WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETINGS EVENT

At the Heart of a Resilient Future:
Investing in Education for Our Children and Youth
(Wednesday, October 12 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM EDT)

The COVID-19 crisis—compounded by crises stemming from conflict, climate, and price shocks—has erased years of human capital progress and efforts to reduce inequality within and between countries. Prolonged pandemic-related school closures, and the learning losses suffered by children have been staggering. Today, 70 percent of 10-year-olds in low and middle-income countries are unable to understand a simple written text. And loss of employment will cause lasting damage to the productivity of current and future generations. These learning losses, as well as limited employment recovery among youth, will likely lead to lifelong negative impact on their futures, and is a costly missed opportunity for boosting growth and prosperity between and within countries. Without action, this generation of students now risks losing US$21 trillion in potential lifetime earnings in present value, equivalent to a reduction of 10% in lifetime earnings for each year of schooling lost. More than one billion young people have had their education and training opportunities interrupted, according to the International Labour Organization.

This event will bring together government leaders, international experts, civil society, and private sector representatives to discuss policy priorities that can support a sustained recovery in learning and skills development. They will share insights and successes that can help restore and accelerate human capital outcomes.

LEARN MORE
EVENT | Transforming Education Summit  
(Sep. 16 - 17 - 19, 2022 - UN HQs, New York, USA)

The Transforming Education Summit (TES) was convened in response to a global crisis in education – one of equity and inclusion, quality, and relevance. Often slow and unseen, this crisis is having a devastating impact on the futures of children and youth worldwide. The Summit provided a unique opportunity to elevate education to the top of the global political agenda and to mobilize action, ambition, solidarity and solutions to recover pandemic-related learning losses and sow the seeds to transform education in a rapidly changing world.

The World Bank had ample participation in key TES events, including on “Leaders Day”: President Malpass shared the actions needed to recover global losses and accelerate learning in “The Global Challenge of Addressing the Learning Crisis” event with Jill Biden, the President of Sierra Leone, and several Ministers and high-level partner representatives.

Managing Director Mari Pangestu participated in the “Advancing Girls’ Equality Through Education” with Malala Yousafzai, and high-level representatives of the UN and other partner organizations. She also gave remarks at the “Financing Education – Call to Action on Financing Education” event alongside football legend and activist Patrice Evra, high level representatives of partner organizations, and video messages from UN Secretary-General António Guterres and UN Special Envoy for Education Gordon Brown.


Related: Replay the main event | Check all the other events | Remarks by David Malpass, President, World Bank | TES joint blog by World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, UK government Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), USAID, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | World Bank immersive story on learning in crisis

[Link to TES website]
Commitment to Action on Foundational Learning

The Transforming Education Summit (TES), convened by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General to coincide with the 77th UN General Assembly, aimed to mobilize political ambition, action, solidarity, and solutions with a view to recover pandemic-related learning losses and transform education between now and 2030.

During the Transforming Education Summit, countries around the world were invited to endorse the Commitment to Action on Foundational Learning to ensure all children, including the most marginalized, develop foundational learning to realize their full potential and participate in society.

Nearly six-out-of-ten children globally are estimated to be affected by learning poverty, meaning they are unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of ten. In low- and middle-income countries, the share is an estimated seven-out-of-ten children. This learning crisis has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Children who cannot read and understand a simple text will struggle to learn anything else in school. They are more likely to repeat a grade and more likely to drop out of school. They are less likely to benefit from further training and skills programs. At a national level, this will lead to worse health outcomes, greater youth unemployment and deeper levels of poverty. Every child deserves the dignity and opportunity that foundational learning brings.

The Commitment to Action (CIA) recognizes that foundational learning provides the essential building blocks for all other learning, knowledge and higher-order skills.

Related: Download the Commitment to Action [HERE](#)
World Bank Foundational Learning Compact (FLC)
Strengthening Education Systems for Better Learning Outcomes

The Foundational Learning Compact (FLC) is a World Bank umbrella trust fund created to support country-specific and global efforts to pursue systemic and sustained improvements in education systems that lead to better learning outcomes.

The FLC is designed around early childhood, primary, and secondary education. The high-level objective for early childhood and primary education activities will be to contribute to reducing Learning Poverty (LP), through targeted actions focused on improving foundational learning.

The World Bank is working with a number of donors and technical partners to make the Foundational Learning Compact a powerful tool for the future of learning in low- and middle-income countries. They include: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF); the LEGO Foundation; Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). With their support and others, the FLC is funding education initiatives that are currently operating in many different countries around the world.

