EVENT | Education World Forum (EWF) 2023
(May 7 - 10, 2023 | London UK)

The theme of this year’s Education World Forum (EWF) was New Beginnings: Nurturing Learning Culture, Building Resilience, Promoting Sustainability. Stronger, Bolder, Better Education by Design. EWF 2023 addressed how education has changed and what we have learned from the recent disruption and responses and considered longer term challenges and changes. EWF’s program also focused on education’s sustainability, as well as its potential to both aid understanding and contribute to global sustainability.

The largest annual gathering of Ministers of Education, this year’s event had 130 country delegations participate, including education ministries and secretaries. Jaime Saavedra, World Bank Global Director for Education, delivered a keynote address in the opening session, participated in a ministerial clinic on the political economy of education reform, was part of the closing session, and participated in the foundational learning policy dialogue.

And in addition to bilateral meetings with governmental, foundational, and development organization representatives, Jaime also participated in the launch of the new 2023 Cost-Effective Approaches to Improve Global Learning – Smart Buys report authored by the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP), an independent, multidisciplinary panel of leading global experts in education evidence and policymaking that is co-hosted by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank.
NEW REPORT | 2023 Cost-Effective Approaches to Improve Global Learning

The new "2023 Cost-Effective Approaches to Improve Global Learning – Smart Buys" report summarizes the latest evidence on what the most cost-effective interventions are for improving learning of all children in low- and middle-income countries. Launched on May 9 at the Education World Forum in London (UK), the report is authored by the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP), an independent, multidisciplinary panel of leading global experts in education evidence and policymaking that is co-hosted by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank.

The report finds that investing in parent-directed early childhood development interventions, which coach parents in how to provide early childhood stimulation, has been proven to have a significant impact on children’s future learning. The GEEAP also found strong research evidence that in low-income countries, young children who benefit from these early childhood stimulation programs can enjoy benefits that last into adulthood. The panel also identified ways to reduce delivery costs, such as providing group sessions or leveraging community health workers who are already making regular home visits.
EVENT | "The World Bank Listens" Special Event at the Teacher Tech Summit 2023

Founded by T4 Education and co-hosted with The World Bank and Owl Ventures, the Teacher Tech Summit is the world’s largest EdTech event, attracting more than 45,000 attendees from over 150 countries. Since 2021, the Teacher Tech Summit has been the go-to event for schools and educators. Past events have brought them together with the world’s leading EdTech providers to find tech solutions that work to improve learning.

The session covered the experiences of teachers in leveraging technology for improved teaching and learning. With an increased demand for transforming education towards a ‘new normal’ centered on technology, the session explored how this has impacted teachers’ day-to-day teaching, any innovative practices that worked well, the main challenges, and what skills are lacking the most that teachers would like to seek support from the government. The session was an opportunity to engage with Jaime Saavedra, World Bank Director for Education, regional practice managers at the
World Bank, as well as ministers of education from the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Related: Teacher Tech Summit 2023 Home Page | World Bank Listens program | Jaime Saavedra's Video Testimonial | Tweet

PUBLICATION | Technical Assistance for Local Governments to Improve Education Outcomes
AN IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE INSPIRED BY THE CASE OF CEARÁ, BRAZIL

This document presents a detailed implementation guide for a Technical Assistance (TA) system for improving education outcomes, inspired by the successful case of the state of Ceará in Brazil, which achieved universal literacy. The document provides concrete steps for governments that are willing to establish a TA system for subnational governments to improve education outcomes with a focus on learning.
World Bank Education and COVID-19 Response

The World Bank’s education team is working to support countries as they manage and cope with the crisis today, and is advising on remote learning at-scale in the immediate to short-term, as well as supporting operations to facilitate learning after the pandemic is over. The Bank is also providing ongoing support to systemic education reform to ensure that with children back at school, schools can provide the necessary environments to ensure children learn.
June 20 | World Refugee Day

