



علم طفلاً
EDUCATE A CHILD

A programme of education above all™

التعليم
فوق
الجميع | education
above
all

Educate Every Child: Zero OOSC



December 2021

UNHCR - Uganda

**The Fight Against
Exclusion**



Why Zero OOSC?

Whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, our future on planet Earth, is intimately bound, woven into a single garment of destiny. At this moment, there are an astounding 59 million primary-aged out of school children (OOSC) worldwide. That is as unacceptable as it is unsustainable. We simply cannot move forward into the future, whistling past a burden of such obvious peril, especially one with the potential to destabilise our communities with poverty, conflict, disease, discrimination and despair. Instead of burying our heads in the sand and embracing complacency, we have the power to choose a different course.

EAC is forging a new path by working to help selected countries on the cusp of realising universal primary education (UPE) to go **#TheLastMile** and provide access to all OOSC through its **“Educate Every Child: Zero OOSC”** approach.

Never before have governments and a single foundation agreed to end the OOSC phenomenon in their respective countries. Thus far, four governments have pledged to take up this audacious Zero OOSC goal. In addition, EAC has partnered with NGOs and other key actors, such as UNICEF and the World Bank, to support these country-level efforts in the **fight against exclusion** and **accelerate progress** on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, wherein education is inextricably linked to the realisation of myriad other milestones. Accordingly, the United Nations has recognised Zero OOSC as an action within the Decade of Action in support of SDG 4.1. Ultimately, the wellbeing of our planet and humankind comes down to acknowledging and acting on a basic understanding: a world with Zero OOSC is a better world for us all.



What is EAC?

Aiming to trigger significant breakthroughs and a material difference in the lives of children who have no access to primary education, Educate A Child (EAC), a global programme of the Education Above All Foundation launched in 2012, has been helping millions of out of school children all over the world, through partnership and innovation, to overcome the access and retention barriers blocking their path to education. Playing a key role in the field of OOSC and quality primary education, EAC strives to achieve individual and social outcomes for these children and their communities, resulting in a more sustainable world for everyone.



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Our Mandate

EAC's original goal was to influence the enrolment and retention of more than 10 million children who are denied a primary education worldwide. Having surpassed this objective, EAC continues to focus on the most marginalised children who face barriers to education including, poverty, social or cultural barriers, crisis and conflict. Through partnership and an orientation towards scale, innovation and sustainability, EAC contributes to creating a world where every child can realise her/his right to quality education.

Our Vision

EAC envisions a world where all children have the opportunity to access a quality primary education. It has pursued this global endeavour by supporting and expanding direct interventions that target the barriers preventing OOSC from fulfilling their right to a quality education.



What is Zero?

The Rhyme & Reason

Far from just another campaign or passing fancy, Zero OOSC represents the credible means by which the most disadvantaged children – the high hanging fruit – in countries within an arm’s reach of UPE will, at long last, embark upon a pathway towards a better life. Their lives matter and are absolutely integral to any effort to achieve a sustainable planet Earth for generations to come. The very concept of sustainable development means nothing if we all look the other way while millions of children’s basic human right to education is left by the wayside. This is why Zero is vital.

In spite of the complexity of the challenge, perhaps what makes this moment at once so critical and

inspiring is that, through experience and partnerships, we know what the problems are and, most importantly, how to arrive at the solutions. We know what the barriers to education are and how to overcome them. Furthermore, we know that by working together in partnership across sectors, our impact is an order of magnitude greater than it is by working in isolation. The bottom line is: we know what to do and how to do it! Taken all together, there is no excuse for waiting a moment longer. We must make the benefits of UPE tangible, particularly for the high hanging fruit who remain on the margins, hoping that the promise of quality education is one day, made real.



The Formula for Zero

EAC does not hesitate to call for action on a global scale; it also creates new opportunities for the world’s OOSC to access the prospect of a brighter future vis-à-vis education. Notwithstanding the moral and legal imperatives, the data point the way: investments in basic education, starting with primary, have immediate and long-term benefits across all societal sectors, especially for national economies. In real dollars, it actually costs more to have children out of school than it does to educate them. Moreover, across 139 countries, each additional year of schooling leads to a 10 per cent increase in income; according to UNESCO, 171 million fewer people would live in poverty in low-income countries, if all students acquire basic reading skills; and 1.7 million more children could reach full growth potential if their mothers access and complete primary education. Evidently, there are no two ways about it. **Quality education, accessible to all, makes sense. It is the smart power spark plug for a sustainable future.**

The implementation of “Educate Every Child: Zero OOSC”, has seen EAC working with a number of governments that have been reaching towards UPE, aiming to bring education exclusion to a final conclusion.

