

Research and Evaluation

FHI 360 Education Policy and Data Center (EPDC)

EPDC is a unique resource for global education data, analysis and custom research. Leveraging 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 the economic costs of educational inequality and examining whether education inequalities increase the probability of conflict.

EPDC's research is available at www.epdc.org.

Education Equity Research Initiative

Launched by FHI 360 with Save the Children, this collaborative partnership brings together research and implementing organizations to develop and disseminate evidence for strengthening equity in and through education.

Learn more at www.educationequity2030.org



As a science-driven organization, FHI 360 is committed to a continuous process of learning and knowledge sharing for improved solutions in education around the world. Our research, monitoring and evaluation specialists conduct studies and evaluations that contribute to the evidence base on the effectiveness of educational interventions in a wide variety of contexts, with particular focus on **literacy and learning, education in crisis and conflict and education for youth and workforce development.**

LITERACY AND LEARNING

Literacy and learning, especially in the early grades, provides children and their families with the foundational skills needed to improve their lives and communities. Understanding how kids learn and what interventions are most effective at improving learning outcomes—with the least cost, and at scale—are critical issues that FHI 360 evaluators and researchers work to address. We currently implement large-scale early learning interventions in the **DR CONGO, GHANA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA** and **NIGERIA**. We use early grade reading, writing and mathematics assessments, highly structured classroom observation tools, and qualitative methods such as interviews and focus groups to measure fidelity of implementation, time on task, teacher behavior change, student learning and community support for education.

In northern **NIGERIA**, our experts designed and implemented a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of reading and numeracy interventions in the early grades, with coaches measuring fidelity of implementation through classroom observations and conducting learning assessments with a random sample of students in every classroom. The study aims to understand how teachers are differentially effective in implementing the program and improving student learning. In **GHANA**, a highly multilingual context, a nation-wide assessment of languages and learning outcomes will help government and civil society partners better understand how to promote effective early grade literacy instruction.

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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EDUCATION IN CRISIS AND CONFLICT

Globally, there is a dearth of evidence on how to improve access, retention and learning outcomes for children and youth in crisis and conflict settings. With current and recent education programs in **AFGHANISTAN** and **EL SALVADOR**, FHI 360's research and evaluation priorities examine these issues in some of the world's most complex environments. Our work has helped shape the international research agenda on education in crisis and conflict in the post-2015 era and has resulted in strong partnerships with country-level stakeholders.

In **AFGHANISTAN**, our research and evaluation focuses on effective post-secondary education and workforce transitions in a context of ongoing civil conflict, through comprehensive labor market analyses and support for curriculum development at the post-secondary level. In addition, our Education Policy and Data Center explores the connections between inequality and violent conflict across a wide time and geographic span, with a series of quantitative research studies and qualitative case studies that examine policymaking in education in the aftermath of prolonged violence.

EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Today's youth population is the largest in history. With this population growing the fastest in the poorest nations, understanding what education interventions work best in enabling youth to succeed in the global economy is critical for development. We implement youth-focused activities with rigorous research and evaluation agendas in **AFGHANISTAN, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GUATEMALA, JAMAICA, HONDURAS** and **MOROCCO**. Our approach not only ensures that we understand the knowledge and skills that youth are leaving the education system with, but how well equipped they are to lead healthy and productive lives. Additionally, our approach ensures that learning is used to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of our education programming, as well as its cost effectiveness.

In **EL SALVADOR**, we developed a monitoring program to identify youth at risk of dropout in a high-risk municipality. Students were then provided with tailored supports and interventions through and with the support of teachers and local school administrators. FHI 360 also conducts systems-level research on secondary education and recently led a research study of the "skills gap" between the needs of employers and secondary graduate competencies in **COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR** and the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**. Our experts also developed a framework for better measuring "soft skills" for youth employability. We recently commissioned two research papers that make the case for increased investment and support for secondary schooling, based in part upon EPDC projections of demand and resource constraints through the year 2025.

For more information, please contact globallearning@fhi360.org.