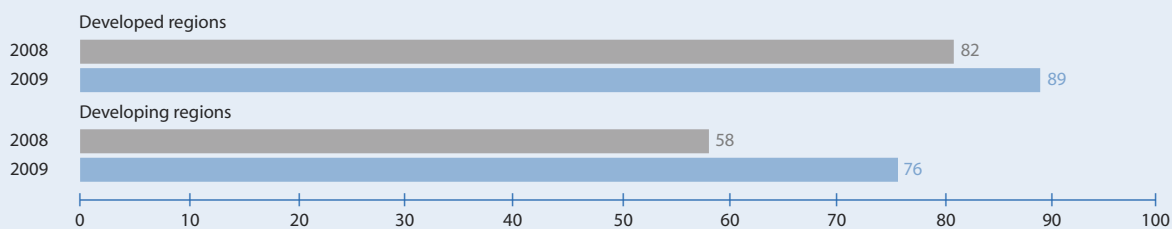




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### Target 2a: Ensure that, by 2015, all children will be able to complete primary schooling

Adjusted net enrolment ratio in primary education, 1998/99 and 2007/08 (percent)



SOURCE: UN (2010).

- ▶ 28 million more children are able to attend school since 1999. But 75 million still miss out (34 million boys and 41 million girls).
- ▶ About 150 million children ages 5–14 are engaged in child labour.<sup>1</sup> The highest incidence of child labour is in agriculture (60%).<sup>2</sup>

Notes

1. "UNICEF calls on governments, donors and the private sector to end child labour," United Nations Children's Fund, [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_53955.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_53955.html).  
2. Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands (2010).

## THE PRESENT SITUATION

Private education has expanded dramatically over the last two decades in both high-income and low-income communities. Global enrolment in private primary schools grew by 58% between 1991 and 2004, that in public primary schools by just 10%.<sup>44</sup> Some African and South Asian countries, where demand for schools exceeds supply and where public funds are limited, have experienced growth in the number of private low-cost schools, mostly at the secondary level.

In some poor urban and peri-urban areas of India and sub-Saharan Africa, most school-children are in private schools. In Hyderabad, India, 65% of schools are private, and more than half of those are unregistered. In Lagos State, Nigeria, 75% of school-children are in private schools. For these instances, including enrolment in private unregistered schools in government statistics would reduce the percentage of out-of-school children from 50 to 26. Most low-budget private schools are run by local entrepreneurs and employ local teachers.<sup>45</sup> Evidence from around the world shows a positive correlation between private education and education quality, suggesting that the private sector can deliver high-quality education at low cost.<sup>46</sup>

Attempts to certify goods, such as chocolate, as child-labour-free have struggled for credibility. Manufacturers in developing countries often sub-contract labour-intensive segments of production to back-street producers. One of the few successful certification schemes is GoodWeave, which protects the carpet industry. Its sponsor, RugMark International, claims that in South Asia more than half a million weaving jobs previously held by children have been replaced with adult labour.<sup>47</sup> Part of RugMark's revenues are invested to finance social and rehabilitation programmes for former child workers and children of carpet-weavers. So far more than 4 million carpets with the RugMark label have been sold in Europe and North America.<sup>48</sup>

### What are the challenges?

- National policies often create hurdles for businesses seeking to provide education: registration criteria are unclear, processes time-consuming.<sup>49</sup>
- Market information about education demand is limited. Data often lack basic information, such as the number of children attending school; the characteristics of those not in school; the amounts of education materials and their use; and what is being learned.<sup>50</sup>
- Elimination of child labour requires the development and enforcement of appropriate legislation as well as collaborations between the private sector, governments and civil-society organizations.
- Monitoring and enforcing anti-child-labour laws in the supply chain can be difficult—especially because much child labour is at the lower end of the supply chain, in small workshops or in home-based work.



MANUEL SARDA/UNDP

## THE PROMISE OF INCLUSIVE BUSINESS MODELS

### MNCs can, for example:

- Fight child labour in their supply chain—for example, by requiring suppliers to adhere to a code of conduct and submit relevant certification.
- Design and market products and services that are adapted to low-income markets and that contribute to children's education; examples include learning materials, access to ICT and lighting to help children study after dark.



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### Large domestic companies can, for example:

- Work with their local communities to eradicate child labour.
- Promote primary education enrolment for their employees' children and facilitate access to schools for them.
- Advocate with government for universal primary education and quality schooling.



AEIOTU

### SMEs can, for example:

- Provide affordable, high-quality education by running schools in slums and rural areas.
- Sell lighting solutions, learning materials and ICT-based education solutions to low-income families.
- Avoid child labour.
- Support employees in sending their children to schools.



SELCO SOLAR PVT. LTD.

### NPOs can, for example:

- Create income opportunities for entrepreneurs by implementing innovative business models around schooling, such as micro-franchise solutions.
- Create and distribute learning-oriented products and services.
- Offer consulting services to companies to help them tackle child labour holistically.



OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL

**IKEA ■ MNC**

In the mid-1990s IKEA became aware of widespread child labour in South Asia, facing accusations against its own supply chain. To help with the global issue IKEA established a code of conduct stating that all suppliers shall recognize the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, comply with all relevant national and international laws and take all appropriate measures to ensure that no child labour occurs at the suppliers' and their sub-contractors' places of production.<sup>51</sup>

In 2005, in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children, IKEA launched its Social Initiative to support projects that benefit an estimated 100 million children. As part of the initiative IKEA created an especially sturdy SUNNAN lamp designed to resist the wear and tear of difficult living conditions—including, for example, a battery capable of withstanding high temperatures and humidity—giving children without electricity the power to read, write or draw after sunset.

**Carulla Foundation ■ Large domestic company, Colombia**

Carulla Foundation was founded by José Carulla Soler, then owner of the Carulla chain of department stores, in 1962. For 47 years the foundation provided scholarships to thousands of low-income employees of the company. In 2008, due to findings about the importance of the first years of life, the foundation decided to focus on promoting early childhood education in Colombia through its initiative AieoTu. AieoTu offers high-end education services through direct contracting with the government. In addition, the Carulla Foundation provides 30% of the centres' resources. The remaining costs are covered by cross-subsidization: one high-income child finances the education of two low-income children. Now serving 700 low-income children across four centres, AieoTu envisions replicating its model by developing self-sustainable franchise centres.<sup>52</sup>

**SELCO India ■ SME, India**

SELCO India is a Bangalore-based enterprise founded in 1995 that provides solar lighting to 4,000 institutions (such as orphanages, clinics, seminaries and schools) and to more than 110,000 rural homes in the state of Karnataka and elsewhere. To enable customers to meet the up-front cost, SELCO obtained loans from state-owned rural banks.

A customer survey found that the lamps enabled children to study after sunset—something hardly possible with dim kerosene lamps—and that this, in turn, reduced the opportunity cost of studying for the whole family by freeing children to help during daylight hours. Today SELCO has installed more than 95,000 solar-panel systems, with more than 400,000 people benefiting directly.<sup>53</sup>

**Opportunity International ■ NPO, Ghana**

In 2007 Opportunity International, an international not-for-profit micro-finance institution, launched its Microschools of Opportunity program. It provides loans to teachers who open schools in poor neighbourhoods where children, especially girls, would otherwise lack education. 'Microschools' are schools financed through micro-credit; the average such school in Ghana enrolls about 200 students. By July 2008 they operated in 50 neighbourhoods and towns in Ghana and 9 locations in Malawi. The goal was to expand the pilot to Asia and to several other countries in Africa.<sup>54</sup>

## THE SUPPORTING ROLES OF INSTITUTIONS

### Policy

Private providers can increase access to schooling for children from low-income families. But regulation and enforcement are central to maintain high standards. These standards include clear, objective, streamlined criteria and processes for establishing, operating and monitoring private education institutions.<sup>55</sup>

Policy can also promote demand—for example, through financial support for parents—and can encourage investment.

- Nepal's **Welcome to School Initiative** provides scholarships to girls and first-time learners. Combined with teacher training, awareness-raising about education and its importance, the development of tools to boost education quality and the encouragement of enrolment among out-of-school children, the initiative helped spur exponential growth in primary enrolment. An additional 473,000 children enrolled annually, more than half of them girls.<sup>56</sup>

- Brazil's **Bolsa Familia** transfers money to poor families on two conditions: all a household's children between 6 and 17 must be enrolled in school, and those children must attend at least 85% of their classes each month. The programme prefers to make the monthly transfers, ranging from \$12 to \$95 per family, to female heads of households. By October 2009 cash transfers had been made to 12.5 million families under the programme, covering 52 million people—100 percent of the estimated poor people in Brazil. Evidence shows that Bolsa Familia and its predecessor, Bolsa Escola, promote enrolment among the poor; Bolsa Escola was found to reduce drop-out rates by 7.8%.<sup>57</sup> Similar programmes exist in dozens of countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Policy provides the legal framework for fighting child labour, giving businesses a clear mandate to act and helping them to avoid competitive pressures.

- The 1999 **ILO Convention of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL)** is the most widely ratified international labour convention, ratified by 171 states.



PETER BRUYNEEL/UNDP



UN PHOTO/JEAN PIERRE LAFFONT



## Research and advocacy

Knowledge about inclusive education—with a special view to marginalized groups—must be the basis for both private and public school services.

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) SchoolNet Toolkit** is designed to help education planners and practitioners integrate ICT into education systems.<sup>58</sup>

Investments in education services need to be guided by information about demand and financial sustainability.

- The **African Private Schools Investment Index** ranks 36 African nations by attractiveness for private investment in education, using six categories and 39 indicators.<sup>59</sup>

Eliminating child labour is difficult; effective, evidence-based interventions are necessary.