June 22 | Internal Event: World Bank - Education Global Practice Townhall

June 22 – 23 | Event: "Summit for a New Financial Pact" on climate and development to be convened by President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, France

July 10 – 19 | Event: UN High Level Political Forum (ECOSOC) – theme: “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”


July 15 | World Youth Skills Day

July 25 – 26 | Event: Africa Human Capital Heads of State Summit (Tanzania)
Why #WeAreCommitted to improving menstrual health and hygiene

Imagine a world where every girl and woman can manage her periods with dignity and without hindering her education, health, sense of self-esteem, social mobility, and economic opportunities. By enhancing access to quality menstrual health and hygiene services globally, we can make significant advances in combating poverty and gender inequality.

SAROJ KUMAR JHA, HANA BRIXI, JAIME SAAVEDRA, THORSTEN KIEFER | MAY 30, 2023

READ BLOG

What is driving the learning crisis? Clues from the initial rollout of the Global Education Policy Dashboard

With an estimated 70% of 10-year-olds unable to read a simple text, education systems are in a learning crisis. There is an urgent need to invest in education, but given strained budgets, that investment ought to be strategic. This is where the Global Education Policy Dashboard (GEPD)—a low-cost, nimble, but comprehensive tool that measures key drivers of learning throughout an education system—comes in.

BRIAN STACY, SERGIO VENEGAS MARIN, ADRIEN CIRET, HALSEY ROGERS, MARIE-HELENE CLOUTIER | MAY 25, 2023

READ BLOG
Early warning systems can help prevent dropouts, but administrators need to consider critical aspects to increase effectiveness

Extended school closures due to COVID-19 increased concerns about students dropping out of school. In response, many Latin American countries accelerated the development of early warning systems (EWS), which use student data to help identify whether a student is at risk of dropping out of school, allowing timely action to be taken by the school to prevent this outcome.

CAMILA ALEGRÍA, CIRO AVITABILE, ANNIE CHUMPITAZ TORRES | MAY 24, 2023

More and better reading during a pandemic? Lessons from Cambodia

Improving literacy is crucial for children to succeed academically and enhance their life opportunities. While many countries have made significant progress, considerable challenges remain, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Cambodia is one such country where over 50% of children struggle to read or understand a simple story by the end of primary school. Pandemic-linked school closures worsened students' already humble prospects for becoming good readers.

MICHAEL CRAWFORD, DAVID RUTKOWSKI, LESLIE RUTKOWSKI | MAY 19, 2023
New literacy data shines a spotlight on the learning crisis

Since 2018, the World Bank has warned early and frequently about a silent learning crisis brewing for a generation of children. This crisis has deepened with the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered school closures for 1.5 billion students globally. Since then, researchers have undertaken painstaking empirical work to detail overviews of learning and enrollment losses. Data that reveals the extent of the crisis is of crucial importance to catalyze bold investments and reforms of education systems.

JAIME SAAVEDRA, SHEENA FAZILI, YI NING WONG, KOEN GEVEN, MARIE-HELENE CLOUTIER | MAY 16, 2023

READ BLOG

Overcoming multiple global crises: four key trends for policy action in Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) found itself harder hit by global crises than most regions. In 2020, its economy contracted by 6.4 percent, with job losses affecting 8.3 percent of the workforce. Despite government efforts to cushion the shock, excluding Brazil, around 19 million people fell back into poverty, and 13.2 million moved out of the middle class.

IVAN GACHET, SERGIO OLIVIERI | MAY 15, 2023

READ BLOG
3 reasons why investing in the early years is crucial for Pakistan

Imagine a child born in Pakistan today – by their 18th birthday, they can expect to only be 41 percent as productive as they could be if they enjoyed complete education and full health. And a major part of this deficit happens in the first five years of a child’s life – with lack of access to good health, adequate nutrition, early stimulation and learning opportunities, responsive caregiving, and safety and security.