Based on what we have learned through our partnership experience in addressing the OOSC challenge, EAC has approached Zero OOSC by:

- ◆ Consulting with interested governments to determine if we have common ground and a means to reach a common goal;
- ◆ Providing technical support and facilitating partnership development with and between government authorities and education stakeholders to undertake the challenge;
- ◆ Identifying affordable financing mechanisms; and
- ◆ Undertaking joint partnerships through an agreed-upon framework, budget and timeline.



Dhaka Ahsania Mission - Bangladesh

Zero OOSC strategies for an individual country can also include alternative education delivery systems in areas that are difficult to access, alternative funding models, and more robust and comprehensive data than is currently available on OOSC. Furthermore, where there are large OOSC populations, or unique internal constraints, other options may consist of elaborating “Zero OOSC Zones” as a first step towards Zero OOSC nationally.



UNICEF USA - Lebanon

Zero in Sight In Real World Terms

In real world terms, Zero has so far translated into official collaboration with partners in the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of The Gambia, the Republic of Rwanda and Zanzibar, a semi-autonomous region of the United Republic of Tanzania. The barriers to UPE in the aforementioned countries vary; however, EAC has never subscribed to a uniform, one-size-fits-all approach to increasing education access and does not intend to do so now. Therefore, each intervention strategy has been tailored to suit the distinct and inhibiting circumstances on the ground. Zero project initiatives rely on local knowledge and are the result of partnership and an unflinching focus on the rights of the children.

Djibouti

With a land mass of 23,200 square kilometres and a population size of less than 1 million, Djibouti is one of the smallest countries in Africa. The country is located at the southern entrance of the Red Sea, marking a bridge between Africa and the Middle East. Djibouti's economy relies heavily on trade at its modern seaport, which is located in a strategic

position. The Government of Djibouti recognises education as an essential pillar for the country's growth and development. As a result, the government has placed education at the centre of its development policies with universal access being legislated as a legal right.



The graphic presentation of boundaries used by EAA/EAC in this map is consistent with those produced by the United Nations Geospatial Information Section. This map is provided to facilitate the general location of EAC-supported projects. EAA/EAC does not have an official position regarding boundaries of or disputed boundaries between countries.

Project Name:

Expanding Opportunities for Learning Project

Implementing Partner:

The World Bank Group

OOSC Enrolment Target: 35,000

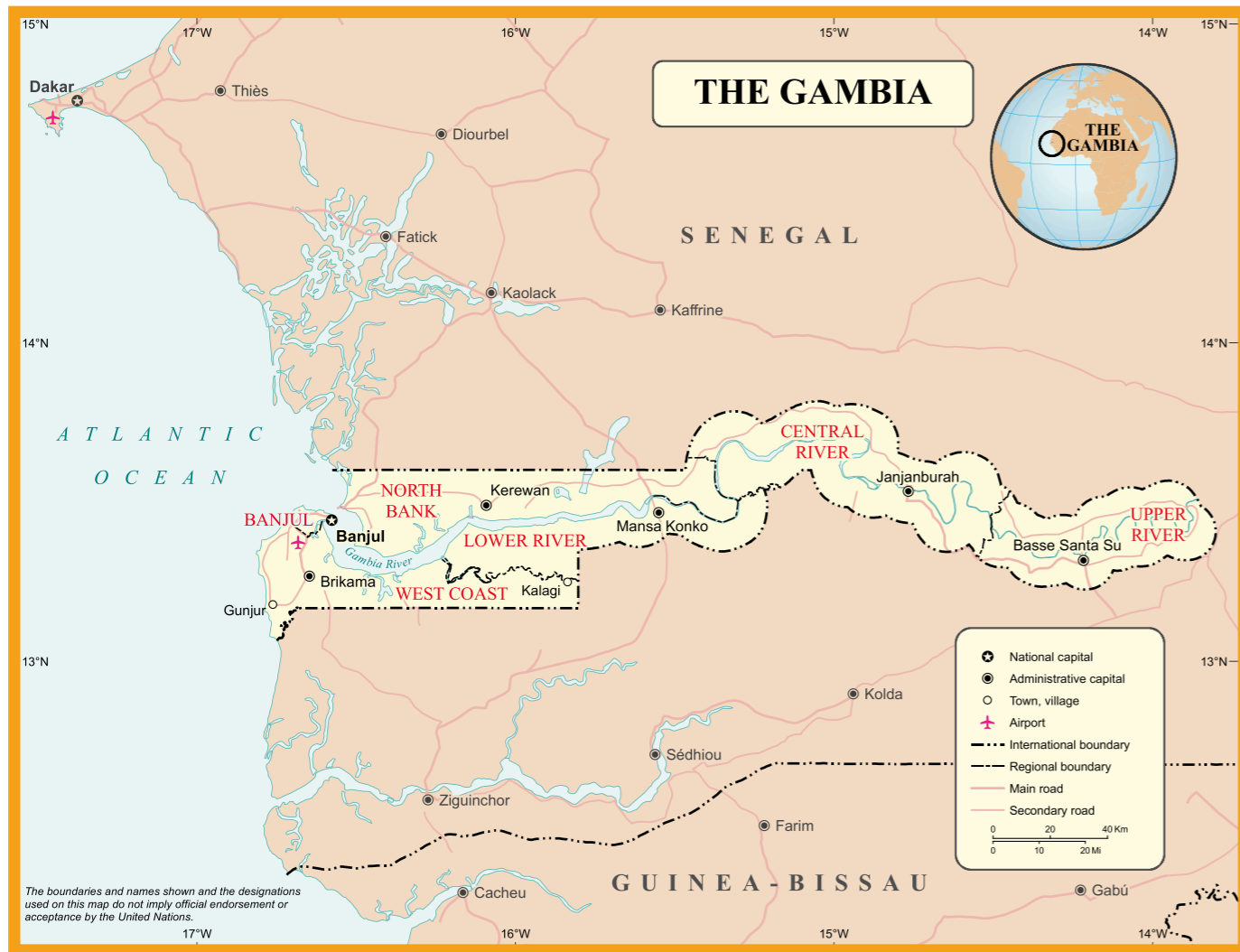
Zero-Related Activities:

Comprehensive communication campaigns; Refugee and special-needs enrolment; Capacity building for education officials to develop sub-regional plans around primary education access and retention; and Gender-sensitive initiatives to encourage girls' enrolment and transition to secondary education

The Gambia

On the western end of Africa, The Gambia, almost entirely surrounded by its neighbour, Senegal, with the exception of the Atlantic Ocean, is one of the continent's smallest countries as well. Since independence, The Gambia has enjoyed relatively long bouts of peace and stability. At present, approximately 60 per cent of the country's population is under the age of 25 and 70 per cent of Gambians earn a living as farmers, reliant on rain-fed agriculture, equating to roughly one-third of the country's GDP. Over

the years, the government has placed a premium on improving the education sector and is currently invested in increasing access to quality basic education and enhancing teaching and learning outcomes. Yet a plurality of the country's OOSC are at the primary level and significant disparities with regard to out of school rates arise when socioeconomic variables are considered – children in the bottom wealth quintiles comprise a disproportionate share of The Gambia's OOSC population at all levels of the education system.



