



Wilton Park

## Programme

### **No child left behind: what is the complementary role of non-state actors in the delivery of quality basic education in low resource environments?**

Wednesday 13 – Friday 15 September 2017 | WP1577

Across the world, countries have made incredible progress in getting children into school. In low and middle income countries, 80 and 92 percent of children respectively are now enrolled in primary school.<sup>1</sup> The corresponding figures for lower secondary are 65 and 85 percent.<sup>2</sup> However, much remains to be done: 61 million primary school aged children, 10 percent of all children in low and lower middle income countries, are still out of school.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, this expansion in access has not been accompanied by similar improvements in learning. Millions of children who have completed several years of school still lack basic literacy and numeracy skills and even those who complete primary school fail to master basic competencies. Poor and vulnerable children, particularly girls, learn the least of all.

In this context, the non-state sector has grown and evolved rapidly, as parents have looked for alternative schooling options for their children - in many developing countries, close to one third of all children are enrolled in schools managed by non-state actors. But despite this massive growth, there is limited evidence showing that non-state provision is measurably better quality, or that non-state providers are able to reach the poorest children.

Too often, the debate around the role of non-state provision in basic education has been driven by ideology rather than robust evidence. This Wilton Park event, in partnership with the UK Department for International Development and Ark Education Partnerships Group (Ark EPG), aims to move beyond ideology. The event will convene diverse and global expertise for a dynamic, policy focused and evidence-based discussion on the role that non-state education can play in delivering quality education and expanding access in developing countries, including the role of non-state actors in helping to achieve Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, 'Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning for all.'

The programme includes a mixture of roundtable, group and plenary discussions, with participation from 50 experts, including education policymakers, government

<sup>1</sup> EFA GEM, 2016, p.182 Table 10.1, accessed 22.08.17

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Education Commission, The Learning Generation, accessed 19.06.17

#### With support from:



UBS Optimus  
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representatives, school operators, academics, civil society, the non-state sector and donor agencies. This will create opportunities to identify tangible policy solutions, as well as providing the intellectual and creative space to develop the collaborations needed to turn recommendations and ideas into substantive action.

The first day will survey the global landscape, before delving into the lessons learned and evidence generated in Pakistan. The second day will examine the role, experience and challenges of the major players in the education system, looking at government, non-state actors, civil society and donors. The final day will pull together key learning from days one and two, applying an equity lens before drawing out conclusions and key takeaways.

## Wednesday 13 September

1500

Participants arrive

1600-1615

### Welcome and introduction

**Robin Hart**

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

**Anna Wechsberg**

Director, Policy, Department for International Development (DFID), London

1615-1715

### 1. What is the state of play with non-state provision of education in developing countries?

Justin Sandefur will provide an overview of the non-state education sector in developing countries, outlining what is known about quality and equity issues. In the second part he will discuss some of the challenges arising when donors and / or governments subsidise non-state operators, using the recent experience of Liberia's charter school / public private partnership experiment as a case study, and drawing on similar experiments elsewhere in Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

**Chair: Robin Hart**, Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

**Justin Sandefur**

Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development (CGD), Washington DC

1715-1745

Tea/coffee

1745-1915

### 2. Evidence from Pakistan: findings in delivering non-state education

This session will delve into Pakistan's deep experience engaging with the non-state sector to deliver goals around access, equity and quality. What has worked? What hasn't? What were the enablers? What are the blockages? What is the best way to deliver quality education at scale? How is equity being achieved, particularly for girls? How can provision be scaled-up? After a presentation from Jishnu Das, there will be a conversation between three experts working in the Pakistani non-state sector.

**Chair: Girin Beeharry**

Senior Strategy Advisor, CSO Administration, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, London

Introductory speaker:

**Jishnu Das**

Lead Economist, Development Research Group, The World Bank Group, Washington DC

Followed by the chair in conversation with:

**Zia Akhter Abbas**

Vice President, The Citizens Foundation (TCF), Karachi

**Naheed Durrani**

Managing Director, Sindh Education Foundation, Government of Sindh, Karachi

and

**Raja Qamar ul Islam**

Chairman, Punjab Education Foundation, Lahore

1915

Reception followed by dinner and fireside chat in the Great Hall

**John McDermott**

Public Policy Editor, The Economist, London

in conversation with:

**Laura McInerney**

Editor, Schools Week; Columnist, the Guardian, London

## Thursday 14 September

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1030

### **3. Government perspective: how can governments partner with the non-state sector to strengthen education systems?**

This session will draw out the perspective of government and policy makers vis a vis the non-state sector. How can governments leverage the non-state sector most effectively, while also holding it accountable for performance? What strategies can governments deploy to ensure that the non-state sector is regulated in a way to incentivise better learning and better equity?

