Barriers OOSC face and how education systems can address them

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“Those still denied an education are the hardest to reach. Tackling it will require ingenuity as well as investment.”

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
Who are the 58 million out of school children?

They are ALL DIFFERENT. Among others, they are...
...Poverty affected children
...Special needs children
Girl children
...Overage children
...Displaced children
... Working children
...Conflict affected children
They are 58 million children with a right to a quality primary education!
Their education is also a means to overcome poverty and disparity—for them, their families, and their nations
What EAC wants to contribute

- 10 million OOSC in quality primary education
- Quality for retention and learning
- Advocacy for OOSC
- Resource mobilization
EAC’s focus is...

Exclusively on children who are out of school by

• Recognizing what works,

• Selecting partners with experience and community roots, and

• Addressing barriers that children face.
Some Common Barriers to Education
Examples of overcoming barriers...

**POVERTY**

- Community schools
- Non-formal schools
- Employability skills
- Scholarships, grants and cash transfers
- Elimination of school fees
- Supplying uniforms
- Book bags / learning materials
- Village savings and loans associations
- Income generating activities
- Community mobilisation
Examples of overcoming barriers...

**GENDER**

- Attendance incentives
- Policy reform/Government partnership
- Recruitment of female teachers
- Bursaries for deserving girls
- Community engagement
- Gender specific latrines
- Advocating education over child marriage
- Safe environment/gender-sensitive training
Examples of overcoming barriers...

- Healing classrooms
- Accelerated learning programmes
- Safe/Child friendly schools
- Psychosocial development
- Learning materials / instruction in home country language(s)
Examples of overcoming barriers...

- School / classroom construction
- School / classroom rehabilitation
- School prep for children with special needs
- Tent schools or temporary learning spaces
- Single classroom schools
- Alternative school facilities
- Water, sanitation and hygiene facilities
Examples of overcoming barriers...

RESOURCES

Teacher recruitment / training
Learning material
Assistive devices for children with special needs
Teaching aids
Teacher incentives
Community involvement/investment
Private sector investment
Examples of overcoming barriers...

Special Needs

Teacher training

Assistive devices for children with special needs

School prep for children with special needs
Examples of overcoming barriers...

**Poor Quality of Education**

- Appropriate class size
- Instructional and supervisory support
- PTA / SMC training
- School task forces
- Teacher incentives
- Teacher professional development

*Examples of overcoming barriers…*
Examples of overcoming barriers...

**POST-CONFLICT INSTABILITY / INSECURITY**

- Home based schools
- Protection committees
- Protection training
- Support programmes/psychosocial support
- Infrastructure improvement
- Sport and recreation equipment
Examples of overcoming barriers...
“Push and pull” for reaching and keeping OOSC in a quality education programme

- **Push**
  - Non-state provision to accommodate those not reached by public education

- **Pull**
  - Public provision that responds to and is attractive to the most disadvantaged
Examples of how “systems” continue to exclude marginalized groups

Education systems continue to cater to the majority and easy to reach through their...

• Academic calendars
  – Planting and harvesting schedules, etc.

• Language of instruction
  – Learning happens in a language that is not understood

• Requirements
  – Age and grade ranking, birth certificates, citizenship, etc.

• Hidden costs
  – Uniforms, books, exam fees, etc.

• Relevance
  – Ability to relate to the curriculum, and make connections to one’s live
What needs to change to make systems them equitable and inclusive

Systems can welcome those children who are still excluded by...

- Adjusting school schedules
  - Adapted for children, students with responsibilities
- Accepting of difference
  - Teachers and system
- Becoming Flexible
  - Learning at pace, level and subject, adapting to needs of learners
- Acknowledging what the learners bring and know
  - Workers’ arithmetic skills
- Linking learning and curriculum to community and culture
  - Knowledge of sustainable practices
Some examples of how this can be done

- West Africa—partner coordination
- Gyan Shala, Bihar State, India—NGO practice into system
- Bharti Foundation, India and TCF, Pakistan—focus on quality
- UNICEF Yemen—NGO/government coordination
- Dhaka Ahsania Mission—multi-level/multi-grade classrooms
- Care-Haiti—accommodating working children
- Aide et Action Cambodia—Consortium for different barriers
Some lessons learned

- Partnership—Strategic, implementing, advocacy, funding
- Innovation—NRC, Côte d’Ivoire—bridging programs
- Flexibility/adaptability—Girl Child Network, Kenya
- Certification—BRAC, Bangladesh
- Community engagement—IRC, Côte d’Ivoire
- Links to the formal system
http://educateachild.org/
Examples of how barriers can be overcome

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**RESOURCES**
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- Teacher incentives
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- Private sector investment

**POOR QUALITY OF EDUCATION**
- Appropriate class size
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**POVERTY**
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**SPECIAL NEEDS**
- Teacher training
- Assistive devices for children with special needs
- School prep for children with special needs

**POST-CONFLICT INSTABILITY / INSECURITY**
- Home based schools
- Protection committees
- Protection training
- Support programmes/psychosocial support
- Infrastructure improvement
- Sport and recreation equipment

**REFUGEES / IDPS / RETURNNESS**
- Healing classrooms
- Accelerated learning programmes
- Safe/Child friendly schools
- Psychosocial development
- Learning materials / instruction in home country language(s)

**CHALLENGING GEOGRAPHIES**
- Alternative school facilities
- Non-formal schools
- Single classroom schools
- Mobile schools
- Boat schools
- Accelerated learning programmes for overage students

**INFRASTRUCTURE**
- School / classroom construction
- School / classroom rehabilitation
- School prep for children with special needs
- Tent schools or temporary learning spaces
- Single classroom schools
- Alternative school facilities
- Water, sanitation and hygiene facilities