REPORT LAUNCH | The State of Global Learning Poverty: 2022 Update

As a result of the worst shock to education and learning in recorded history, learning poverty has increased by a third in low- and middle-income countries, with an estimated 70% of 10-year-olds unable to understand a simple written text, according to a new report published by the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, UK government Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), USAID, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

This rate was 57% before the pandemic, but now the learning crisis has deepened. This generation of students now risks losing $21 trillion in potential lifetime earnings in present value, or the equivalent of 17% of today’s global GDP, up from the $17 trillion estimated in 2021.

Related: Publication | Press Release | Blog | Remarks by David Malpass, President, World Bank Group | Video Testimonials: David Malpass; Catherine Russell; Rodger Voorhies; Jaime Saavedra; Stefania Giannini; Alicia Herbert Obe; and LeAnna Marr

READ THE REPORT
REPORT LAUNCH | The RAPID Framework and a Guide for Learning Recovery and Acceleration

The global disruptions to schooling caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have been unprecedented in the history of mass education. As schools have reopened, it has been tempting to resume business as usual, on the assumption that once children are back in classrooms their learning will soon get back on track. This would be a mistake. To avoid a permanent impact on the human capital accumulation of this generation, countries need to focus on reversing those losses and accelerating learning.

This Guide presents a R.A.P.I.D. framework to tackle the learning losses caused by the pandemic and build forward better that is based on five evidence-based policy actions: Reach all children; Assess learning; Prioritize the fundamentals, Increase the efficiency of instruction, and Develop psychosocial health and wellbeing. Featuring a menu of policy options as well as resources, country examples and considerations for implementation, the Guide will help education authorities make decisions needed to recover and accelerate learning.

Related: Publication | Press release | READ THE REPORT

REPORT LAUNCH | Education Finance Watch 2022

A new World Bank-UNESCO report released in time for the Transforming Education Pre-Summit that took place in Paris (June 28-30) shows that the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened existing gaps in education investment across and within countries. It warns that a reprioritization of funding for education is needed to avoid widening learning inequalities and exacerbating the blow to the future earning potential of today’s students, now estimated to be close to $21 trillion in lifetime earnings, above the $17 trillion estimated in 2021.

Education Finance Watch 2022, an annual report on the global state of education financing jointly produced by the World Bank, the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, and the UNESCO.
Institute for Statistics (UIS), finds that despite the significant learning losses stemming from the COVID-related school closures, overall government education spending has remained stagnant. Since the onset of the pandemic, overall bilateral aid to education has fallen, while households continue to take on a large share of education costs in low-income countries.

Related: Publication | Press Release | Flyer

READ THE REPORT

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 when children do return to school, schools can provide the necessary environments to ensure children learn.

LEARN MORE

World Bank Education and COVID-19 (coronavirus) Response

- The State of Global Learning Poverty 2022 Update
- Education Finance Watch 2022
- Western and Central Africa Education Strategy 2022-2025

Upcoming Events

- October 5 | World Bank Event: “Putting Teachers at the Center: Celebrating World Teachers’ Day 2022”
- October 10 | World Mental Health Day
Pakistan’s Floods are Deepening its Learning Crisis

Pakistan recently experienced one of the worst floods in the country’s history. Heavy monsoon rains, about 6 times the average of the last thirty years, have affected more than 33 million people. Around one-third of the country’s land mass is under water. We hope that this crisis is an international wake-up call, making clear that school systems urgently need to be made more climate resilient.

JAIME SAAVEDRA, LYNNE SHERBURNE-BENZ | SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

What does it take to deliver quality early learning that nurtures children’s full potential?

Quality early childhood education (ECE) is one of the most important investments societies can make to help children build strong foundations that will support a lifetime of learning. This summer, we launched the World Bank’s new volume Quality Early Learning: Nurturing Children’s Potential, which makes the case for more and better investments in quality ECE to make the most of its enormous potential.

MAGDALENA BENDINI, AMANDA DEVERCELLI, ELAINE DING, MELISSA KELLY | SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

A new opportunity to help ensure all children learn and fulfill their...
potential
We are confident that today's youth, given the skills and opportunities, will lead us toward a peaceful, sustainable, and prosperous future. It is this hope that leads families and communities to make sacrifices to give our children the best start in life, specifically, the education they need to lead happy and productive lives. We must be sure that children aren't just in school, but that they are learning.