**Chair: Susannah Hares**

Executive Director, Ark Education Partnerships Group, London

Introductory speaker:

**Isaac Mbiti**

Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Followed by the chair in conversation with:

**John Muyingo**

State Minister for Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, Kampala

**Gulzar Natarajan**

Senior Partner, Global Innovation Fund (GIF), London

1030-1115

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1115-1300

### **4. Non-state sector perspective: what can non-state operators do better and differently to improve quality and equity, especially for the poorest?**

This session will consider the role of single school proprietors and school chains in education systems. How can each contribute to building stronger and more equitable education systems? How can the best of both be combined to improve quality and equity and better functioning systems? How can school chains use their experience, models and pedagogies to help improve the sector as a whole?

**Chair: Vineet Bewtra**

Director, Investments, Omidyar Network, London

**Gboyega Ilusanya**

Team Leader, Mott MacDonald-Implementers of Developing Effective Private Education Nigeria (DEEPEN), Lagos

**Allison Rohner**

Chief Program Officer, IDP Foundation, Chicago

**Asif Saleh**

Senior Director, BRAC, Dhaka

**Paul Skidmore**

Chief Executive Officer, Rising Academy Network, Freetown

1300-1430

Lunch

1400-1445

Garden tour (optional)

1500-1630

**5. Civil society perspective: how can civil society hold non-state actors accountable for the delivery of quality and equitable education?**

This session will explore the challenges and concerns regarding the expansion of private involvement in education delivery, and the conditions under which it may play a positive role without undermining inequalities and human rights. What are the concerns of civil society and how can we navigate a path forward? What are the options where state provision may not be available, adequate or equitable? What are the principles that could guide States and other actors when considering the role and impact of the private sector in education?

**Chair: Hugh McLean**

Education Program Director, Open Society Foundations (OSF), London

**Sylvain Aubry**

Research and Legal Advisor, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Nairobi

**Laura Brown**

Chief Technical Officer, Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS), London

**Rob Doble**

Head of Education Policy, Advocacy and Communications, Save the Children, London

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

**6. Donor perspective: considering the role of aid finance and private philanthropy in strengthening education systems**

This session will explore the role of aid finance and private philanthropy in non-state education. What are the risks and opportunities when multilateral and bilateral institutions, and private philanthropy, support governments, markets and commercial operators? What has been learned from other sectors? What lessons can be drawn from some of the financing innovations currently being piloted?

**Chair: Peter Colenso**

Independent Consultant, London

**Maya Ziswiler**

Head, Social and Financial Innovation, UBS Optimus Foundation, Zurich

**Ian Attfield**

Senior Education Adviser, Department for International Development (DFID), London

**Donatella Di Vozzo**

Education Economist, European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, Brussels

1900

Reception followed by dinner, hosted by **Myles Wickstead**, Acting Chief Executive, Wilton Park; Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council

**Friday 15 September**

0800-0845

Breakfast and checkout

0900-0915

**7. Reflections**

**Vandana Goyal**

Former Chief Executive Officer, The Akanksha Foundation, Mumbai

**Ed Barnett**

Education Adviser, Department for International Development (DFID), Kampala

0915-1045

**8. Equity in non-state education**

This session will examine the role of the non-state sector through an equity lens. Children living in conflict and those facing discrimination based on ethnicity, gender and disability are most at risk of losing out on quality education. The session will consider the outcomes of the discussions so far and consider how the non-state sector can help to provide education that is both fair and inclusive.

**Chair: Aashti Zaidi**

Director, Global Schools Forum, London

**Joanna Härmä**

Visiting Research Fellow, School of Education and Social Work, University of Sussex, Brighton

**Suezan Lee**

Education Finance Specialist, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington DC

**Christopher Khaemba**

Co-Founder and Director, Nova Pioneer, Nairobi

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1125

**9. Evaluation survey**

Completion of online survey.

1125-1300

**10. Conclusions, commitments and next steps**

This session will identify practical, workable solutions that will help drive forward planning in delivering non state education that leaves no child behind. It will identify some key principles to help create the tools that actors in this space need to deliver real value.

**Chair: Robin Hart**

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart