

# A summary of the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2011

## The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education

### Progress towards education for all

- In 2008, there were still 67 million primary school age children out of school;
- About 17% of the world's adults (796 million people) still lack basic literacy skills, nearly two-thirds are women;
- Another 1.9 million teachers will be needed by 2015 to achieve universal primary education.

### The nature of conflict is changing

- Conflict is becoming more identity based;
- The average duration of war in the poorest countries is 12 years;
- Rape and sexual violence are increasingly used as a weapon of war.

### Children, Teachers and Schools are being attacked

- In Afghanistan, at least 613 attacks on schools were recorded in 2009, up from 347 in 2008;
- Of the total number of children globally who are out of school, 42% of them come from just 35 conflict affected countries;
- Children in conflict affected countries are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday as children in other poor countries.

### Education does not receive enough aid

- Education currently counts for only 2% of humanitarian aid;
- When compared to other low income countries, development aid to conflict affected low income countries is less (\$16 per pupil compared to \$22 per pupil).

### **There are dangers in education being part of a security agenda**

- Aid is heavily skewed towards countries viewed as strategic priorities in terms of global security, notably Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan;
- Elsewhere, many 'forgotten conflicts' have lost out in receiving education aid, including Chad, the Central African Republic and Cote d'Ivoire.

### **Armed conflict is diverting funds from education**

- Armed conflict is diverting public funds from education into military spending;
- It would take just six days of military spending by aid donors to close the US\$16 billion Education for All (EFA) external financing gap.

### **Arms or Education ?**

- Twenty-one developing countries are currently spending more on arms than on primary schools;
- If they were to divert just 10% of military spending to education, they could put an additional 9.5 million children into school.

### **Four areas that need attention are**

- Protection of children, teachers and civilians from human rights abuses;
- Provision of education to vulnerable populations trapped in violent conflict, and to refugees and internally displaced people;
- Reconstruction to seize the education peace premium and build capacity;
- Peacebuilding to unlock the potential of education as a force for peace.

### **An agenda for change requires**

- Strengthening human rights protection for children caught up in conflict;
- Putting education at the centre of humanitarian responses;
- Starting early, and staying for the long haul, for reconstruction;
- Using education as a force for peace.

## EFA Global Monitoring Report 2011

[www.efareport.unesco.org](http://www.efareport.unesco.org)