolescents academic and psychosocial skills by the end of the intervention.

When you target the most marginalized groups (e.g. children with disabilities) inclusion becomes a norm and it increases social cohesion by increasing belonging and trust.



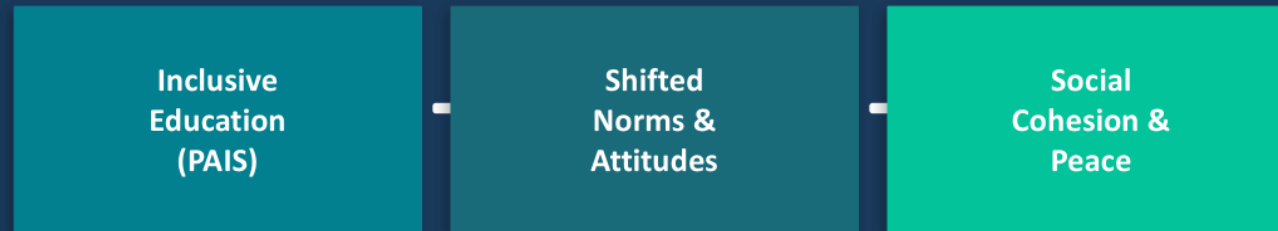
Youth catch up program,
Ecuador ©HI 2025



PAIS Project theory of change

THE THEORY OF CHANGE

How Inclusive Education Builds Social Cohesion



Two Dimensions of Trust



HORIZONTAL TRUST

Community members develop solidarity, acceptance, and mutual support across ability and difference



VERTICAL TRUST

Families and children (re)build confidence in education institutions as protective, responsive spaces

Educational inclusion across the whole community



The Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, as part of the Educando en Familia programme and Humanity & Inclusion have produced a module of inclusive education for the families; a tool offering activities designed to encourage reflection on educational inclusion across the whole community.

This module aims to raise awareness of barriers and encourage the joint creation of a more diverse, participatory and collaborative school for everyone.

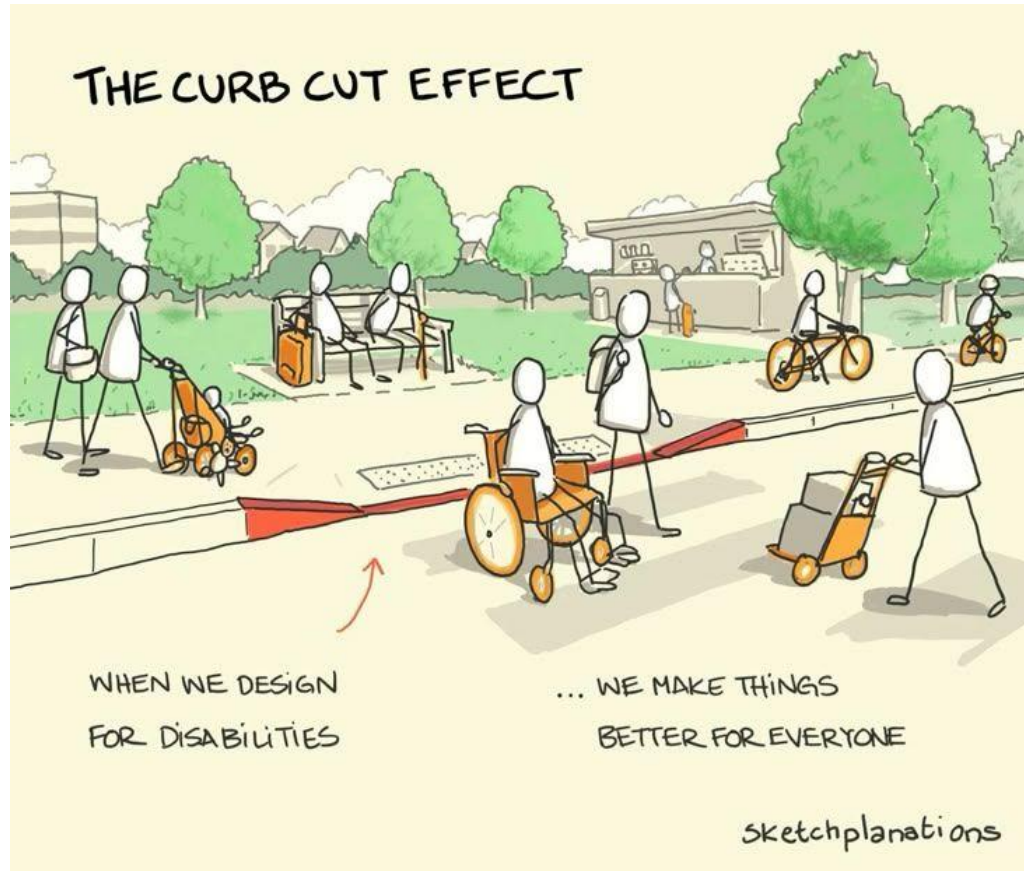


Ministerio de Educación,
Deporte y Cultura



REPÚBLICA
DEL ECUADOR

Do you know the curb effect?



