



**16.01.2016 - [The Education World Forum](#) will take place at Central Hall Westminster, London from 17 to 20 January 2016, seeing ministers and their senior advisers representing over 80 per cent of the world's population gather to debate future education policy.**



The 2016 Forum will offer three days of insight and inspiration from leading education pioneers, policy makers and education experts, with many of the sessions given by education ministers themselves as part of an honest assessment of countries' common issues and challenges. Gordon Brown, the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom will also be attending the forum.

### **UNICEF and UNESCO, for the future**

*"To realize the promise of universal education for every child, we need a global commitment to invest in three areas: getting more children into primary school; helping more children – especially girls – stay in school through the secondary level; and improving the quality of the learning they receive throughout their schooling." - UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake*

UNESCO and UNICEF believe that new policies must focus specifically on the most marginalized children as part of larger efforts to improve access to and quality of education. To do this, governments need robust information on who these children are, where they live, whether they have ever attended school and if they are likely to do so in the future. But many of these children remain invisible within current data collection methods. Children with disabilities are amongst the least visible – reliable data simply don't exist – and they are being overlooked in national responses to out-of-school children.

Investment in better data is needed, and although reaching the most marginalized may initially cost more, it will yield greater benefits. Better statistics and innovative tools can help guide governments and donors to allocate their education funding more effectively and efficiently.



### [The Out-of-School Children Initiative](#)

The Out-of-School Children Initiative— a partnership between UNICEF and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics – is working in more than 50 countries to identify which children are out of school, assess the barriers that exclude them and develop innovative policies to get them in classrooms and learning.

The Out of School Children Initiative includes Understanding Children's Work, a project of ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank, and is supported by the Global Partnership for Education.

### Did you know?

- Globally, 1 in 5 adolescents is not in school compared to 1 in 11 primary school-age children.
  
- 58 million primary school-age children (9%) are denied the right to education.
  - o Of these, 25 million will probably never enter school if current trends continue.
  
- In total, 121 million children and adolescents have either never started school or dropped out despite the international community's promise to achieve Education for All by 2015.
  - o There has been virtually no progress in reducing the global rate and number of out-of-school children since 2007. The stagnation is due in part to the rapid population growth in sub-Saharan Africa.
  
  - o Children living in conflict, child labourers and those facing discrimination based on ethnicity, gender and disability are the most affected.
  
- The highest out-of-school rates are in Eritrea and Liberia, where 66 per cent and 59 per cent of children, respectively, do not go to primary school.
  
- Poverty is the greatest barrier to education.

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### UNRICs Related Links

- [Sustainable Development Goal&nbsp;#4: Quality Education](#)
- [Education Wolrd Forum](#)
- [UNICEF and UNESCO Report](#)
- [The Out-Of-School Children Initiative](#)