AMNA ANSARI, AMER HASAN | MAY 12, 2023

Fast and furious: Crises call for a new kind of research

Is there a way to do things faster? So that answers come quicker and serve the beneficiaries now instead of later? Our new paper, written with a team of co-authors across five countries, has tried to do this – with both speed and scale. We conducted a five-country randomized trial within just 18 months. We tested the impact of phone-based educational tutorials, providing timely evidence on the effectiveness of this approach during COVID-19 school closures.

SHWETLENA SABARWAL, NOAM ANGRIST | MAY 08, 2023

50 years after landmark study, returns to education remain strong

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of Returns to Education: An International Comparison by George Psacharopoulos. The book led to a revolution in analyses of the returns to education by
showing that the average payoff to education is higher in less developed than in advanced countries.

HARRY A. PATRINOS | MAY 03, 2023

Improving school enrollment and learning through videos and mobiles: Experimental evidence from northern Nigeria

A new World Bank paper tested the effectiveness of a demand-promotion and home-learning intervention targeting 6- to 9-year-old boys and girls and their parents in Jigawa and Kano states in northern Nigeria. The study took place in communities where schools had recently received substantial grants and could absorb new students.

VICTOR OROZCO, ERICKA RASCÓN RAMÍREZ | MAY 03, 2023

Analyzing education outcomes and skills mismatch in Croatia’s lagging Slavonia region

Amid overlapping crises—climate change, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and high inflation—it is imperative for governments to ensure that communities, especially rural ones, do not fall behind. The education sector can help in resolving these issues by implementing transformative efforts, including raising the quality of education and aligning the skills of the local workforce with the needs of the global economy, ultimately promoting local growth and prosperity.

LUCIA BRAJKOVIC, DIEGO AMBASZ | MAY 03, 2023
How to use ChatGPT to support teachers: The good, the bad, and the ugly

ChatGPT 3.5 – an artificial-intelligence (AI) chatbot – has been around since November 2022. To say it has the potential to revolutionize education systems is an understatement. Currently, it’s unclear exactly how the chatbot will affect the sector, but it’s clear it is both a threat and a gamechanger. There are the skeptics, who have tried to ban ChatGPT in schools, and the advocates, who think it is the “silver bullet” solution to a host of education challenges around the world.

TRACY WILICHOWSKI, CRISTÓBAL COBO | MAY 02, 2023

See Education for Global Development for all blogs posted by the Education Global Practice.

Podcasts

The Essential Role of Teachers in Implementing Adaptive Technologies in Public Schools: Lessons from the Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Kenya, and Ecuador
Apple | Spotify | May 9 - Word Bank EduTech Podcast

Lancement de la EdTech Policy Academy en Afrique
Apple | Spotify | May 1 - Word Bank EduTech Podcast

Building and Sustaining National ICT Education Agencies: Lessons from Korea (KERIS)
Apple | Spotify | April 21 - Word Bank EduTech Podcast

TOP TWEETS (May 2023)
VIDEO CLIP 4 | @theglobaltemi explaining the critical link between #Education, #ClimateChange, and #Youth leaders.

Stay tuned for tomorrow's last clip!
#EndLearningPoverty

---

LIVE at #EWF2023!

NEW REPORT | Today the @GEEP launch their new report on cost-effective approaches to improve global learning! Using recent evidence, the #GEEP share “Smart Buys” to improve learning in low-and middle-income countries.

Read now: bit.ly/42zKVOz

---

Connect with us on Twitter!
Adequacy for whom? Equity of education spending matters

Figure 4. Sub-national education spending disparities

Source: Al-Samarrai and Benveniste (2022) based on several country studies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Subnational disparities in education spending are another source of inequity in the adequacy of public education financing. These subnational disparities often amplify prevailing income inequalities and patterns of exclusion (Figure 4). In many countries, per-child education spending is significantly higher in more affluent regions. In Indonesia, for instance, central government transfers—which represent over 60 percent of subnational revenues—are allocated on a district rather than per-capita basis, leading to huge disparities in per capita spending that are not commensurate with differences across location in costs of providing education.

Click HERE to learn more.