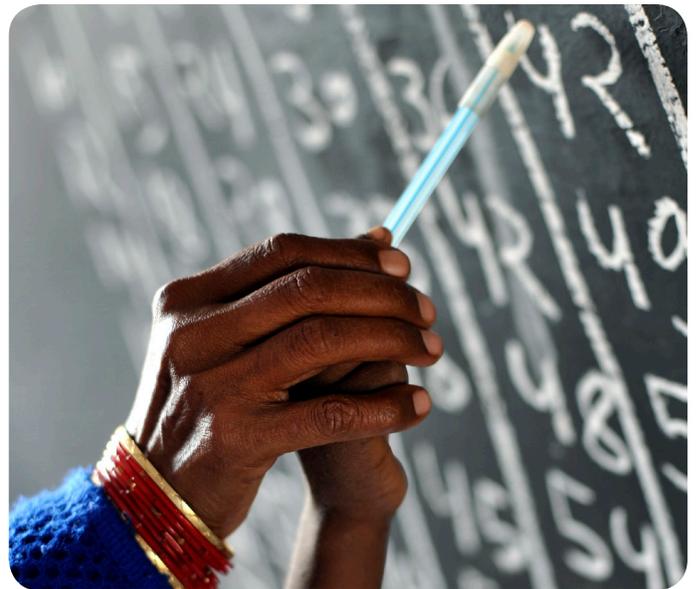


## Transforming Education Systems and Learning Outcomes

Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) is conducting high-quality research to build evidence to enhance children's learning levels throughout the world. RISE aims to gather and interpret data that will inform education reform and lead to learning for all by:

1. commissioning high-quality research on education systems and systems reform that responds to locally-identified challenges;
2. engaging with researchers and practitioners to use the RISE analytic framework to understand how education systems function to determine pupils' learning outcomes; and
3. ensuring that researchers, policymakers, and other education practitioners have access to the most relevant, up-to-date research on the impact of education systems on learning outcomes.



### Background

Over the past twenty-five years, the net share of children enrolled in school has jumped to roughly 90 percent. Yet despite the growth of enrolment, the world faces a learning crisis. According to a 2017 UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) report, more than 617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. Even more startling is that two-thirds (68%) of these children at the primary level are in school. Many students—even those who have been in school for years—lack a solid foundation in the skills they need to be successful adults in their local, national, and global communities.

### Learning for all

RISE hopes to catalyse a paradigm shift in the way the world thinks about “what works” for learning outcomes. To improve learning, we first need to **create systems that are coherent around achieving learning goals**. RISE is working towards understanding what features make particular systems coherent and effective in their contexts, and how the complex dynamics within a system allow a policy to be successful. RISE intends research to go beyond the proximate causes of test score performance to the underlying ingredients of both well-functioning and poorly-functioning systems.

To achieve learning for all, we believe the focus should be on **universal, early, conceptual, mastery of basic literacy and numeracy** using the right set of evidence-based reform actions for transformational change. RISE is leading the way with ground-breaking research from seven Country Research Teams, a Political Economy Team, an Intellectual Leadership Team comprised of world-class researchers from a number of fields, and a “community of practice” all working towards ending the learning crisis.

## Country Research Teams

### Ethiopia

The team is examining the Ethiopian government's flagship education programme for equity, the General Education Quality Improvement Package (GEQIP-E), a complex and evolving series of reforms intended to facilitate sustainable improvements in learning with a focus on equity. The aim is to understand the nature of the political levers that brought about change, the ingredients of sustainability, and the effectiveness of the reform.

### Indonesia

The team is investigating how national and district governments support and learn from each other in the implementation of policy towards teachers and national exams in order to improve students' education levels. Additionally, the project is analysing nationwide reforms that aim to raise teacher quality in the hopes of enhancing students' learning.

### Tanzania

RISE is examining system-level reforms in Tanzania that include school rankings, annual incentives for schools and teachers, teacher training, and financial/management training for principals (headteachers). The team hopes to understand what made the reforms possible, and how they can be sustained; whether and how the reforms improve student skills; and what insights can inform students' learning elsewhere.

### Nigeria

The final research team in the RISE portfolio is looking at a number of key areas in the Nigerian education system including: the demand side of education, school-based management committees, political engagement, the Free Primary School Programme, the National Student Youth Corps, and mission schools.

### India

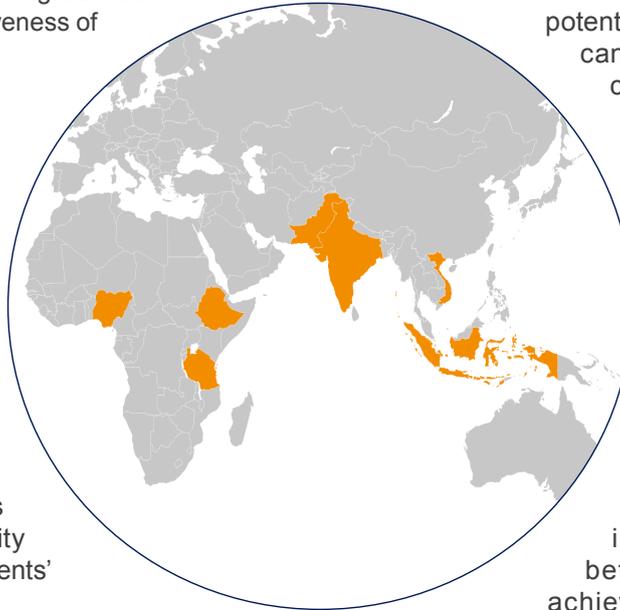
RISE is conducting research to find ways to improve student achievement in India, where low and unequal learning outcomes have persisted despite a near tripling in public expenditures on education. The team is aiming to achieve greater understanding as to why reforms work or fail, and how they can inform policy globally. The reforms' sheer scale offers researchers potential insight into how policy tools can be wielded in enormous and complex education systems.

### Pakistan

RISE is seeking to understand and harness market forces to improve education in Pakistan. Key questions include: What market forces are hampering learning outcomes? What lessons can educators learn from low-cost private schools? Can reforms leverage the interests, incentives and interactions between all stakeholders to achieve educational excellence?

### Vietnam

A systematic evaluation of Vietnam's education system is being carried out by analysing the status and impacts of past, current, and upcoming educational reforms. The aim is to understand how Vietnam's exceptional achievements were possible, and whether new reforms are able to build on the previous success.



### Further information

Please visit [www.riseprogramme.org](http://www.riseprogramme.org) for access to the latest RISE research including working papers, Insights, and blogs. The website also contains research overviews detailing the work carried out by the RISE Country Research Teams as well as information on forthcoming events.

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