

Highlights

EDUCATE ALL GIRLS AND BOYS IN SOUTH ASIA

The Global Out-of-School Children Initiative

UNICEF South Asia
August 2015

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The South Asia Out-of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI) is part of the global initiative launched by UNICEF and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in 2010. The goal of the initiative is to make significant and sustained reduction in the number of out-of-school children around the world by

- developing comprehensive profiles of excluded children using consistent and innovative statistical methods;
- linking these profiles to the barriers and bottlenecks that lead to exclusion; and
- identifying, promoting and implementing sound policies that address exclusion from a multi-sectorial perspective.

WHEN IS A CHILD CONSIDERED TO BE “OUT OF SCHOOL”? The OOSCI defines as “out of school” children of primary or lower secondary school age who are not enrolled in primary or secondary education. Out-of-school children can be categorized into those who have never enrolled in school and those who enrolled but left school before completing the full primary and lower secondary education cycle.

Regional context:

- 36 million out-of-school children aged 5 to 14 live in South Asia.
- 1 in every 4 primary school-age child in the world lives in South Asia
- There are 100.6 million adolescents of lower secondary school-age in South Asia, 52% of whom are boys
- 168 million children of primary school-age live in South Asia, 52% of whom are boys. This is the highest number of any region in the world
- The region accounts for 13.3% of the total global adolescents' population.

Progress since 1999:

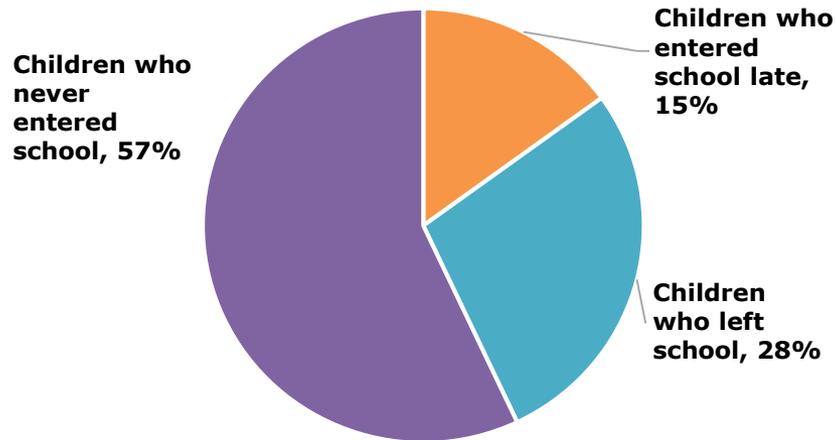
Improving child nutrition:

Stunted children are also more likely to experience difficulty in learning. In South Asia, 38% of children under five were stunted in 2013 as compared to 50% in 2000.

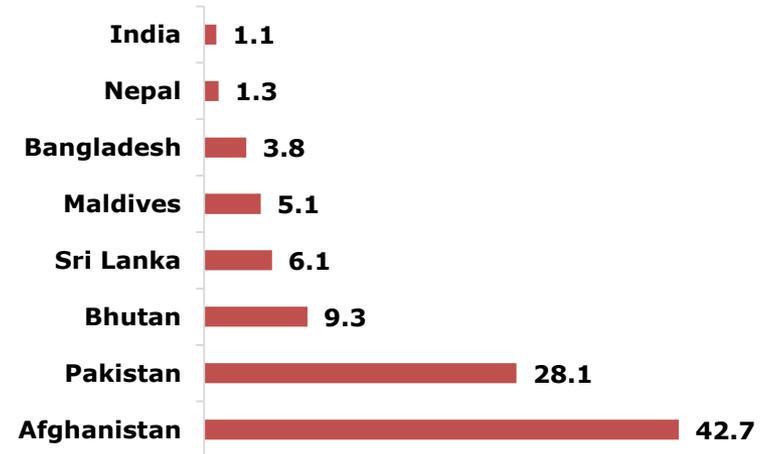
Expanding pre-school education:

55% of young children in South Asia are enrolled in pre-schools as of 2012 (up from 22% in 1992) with no major disparities in access of boys and girls.

CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGE ARE OUT OF SCHOOL IN SOUTH ASIA



COUNTRYWISE RATE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGE OUT-OF-SCHOOL (%)



Common factors keeping children from school:

1. Poverty
2. Gender

3. Remote Location
4. Social discrimination

5. Disability
6. Conflict emergencies

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

- Strengthen education sector-wide approaches (SWAps) with increased investments for marginalized groups and alternative pathways to basic education and ensure legislation for compulsory education are in place and implemented.
- Ensure that children who are out of school or at risk of dropping out receive special attention and more resources from Ministries of Education and from private and community partnerships. Provision of quality education where children are actually learning is crucial.
- Implement both large-scale holistic and targeted child-level interventions to address multiple barriers to schooling.
- Ensure interventions are evidence-based, which requires strengthening the education monitoring system to improve the availability of reliable, relevant and disaggregated data. This is a prerequisite for better identifying out-of-school children, understanding why they are out of school, and investigating how their needs and can best be addressed.

Read the full report from the official website at

https://www.unicef.org/rosa/EducateAllGirlsandBoys-UNICEF_ROSA.pdf