

## EDUCATION POLICY AND DATA CENTER

*Making sense of data to improve education for development*



In a recent study, EPDC found a strong link between education inequality within countries and violent conflict. Inequality in education translates into inequities in economic opportunities, political participation, and health outcomes.



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### FHI 360 EDUCATION POLICY AND DATA CENTER

EPDC is a unique resource for global education data, analysis and custom research. Leveraging its access to a wealth of international education data sources, EPDC applies its expertise in data collection and statistical analysis towards existing and emerging issues in education policy and practice, such as estimating the cost of reaching Education for All and examining whether education inequalities increase the probability of conflict. **EPDC's research is available at [www.epdc.org](http://www.epdc.org).**

## THE LAST BARRIER: EPDC Launches New Initiative Studying Causes and Effects of Education Inequality

School attendance rates around the world have increased dramatically over the last two decades. Gender equity and school completion rates are also on the rise, yet this progress masks persistent inequalities within countries.

Many children receive a poorer quality education because of their race, ethnicity, religion and other social or economic factors. These children fail to learn because their schools are plagued with overcrowding, poorly prepared teachers, and limited learning materials. They face bleak futures, marked by early marriages, family sizes that outpace resources, and poorer health for themselves and their families.

Because there is limited information on the root causes and magnitude of inequality in education, policy makers and development practitioners find it difficult to fully understand and respond to the situation. *The Last Barrier: Exploring Inequality in Education* is the Education Policy and Data Center's (EPDC) answer to that information gap. Through this ambitious new initiative, EPDC, a leading international research center housed within FHI 360, will convene and lead a consortium to research the institutional and cultural barriers preventing universal access to

**About FHI 360:** FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

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quality schooling and develop an evidence base of effective ways to break cycles of inequality. The consortium will include researchers, practitioners and advocacy groups to ensure that the research is rigorous, well-grounded and that findings are shared with those in positions to make or influence change.

Through *The Last Barrier*, EPDC has made a Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action to unpack the challenges facing disadvantaged groups in equitably accessing quality education. The initiative will address such questions as:

- **What is the appropriate way to measure and track inequality in education, taking into account the global expansion of access?**
- **What are the short- and long-term effects of inequality in education?**
- **For cognitive and non-cognitive learning outcomes?**
- **For opportunities in the job market, particularly among members of marginalized groups?**
- **For economic growth, peace and stability, civic participation, and health outcomes?**

- **What strategies and policies have been deployed to eliminate inequality in education and what have been the results?**

*The Last Barrier* will build on EPDC's latest research study, *Does Education Inequality Lead to Violent Conflict?* (2015), which includes a global analysis of the links between education inequality and violent conflict, and two country case studies exploring policymaking for peace building through equity. In another recent paper, *Teenage, Married, and Out of School* (2014), EPDC examined the devastating consequences of early marriage on school participation in nine countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

EPDC is seeking support from individuals and organizations that are committed to ending inequality in education. This support can take many forms including: funding to carry out research; co-creating the research agenda and undertaking research; publicizing the initiative; enhancing dedicated webpages; developing infographics or animated renderings of research findings; and hosting events.

**For more information on *The Last Barrier: Exploring Inequality in Education*, please visit [www.epdc.org/lastbarrier](http://www.epdc.org/lastbarrier).**



*The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) convenes leaders to turn ideas into action. CGI Commitments to Action represent bold new ways that CGI members address global challenges—implemented through new methods of partnership and designed to maximize impact. Commitments can be small or large, global or local. No matter the size or scope, commitments help CGI members translate practical goals into meaningful and measurable results.*