

FACT SHEET | GLOBAL EDUCATION

The Scope

- Over **90 million children** worldwide do not attend primary school; another **150 million children will drop** out before they finish elementary school.
- There are many reasons why children do not attend school. Some of the most **common barriers** include: school fees, child labor, poor school quality, health crises such as HIV/AIDS, discrimination and conflict.
- Nearly **75 percent** of the world's out-of-school children live in **South/West Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa**.
- **Over 40 million** out-of-school children live in **Sub-Saharan Africa**.
- Studies find that **100 million girls** currently enrolled in school **will drop out** before completing primary schooling. Providing girls with one extra year of education beyond the average can **boost wages by up to 20%** and **reduce infant mortality by 5-10%**.
- The ability to attend school is only the first challenge; quality of school is also important. In some places, there may be as many as **100-150 children in each classroom** and not enough teachers or supplies.
- **47 out of 163 countries** have achieved universal primary education and **20 countries are on track for 2015**. **23 countries**, the overwhelming majority of them in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, are **unlikely to achieve universal primary education** and show **declining enrollment rates**.



GCE Mozambique

The International Response

- The world has come together twice to make commitments to ensuring **Universal Primary Education by 2015**.
 - In 2000, **164 countries committed to the Education for All goals** at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal.
 - **189 countries** agreed to the Millennium Development Goals for reducing global poverty by the year 2015, which include universal access to education and equal access among boys and girls.
- While some countries are keeping their commitments to these goals, others are falling behind on their pledge to help all children receive a quality, basic education.
- **Out of 22 rich countries, the United States is ranked 20th** for its level of commitment to funding education.

Get Involved! Join Up: Education Rights Now

- The Global Campaign for Education's Annual Action Week for Global Education will be held on April 23-29, 2007. To learn how to get involved, visit www.netaid.org