

Key Messages

A growing number of children and adolescents are out of school as aid fails to meet the mark

The number of out of school children and adolescents is on the rise, totaling 124 million in 2013.

Globally one in eleven children is out of school, totaling 59 million children in 2013, a growth of 2.4 million since 2010. Of these, 30 million live in sub-Saharan Africa while 10 million are in South and West Asia.

For some this is a life-sentence. According to UIS estimates, 24 million children will never enter a classroom. Half of all out-of-school children in sub-Saharan Africa will never enroll.

Young adolescents are nearly twice as likely to be out of school as primary school-age children.

One out of six adolescents is not in school, totaling 65 million in 2013. Of these, 26 million lived in South and West Asia, and 23 million in sub-Saharan Africa, where there are more adolescents out of school today than in 2000.

Girls are the first to be excluded.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 56% (or 9.3M) of out-of-school girls will never start school compared to 41% of out-of-school boys. The situation is even more extreme in South and West Asia, where 80% of out-of-school girls in the region are unlikely to ever start school, compared to 16% of out-of-school boys.

Conflict is a major barrier to education.

Before the conflict in Syria, nearly every child was enrolled in primary school. Now, new UIS data show that just two years of civil war has left 1.8 million children and adolescents denied an education, erasing all education progress since the start of the decade

Aid levels are too low to get all children and adolescents into school.

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Aid needs to increase by at least six times to fill the annual finance gap of \$39 billion needed to provide 12 years of quality education for all in low- and lower-middle-income countries. Yet, despite a small increase of 6% in aid to education from 2012 to 2013, levels are still 4% lower than they were in 2010.

Donors are putting education lower down their list of priorities.

Many donors are cutting their aid to basic education: 23 out of 47 donors decreased their aid to basic education between 2008-2010 and 2011-2013.

Health is gaining more traction in aid budgets: Compared to 2003, when health and education received the same shares of total aid, the share that education has been receiving has been slowly declining to reach just 8% in 2013 while health received 15%.

What aid there is is not going where it is needed most.

In 2013, only a third of aid to basic education was allocated to the poorest countries. Almost half of the poorest countries saw aid to basic education decline.

Despite sub-Saharan Africa accounting for over half of all out-of-school children, aid to basic education to the region made up only a third of total resources.

Aid to education per child depends on where they are born.

There is huge disparity in terms of the amount of aid allocated per child, ranging from \$4 in Chad, to \$41 in Afghanistan over 2011-2013.

Aid to education is shifting away from basic education

Although 124 million children and adolescents remain out of school, and there is an annual funding gap of US\$7.5 billion for primary education alone between 2015 and 2030, aid to basic education is on the decline.

The share of multilateral aid going to basic education fell from 63% in 2005 to 43% in 2013. The World Bank, the largest multilateral donor, decreased the share of aid to basic education from 63% over 2002–2004 to 47% over 2011–2013.

The United Kingdom has reduced the share of aid disbursements to basic education from 73% at the beginning of the decade to just 57% over 2011–2013.