3. Inclusion has a positive impact and is innovative

- There is **consistent and compelling evidence of the positive impacts of inclusive education** on employment, stability, and income at the individual level, as well as on societies as a whole, notably through research conducted in [Nepal](#) and the [Philippines](#)^[1].
- And while the cost of inclusion is often questioned, the cost of exclusion is rarely discussed, yet ***“The cost of exclusion is considerable, with a loss of GDP ranging from 1% to 7% if people with disabilities are excluded from education and the labor market.”***
- **Inclusion is also the source of many innovations that are now part of our daily lives** (e.g., closed captions, text-to-speech, audiobooks, electric toothbrushes, curbs with lowered edges, etc.)



HI response in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, Kenya: Accessible Digital learning

- **Provision of regular and specialised ICT material**
- Tablets are fitted with packages of accessible **digital content for Kenya's curriculum:** textbooks, supplementary materials and interactive content (fully offline)
- With Ekitabu, HI has trained upper primary and secondary learners on how **to use the digital platforms** and participate in interactive forums
- Collaboration is ensured with authorities (MOE/DSNE, KISE, KICD)



Can you name some famous pedagogues?

What do Montessori, Itard, Seguin, Decroly, Freinet, Piaget etc. have in common?

They all worked with children with disabilities and vulnerable children. They had to go beyond “business as usual”.



4. Inclusion is quality instructional design

Education that is inclusive often emphasizes critical thinking, dialogue, and problem-solving, enabling students to resolve disputes nonviolently. Curricula that include peace education, human rights, and civic engagement help build a culture of nonviolence and shared responsibility.

Some inclusive education key features:

- Promotes learner centered approach and is accessible by design (UDL)
- Implements reasonable accommodations for all
- Is solution seeking and presents a variety of strategies
- Cultivates critical thinking (beyond “talk & chalk”)
- Promotes conflict resolution skills (e.g. emotion management)

We will never emphasize enough the importance of teachers. They are the fundamental lever. Their role in crisis is key (cf. [Always Included: Uninterrupted education for children with disabilities before, during, and after a crisis](#), HI 2023).



“No school is better than its teachers” - Sir Ken Robinson

HI response in North East Syria: Inclusion in NFE centers



© HI/ SBJ 2025. Thousands of children are excluded from education as there are not enough schools (destroyed, mined...), children are working (cotton picking), have disabilities etc. HI support CWW to make the teaching and environment accessible. 16



5. Inclusion is building back better

- **It strengthens Democratic and Inclusive Institutions**

Inclusive education produces citizens who value fairness, participation, and accountability. Traits necessary for stable democratic societies.

- **It breaks Cycles of Violence**

Societies with better-educated populations are more likely to resolve conflicts through institutions rather than violence. Education teaches history, ethics, and empathy, allowing new generations to critically reflect on past conflicts rather than repeating them.

- **It brings economic Stability and Peace**

Inclusive education increases employment opportunities and economic equality, reducing poverty-related tensions. Communities with equitable access to education are less likely to experience unrest fueled by economic marginalization.

- **It provides accessible and climate resilient schools for all**

Where everyone can access and be protected in the long term

[Uganda example of school accessibility companion guide](#)



Conclusion: Inclusive Education is a pillar of peacebuilding



- ✓ It **builds empathy and social cohesion**; bringing diverse students together fosters understanding, reduces prejudice, and creates a culture of tolerance.
- ✓ It **reduces inequality and grievances**. Equal access to education empowers marginalized groups, addressing structural injustices that often spark conflict.
- ✓ It **equips for nonviolent conflict resolution**. Inclusive curricula teach critical thinking, dialogue, and cooperation, preparing citizens to resolve disputes peacefully.
- ✓ It **breaks cycles of violence**. Education nurtures awareness of history, human rights, and reconciliation, helping societies heal and prevent repeating past conflicts.
- ✓ It **strengthens long-term stability**. By promoting democratic values, economic opportunity, and civic participation, **inclusive education lays 18 the foundation for sustainable peace.**



“What if the cure for cancer is stuck in the brain of a child who cannot access school?”





Thank you for your attention

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