JAIME SAAVEDRA, STEFANIA GIANNINI, ROBERT JENKINS, ALICIA HERBERT, LEANNA MARR, BENJAMIN PIPER | SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Morocco’s experience in ensuring quality preschool education
Since 2018, Morocco has been implementing a large program to broaden access to quality preschool education. In just a few years, the country significantly increased the number of children in pre-school, with a pre-school enrolment rate rising from 49.5 percent in 2018 to 71.3 percent in 2020. In addition, the share of so-called “irregular” preschools—which are neither public, private, nor partnerships with other entities—decreased by more than 30 percent in favor of an increase in the share of private and public preschool institutions. From 2018 to 2021, 13,594 new preschool classrooms were created nationwide.

ABDELJALIL BENZOUINA, NISRINE IBN ABDELJALIL, FOUAD CHAFIQI | SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

From learning recovery to education transformation
Over the past three years, the pandemic has brought profound disruptions to children’s learning, exacerbating the pre-existing global learning crisis. We need to act urgently to recover learning and seize this opportunity to build education systems back better. Yet, new findings from the fourth round of the Survey on National Education Responses to COVID-19 School Closures show that many countries are still not taking targeted and proven steps to address learning loss. As the Transforming Education Summit rapidly approaches in New York, 16–19 September 2022, further reflection and stocktaking is required to transform education to ensure Sustainable Development Goal 4 can be achieved.

STEFANIA GIANNINI, ROBERT JENKINS, JAIME SAAVEDRA, ANDREAS SCHLEICHER | SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Reducing gaps in education
remains important in Vietnam as new school year kicks in

More than 23 million students across Vietnam tuned in to the reverberating sound of beating drums to mark the start of a new school year. By tradition, the thunderous drumming evokes the excitement of children as they embark on a journey of learning and development. Education levels today far exceeds those of previous generations, with nearly universal enrollment in primary and lower secondary levels.

ANH THI BAO TRAN, JUDY YANG | SEPTEMBER 07, 2022

On International Literacy Day Can We Help children Unstick the Words from the Page?

Seven out of ten children in Low- and Middle-income Countries (LMICs) don’t read with understanding by age 10. No one doubts the urgency of reversing this tragic failure of learning, but what exactly should be done? There is no better time than World Literacy Day to ask the questions whose answers point to the best path to immediate improvement for hundreds of millions of children.

MICHAEL CRAWFORD, KATHY RASTLE, NEHA RAHEEL | SEPTEMBER 07, 2022

Out of the crossroads, onto a fast track: Short-cycle higher education programs in Latin America and the Caribbean

At a crossroads—this is how we described higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in our 2017 regional study. During the study dissemination, we heard from firms on their struggle to find qualified workforce and from students on their struggle to find jobs even after having completed a higher education program. The frustration was palpable and the message clear—the region’s higher education systems needed ambitious reforms in order to respond to the countries’ needs.

EMANUELA DI GROPELLO, MARÍA MARTA FERREYRA | SEPTEMBER 01, 2022

Top 5 Most Viewed Education Blogs

As we take a short editorial break for the summer, we looked back at our most viewed blogs from the past year. It’s no surprise that many of our most viewed blogs addressed the
global learning crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and measures to help get children back in school and catch up on lost learning. Others examined reforms to provide free primary education in DRC, school leadership and technology for teacher professional development.

CHRISTINA NELSON|AUGUST 22, 2022

Connecting Vietnam’s youth to high-skilled jobs: What does it take?

As we celebrated International Youth Day on August 12, we reflect on the progress made in ensuring that the youth of Vietnam are on a pathway to greater upwards economic mobility. Achieving this requires the full utilization of their human capital potential by providing high-quality education, training, and better employment opportunities to meet the rising aspirations and talents of today’s young generation.

JUDY YANGANH THI BAO TRAN | AUGUST 18, 2022

Declining financial resources for mounting learning poverty could spell disaster for millions of children

Even before COVID-19, the world was facing a learning crisis, with nearly 6 out of every 10 ten-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries (LICs and MICs) suffering from learning poverty — meaning they were unable to read and understand a simple story. Now COVID-19-related school closures and disruptions have deepened the crisis, sharply increasing learning poverty and exacerbating the inequalities in education.

THOMAS POULSEN | AUGUST 09, 2022

How to get the most out of online teacher training in Indonesia

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced teachers around the world, including in Indonesia, to quickly adapt and develop new skills to deliver classes online, while the professional development support they receive has also shifted to the virtual format. As such, online training for teachers surged during the pandemic.
Data for better lives in Cameroon

Expanding the infrastructure for broadband, which is a prerequisite for accelerating digitalization, is a current priority for Cameroon. Better access to data through affordable and good quality broadband can lead to better lives in multiple ways. Governments can use it to improve programs, policies, and to better serve marginalized people and communities. The private sector can use data to drive platform-based business models that boost economic activity and international trade in services. Individuals, empowered by data, can make better decisions and hold governments accountable.