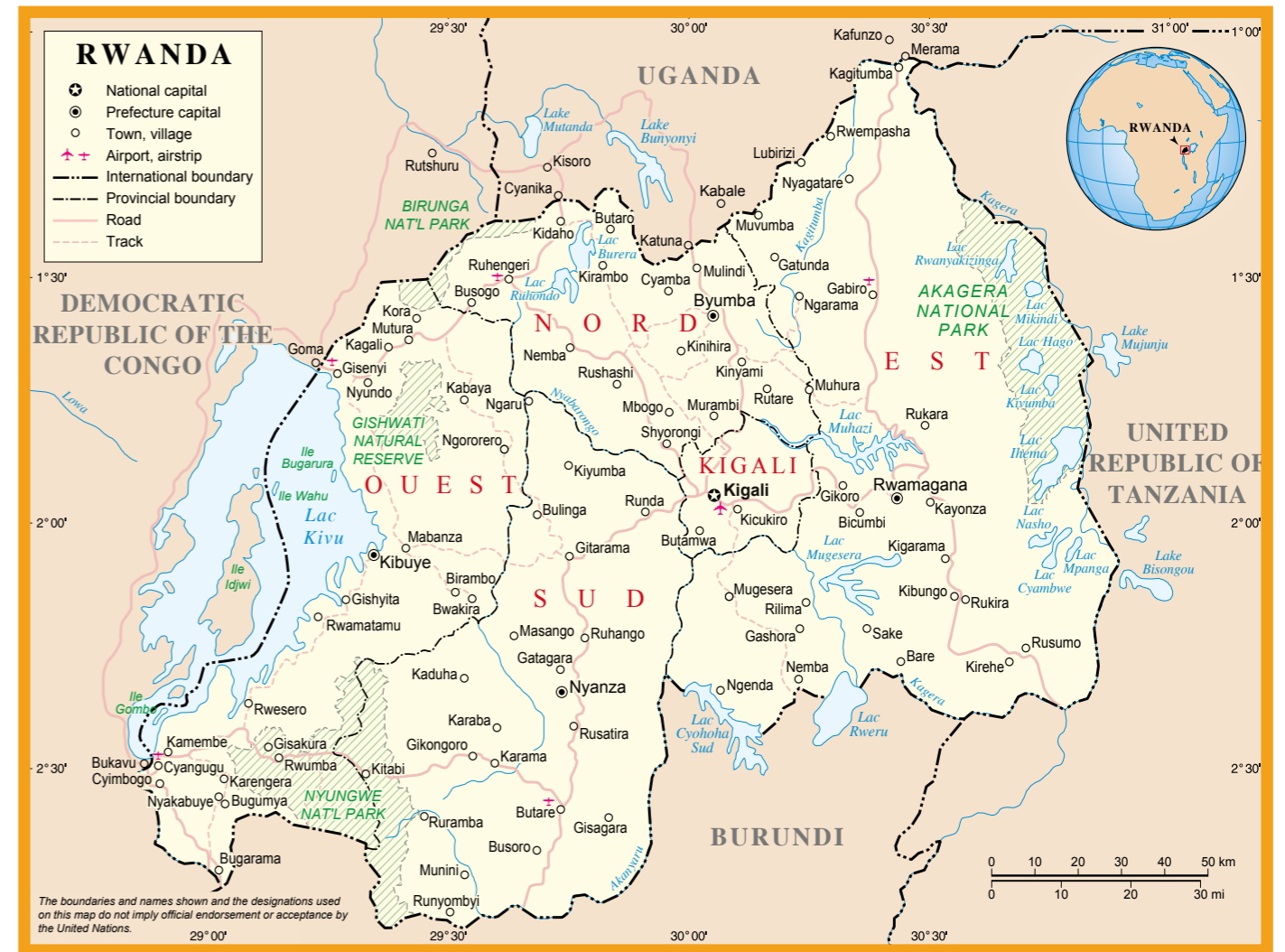
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Total Estimated OOSC Population: 48,762
Primary Completion Rate: 69.3%
Student/Trained Teachers at the Primary Level: 36:1
Percentage of Trained Teachers at the Primary Level: 100
Framework Agreement to Reach Zero: Signed in April 2020

Rwanda

A largely rural country in East Africa, Rwanda, interlocked and sharing borders with Burundi, the Democratic of the Congo, Uganda and Tanzania, has a population of approximately 12.6 million across a landmass just under 25,000 square kilometres. Rwanda is a youthful country, as roughly 39.7 per cent of people are aged 14 or younger. Education, therefore, is a key sector for the country's future development. Over the course of several decades, Rwanda has made significant strides with respect to

education, expanding access and increasing quality. Yet the country's education sector still grapples with lagging learning outcomes and teacher capacities, gender inequality, and reducing dropout and repetition rates. Furthermore, although 98 per cent of students are enrolled in education, just 71 per cent actually complete the primary education cycle and only 70 per cent of children with disabilities go to school.



