

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Every child has the right to quality education and learning.

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An estimated 93 million children worldwide live with disabilities. Like all children, children with disabilities have ambitions and dreams for their futures. Like all children, they need quality education to develop their skills and realize their full potential.

Yet, children with disabilities are often overlooked in policymaking, limiting their access to education and their ability to participate in social, economic and political life. These children are among the most likely to be out of school. They face persistent barriers to education because of discrimination, stigma and the routine failure of decision makers to incorporate disability in school services.



*Disability is the single most serious barrier to education across the globe.*

Nearly 50 per cent of children with disabilities are not in school, compared to only 13 per cent of their peers without disabilities. Robbed of their right to learn, children with disabilities are often denied the chance to take part in their communities, the workforce and the decisions that most affect them.

Inclusive education is the most effective way to give all children a chance to go to school, learn and develop the skills they need to thrive.

Inclusive education means all children in the same classrooms, in the same schools. This gives real learning opportunities to groups who have historically been excluded - not only children with disabilities, but speakers of minority languages too.

Inclusive systems recognize that if diverse groups are educated and grow side by side, then the contribution to the classroom and to society is beneficial to all.

But progress comes slowly, and requires change at all levels. Teachers must be trained, buildings must be adapted, equipment and material must be accessible. Stigma and discrimination in the community must be tackled. Governments must align policies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and check that these policies are respected.



## UNICEF promotes inclusive education

To close the education gap for children with disabilities:

- UNICEF raises awareness of the needs of children with disabilities
- UNICEF provides financial and technical assistance to help governments set up and monitor inclusive teaching systems.