- The International Labour Organization's (ILO) **International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)** developed Child Labour Monitoring (CLM), which has evolved into industry-based and region-based Child Labour Monitoring Systems (CLMS). The systems identify children in the workplace, note the hazards they face, and verify that they have been removed and that the children are in school or some suitable alternative. They are based on a learning approach: experiences from CLMS generate feedback to improve the model.<sup>60</sup>



## Financing

Schools and other education services are lowering school fees through specialized financing options that, for example, allow for longer repayment schedules and affordable interest rates.

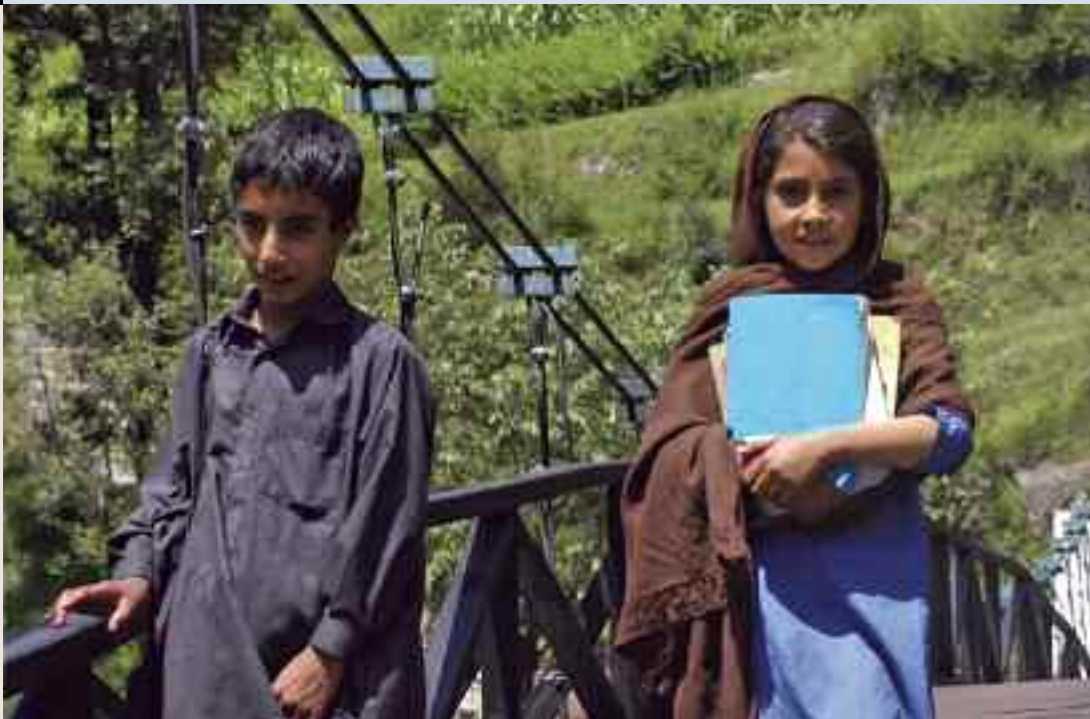
- **Orient Global**, a Singapore-based private investment institution, is managing a \$100 million education fund investing in private-education ventures in developing countries.<sup>61</sup>
- **IFC Africa Schools Program** encourages local banks to finance private institutions for durations that are suitable to capital investments in education. The programme consists of \$50 million of risk-participation facilities for education sector loans and a \$5 million advisory-services program.<sup>62</sup>
- **Education for All (EFA)** is a multi-donor trust fund providing quality universal education. In Haiti the fund works through the Haitian Ministry of Education to subsidize nearly 100,000 poor children in 1,000 accredited private schools.<sup>63</sup>
- The **World Bank's Haiti Education for All Adaptable Program Grant** gives the management committees of eligible private schools a \$90 subsidy per student, so that poor students not in school can attend non-public primary schools for free.<sup>64</sup>



## Capabilities

Businesses can draw on support from specialized partners to eradicate child labour from their operations and institute child-friendly policies.

- The **ABRINQ Foundation for Children's Rights** funds activities in seven action areas with financial support from over 3,000 companies throughout Brazil. Its Child-Friendly Company Program (CFCP) is a social-labelling initiative. To qualify for the label, Brazilian companies must formally commit to a code of conduct requiring activities such as promoting antenatal care and schooling. The foundation helps these companies eliminate child labour in the workplace and in the supply chain.<sup>65</sup>
- The **Child Labour Free Certification Initiative**, created by Section 3205 of the United States Food and Energy Security Act, is directed to develop a voluntary, third-party certification effort to reduce the likelihood that products produced with forced labour or child labour are imported into the United States, as directed in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2005. The certification will drive down demand for child-labour-made goods by providing willing consumers and businesses, as well as the US government, with full information about which products—and companies—make efforts to avoid using and profiting from child labour.<sup>66</sup>
- **UNICEF** works with corporate partners, such as IKEA, to help the partners eliminate child labour from their supply chains while at the same time creating opportunities for children and their families.<sup>67</sup>



MUZAMMIL PASHA/UNDP