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Total Estimated OOSC Population: 121,348
Primary Completion Rates: 86.5%
Student/Trained Teacher Ratio at the Primary Level: 63:1
Percentage of Trained Teachers at the Primary Level: 94
Framework Agreement to Reach Zero: Signed in June 2021

Zanzibar

Zanzibar, an archipelago off the coast of Tanzania, consists of two primary islands, Unguja and Pemba. As a semi-autonomous entity, Zanzibar has its own government with authority over the education system. The population is approximately 1.65 million, including 546,000 children between the ages of 4-17. The Government of Zanzibar is committed to ensuring that

all children realise their right to education. Though impressive gains have been recorded in terms of access and net-enrolment rates, challenges remain, as Zanzibar's average population growth is roughly 2.8 per cent annually, which places increasing pressure on a strained education system.



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- Project Name:** Education For All OOSC in Zanzibar
- Implementing Partner:** UNICEF
- OOSC Enrolment Target:** 35,732
- Zero-Related Activities:** Gender-sensitive WASH facilities; Establishing child-friendly classrooms; Community-initiated classroom construction; Provision of psycho-social support, life-skills curriculum and mentoring; Alternative-learning programmes; and Utilisation of mobile phone apps by teachers for daily attendance monitoring

Let's Get to Zero OOSC!

Make the Commitment to UPE Official

Government stakeholders in education are called upon to make the commitment to **Educate Every Child** and realise UPE for the remaining OOSC within their borders. Together, along with new partners from a

range of other sectors, we can find innovative and creative ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 4 and enrol millions more of the hardest-to-reach OOSC. We, therefore, call on champions of change within education ministries the world over to **join Zero in the fight against exclusion** and bring the last OOSC into quality primary education once and for all. Visit the Zero page on EAC's website to learn more.



Aide et Action - Cambodia

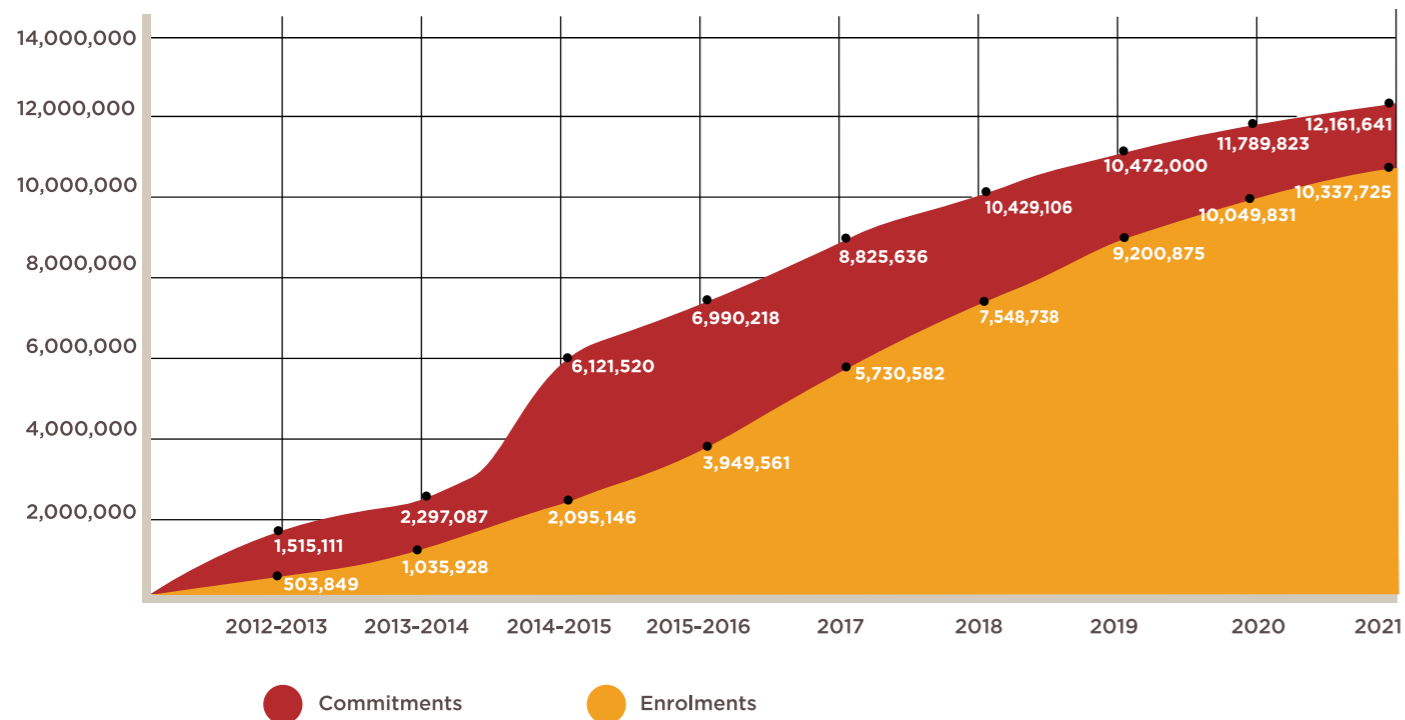
Our Achievements

Year after year, EAC keeps its promise to bring more OOSC into quality primary education, consolidating progress, applying lessons learned and reaching for a more equitable and sustainable future.

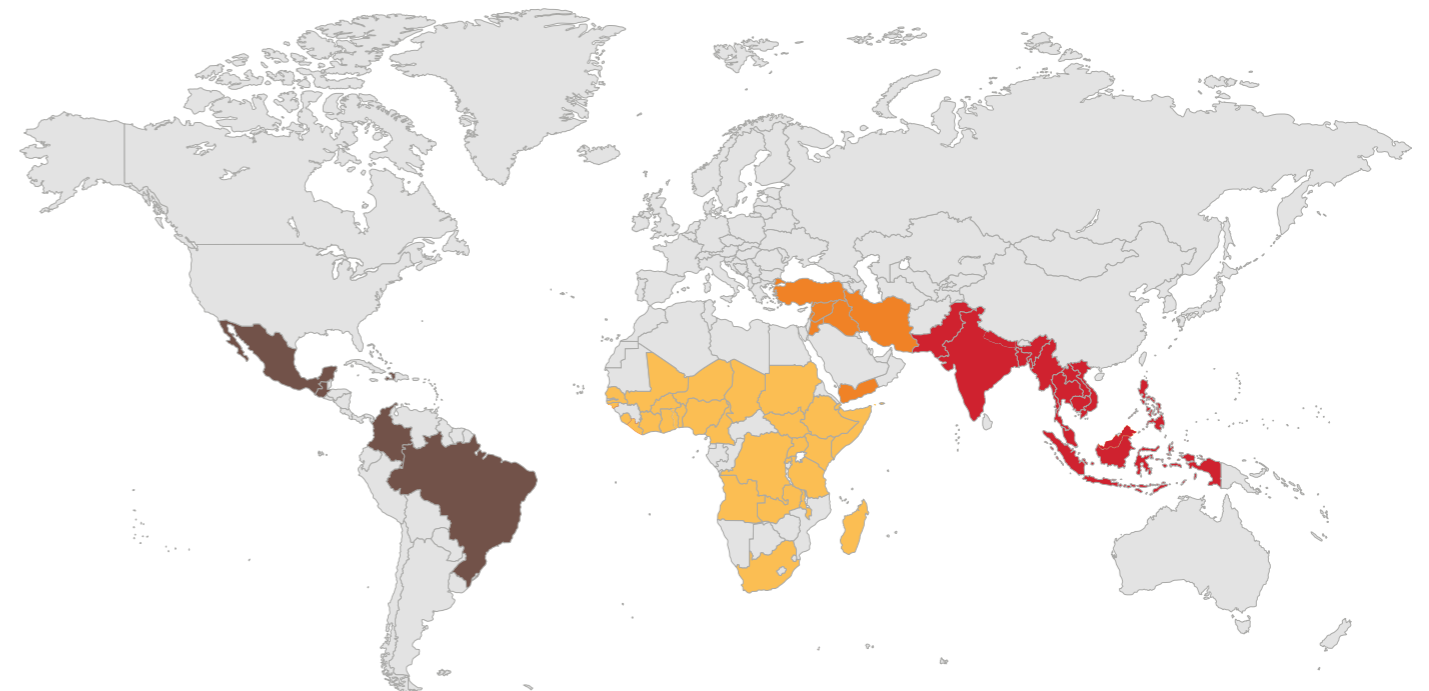
With a core part of its organisational mandate secured by way of enrolment commitments in excess of 12.1 million and actual enrolments upwards of 10.3 million,

EAC's financial contribution to date stands at over US\$813 million with additional leveraged funds of more than US\$1.29 billion in partner co-funding. Total funding for EAC projects now exceeds US\$2.1 billion. EAC's annual progress with respect to partner commitments to enrol OOSC and actual enrolments is summarised on the graphic below.

OOSC Enrolments/Commitments Over the Years



Since Inception, EAC has Supported 88 Projects in 55 Countries



EAC's Global Footprint

- Angola ● Bangladesh ● Benin ● **Brazil** ● Burkina Faso ● Cambodia ● Cameroon
- Chad ● Colombia ● Comoros ● Côte d'Ivoire ● Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti ● Ethiopia ● Ghana ● **Guatemala** ● Guinea-Bissau ● Haïti ● India ● Indonesia
- Iran ● Iraq ● Jordan ● Kenya ● Lao PDR ● Lebanon ● Liberia ● Madagascar ● Malawi
- Malaysia ● Mali ● Mexico ● Myanmar ● Nepal ● Niger ● Nigeria ● Pakistan ● Philippines
- Rwanda ● Senegal ● Sierra Leone ● Somalia ● South Africa ● South Sudan ● Sudan
- Syria ● Tanzania ● Thailand ● Timor-Leste ● Togo ● Turkey ● Uganda ● Viet Nam
- Yemen ● Zambia

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Countries listed in bold are EAC active project countries

An Unwavering Commitment to Keep the Promise

Yet, EAC, guided by an unwavering commitment to impact the lives of children through access to quality education, has remained steadfast in its aim to identify and enrol the hardest-to-reach OOSC, no matter the circumstance. The promise is simple and sincere. Keeping it has entailed the elaboration of new approaches to reach OOSC where they are, such as Zero, but other methods on the order of an At-Risk Initiative to proactively support and retain children who are no

less threatened by demand and supply-side barriers once they enrol, as well as partnerships from across multiple sectors. Moreover, EAC remains ambitiously committed to reaching an additional million OOSC every single year. The fact of the matter is that the continued incidence of OOSC, particularly in countries on the threshold of realising UPE, is a blaring call to action for the world to change the way it works if we are to achieve a sustainable planet. It is possible!



Girl Child Network - Kenya

How Can You Support Out of School Children?

Partner with EAC

EAC seeks to mobilise additional interest, commitment and investment, and needs many kinds of partners to accelerate the identification, enrolment and completion of quality primary education for OOSC. Ranging from international educational, development, financial and humanitarian organisations to locally based groups, we have garnered an extensive partnership network and extend an open invitation to potential partners that span the spectrum to join us in this endeavour. Please visit the EAC website to learn more about our partners and the different types of partnerships on offer.



Aide et Action - Cambodia

Donate

On average, EAC invests up to US\$125 towards enabling a child to fulfil her/his right to a quality primary education. We need your help to #KeepThePromise of a brighter future to OOSC across the globe. Visit our parent foundation's website to make a donation or contact us directly. No matter how big or small, your

contribution goes a long way to making a positive difference in the lives of children around the world! In addition, there are no overhead costs associated with EAC, so 100 per cent of your contribution goes directly to helping OOSC in need.

<http://educationaboveall.org/#!/donate>

Follow us on social media

www.educateachild.org - www.educationaboveall.org



Education Above All



@EAA_Foundation



@educationaboveall_eaa



Education Above All Foundation

By taking these simple steps on social media, you can add your voice to an agenda that helps sustain our planet and eliminates education exclusion – Zero OOSC.

1. Use our hashtags **#EAA**, **#EAC**, **"#FightExclusion"**, **"#EducateEveryChild"** and **#TheLastMile** to raise awareness of our mission;
2. Like, share and repost our content; and
3. Tag your friends, followers and social media influencers in shared or related content.



Gonoshahajjo Sangstha - India



“... we can prove that nothing is impossible
if we all determine that education truly is above all.”

~ Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser

Aide et Action - Cambodia

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#FightExclusion
#EducateEveryChild



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Transforming the Lives of Millions Through Education