

## Education For All Action Guide



*Children leave school at the end of the morning school shift in Mandanpur Khadar, Delhi. This overcrowded primary school has 2,400 pupils.*

*Photo: David Levene/GCE UK*

### Introduction

In 2000 over 180 countries around the world promised that children everywhere, girls and boys alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015.

In 2000 there were around 110 million children out of school. Early progress towards education for all was rapid and many millions of children enrolled in school for the first time. However recently progress has slowed down. Conflicts, economic crises and a lack of political initiative have meant that 58 million children were still out of primary school in 2015.

### Why has progress slowed?

Good education is about more than just the number of children who attend school. Teachers, teacher training, class sizes and school facilities are also very important if children are to receive a good education. In many countries enrolment has grown without enough investment to make sure children are learning to the best of their ability. In addition social attitudes towards issues like gender and disability prevent many children from attending school. Finally crises such as conflict, natural disasters and health epidemics are preventing 37 million children worldwide from going to school\*.

### What needs to change?

More investment in education is required to meet the needs of girls, poor children, children with disabilities and children living in crisis affected countries. However rich countries are not delivering some of the aid money they have promised, and some countries with many children out of school are not spending enough of their own budgets on education.

*The walk to school in Mandanpur Khadar, Delhi.*

*Credit: David Levene/GCE UK*

### What can you do?

1. **Inform:** Teach others about the issue of education and the many barriers to children learning in school.

2. **Broadcast:** Plan creative actions to help raise awareness in your school and community.

3. **Influence:** Think about how to convince important decision makers to do something to help.



\*Statistics from [www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org)

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### 1. Inform

Not everyone is aware of all the challenges facing children out of school, so inform other young people to get them on board.

- Explain: Show young people the PowerPoint and discuss the main points with them.
- Get thinking: Ask young people to map out their ideas about the barriers to education, analyse the most important challenges together and suggest potential solutions.
- Use examples: Use the case studies in the workshop plan and PowerPoint to help make the issue come alive for others.



*A giant playground “sister” formed by children in the UK to raise awareness of the large number of girls missing out on school. Credit: GCE UK*



*Campaigner, Emma speaking to MPs at the House of Commons in 2013. Credit: Mark Chivlers/GCE UK.*

### 2. Broadcast

Plan events and activities to raise awareness in your school and community.

- Create a powerful message: Write a petition, design “paper buddies” of teachers or children (e.g. girls, children with disabilities, those forced to flee conflict) with messages written on them.
- Plan an event: For example, organise a giant photo shoot (like the one above) or make a film to show in an assembly.
- Spread your message wider: Invite the press, parents or other schools to your event. Write about your event for the school newsletter, blog or website.

### 3. Influence

To give your actions a bigger impact, try to influence decision makers. Show them how much you care about sending every child to school.

- Write a convincing letter to a politician or your local representative to support all children getting an education.
- It should be no more than one page long, present your points clearly and be persuasive. You could also try to persuade local or national businesses or education leaders to support you.
- If you haven’t done so already, send decision makers your “paper buddy” messages, your petition or photos.

#### More Action Ideas:

- Visit Send My Friend to School at [www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org) to find out about this year’s campaign
- Organise a film screening of Girl Rising. Visit [www.girlrising.com](http://www.girlrising.com).
- Research charities who are working to improve education in developing countries and organise a fundraiser for an organisation whose values and projects you support.