

Inclusive Education

An International Perspective

Dr Tanya Caulfield

BEST Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Adviser

Presentation objective

To provide an overview of inclusive education
from an international perspective

Presentation Overview

- Definition
- International frameworks
- Progress made
- Challenges
- Moving forward

What is inclusive education?

A process of addressing and responding to the diversity of needs of all children, youth and adults through increasing participation in learning, cultures and communities, and reducing and eliminating exclusion within and from education. It involves changes and modifications in content, approaches, structures and strategies, with a common vision that covers all children of the appropriate age range and a conviction that is the responsibility of the regular system to educate all children (UNESCO 2003).

Factors for exclusion

- Gender
- Disability
- Indigenous populations
- Ethnic and religious minorities
- Socioeconomic disparities
- Rural, and remote locations, including nomadic populations
- Communities affected by armed conflict and disasters
- HIV/AIDS
- Refugee/displaced populations
- Migration
- Language



***The intersection of factors
presents a multitude of potential barriers***

International frameworks: inclusive education

- MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education
 - Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
- Education for All
 - Global commitment to provide quality basic education for all children, youth, and adults
- Sustainable Development Goal #4: Quality education
 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



EDUCATION
FOR ALL



ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY EDUCATION



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION

Inclusive education so far...

Gains

- Enrolment in primary education in developing regions reached 91% in 2015 (83% in 2000) (UN 2015)
- 184 million boys and girls were enrolled in pre-primary education worldwide in 2012 (approx two-thirds increase since 1999) (UNESCO 2015)
- Increase in lower secondary gross enrolment (85% in 2012; 71% in 1999) (UNESCO 2015)

Inclusive education so far...

- 69% of countries with data reached gender parity at primary level and 48% at secondary level in 2015
- Pupil/teacher ratio declined to 83% of 146 countries with data at primary level

Inclusive education so far...

Gaps

- In 2015, 57 million children of primary school age were out-of-school
 - Girls (48%) are more likely than boys (37%) never to enrol in school
 - Boys (26%) are more likely than girls (20%) to leave/drop out-of-school (UNESCO 2015)
- Children and youth with disabilities experience significantly lower rates of primary school completion and fewer mean years of education (WHO 2011)

Inclusive education so far...

- In developing regions, children in poorest households are 4 times more likely to be out-of-school than those in the richest households (UN 2015)
- In conflict-afflicted countries, the proportion of out-of-school children increased from 30% in 1999 to 36% in 2012 (UN 2015)

Challenges

- Lack of data
 - Disaggregated data not collected
- Attitudes
 - Prejudices against children considered different
- Physical barriers
 - Many schools are not accessible and many don't accommodate the diverse needs of children
- Curriculum
 - Rigid curriculums don't allow different teaching methods



Challenges

- Teachers
 - Lack of capacity and support to teach diversity of students
- Funding
 - Schools often lack adequate facilities, educational resources, assistive devices
- Language
 - Curriculum taught in language which is not first language of some students



Moving forward

- A whole school approach is required to achieve inclusive education
- A rights-based, child-centred approach
 - Education system needs to adapt to the diversity of its learners
- Principles of inclusion need to be interpreted within country contexts so that relevant frameworks, policies and approaches can be developed to support education that is inclusive and equitable



BEST Basic Education
Sector Transformation

Thank you!