TATA DINUY BOLIVIAN | JULY 26, 2022

How to prioritize education in a time of crisis

This is a critical time for education. A cost-of-living crisis, including rising food and energy prices and the war in Ukraine are putting pressure on policymakers to cut education budgets. It is tempting because economic dividends from education only materialize decades later and students cannot exert political pressure by voting.

Yet as education advisors with the governments of Sierra Leone and Rwanda, we have seen first-hand how governments are prioritizing education funding. To some, these countries may seem like unlikely champions of education. But they are working hard to change that – and investing in education is a central pillar of their economic strategies.

CAMILLA KUCKARTZ and MATHIAS ESMANN | JULY 21, 2022

Measuring to improve: the quality of pedagogical practices in early childhood education

Early childhood education is essential. There is abundant international evidence on its positive effects on variables such as educational attainment or salary when children enter the labor market as adults. Building a solid foundation in boys and girls from early childhood supports the sustainable development of a country, in addition to promoting equity.
Empowering Africa’s youth to thrive in a digital economy

In June 2022, a young man in Benin’s Sèmè City—a government-sponsored innovation campus for technical and vocational training (TVET), higher education, and research, as well as a business accelerator and incubator—proudly displayed what he had made using design software, 3-D printing, laser cutters, and other digital tools. He was bursting with excitement about his newly unleashed creativity to envision, design and build precision products in plastic, metal, or wood.

Accelerate Equality: Catalyzing legal change for Cameroon’s inclusive communities

For many decades, pregnant young girls in Cameroon have not been allowed to stay in school. School administrators and other community members considered them poor examples for others, and often these girls were dismissed from school, permanently. Unsurprisingly, this resulted in high dropout rates and fewer opportunities for young girls to live healthy and productive lives.

COVID-19 and Nigeria’s human capital crisis

Nigeria’s ambitious poverty-reduction targets hinge on developing human capital. Many of the drivers of poverty are considered in detail in a new report, “A Better Future for All Nigerians: Nigeria Poverty Assessment 2022.” Health, nutrition, and education are among the most critical for building human capital.

See Education for Global Development for all blogs posted by the Education Global Practice.
Leveraging Blockchain and Web3 in Education - Part I
Apple | Spotify | September 21 - Word Bank EduTech Podcast

Introducing 16 Guides on Key EdTech Topics
Apple | Spotify | August 30 - Word Bank EduTech Podcast

Exploring How Artificial Intelligence is Assisting Teachers in Creating Effective Classrooms - Part II
Apple | Spotify | August 22 - Word Bank EduTech Podcast

Exploring How Artificial Intelligence is Assisting Teachers in Creating Effective Classrooms - Part I
Apple | Spotify | August 12 - Word Bank EduTech Podcast

TOP TWEETS (September)

World Bank Education
@WBG_Education

“Governments and all development partners need to recognize the magnitude of the #education challenge by politically and financially committing to #EndLearningPoverty” - @JaimeSaavedra22 @WorldBank

wrl.d.bg/Rouw50KHmo6

TOP TWEETS (August)

World Bank Education
@WBG_Education

The learning crisis is a global challenge but not an impossible one.

Report & blog from @OECDeduSkills @UNESCO @UNESCOstat @UNICEFEducation & @WorldBank sets out the RAPID action needed to ensure every child learns. wrl.d.bg/Ylpu50Kltj

#EndLearningPoverty #LetMeLearn
World Bank Education
@WBEd

As we approach the @TransformingEdu Summit, ALL countries are invited to endorse the Commitment to Action on Foundational Learning to ensure all children can realize their full potential and participate in society!

Learn more: wrld.bg/nWh5O KobEn #EndLearningPoverty

World Bank Education
@WBEd

Today find out why the @WorldBank is the largest financer of #education in the developing world.

Download our factsheet: wrld.bg/gGc950KioY

World Bank Education
@WBEd

Watch @WorldBankECA’s @hpatinos explain what #LearningLoss is, how countries in #CentralAsia can address these losses, and what support the @WorldBank can offer: wrld.bg/x9E50JM8XP

they threaten decades of progress in getting all children enrolled into school,
DO YOU KNOW?

As schools have reopened, it has been tempting to resume business as usual, on the assumption that once children are back in classrooms their learning will soon get back on track. This would be a mistake. To avoid a permanent impact on the human capital accumulation of this generation, countries need to focus on reversing those losses and accelerating learning.

Learn more about how to tackle the current education crisis: Click HERE

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