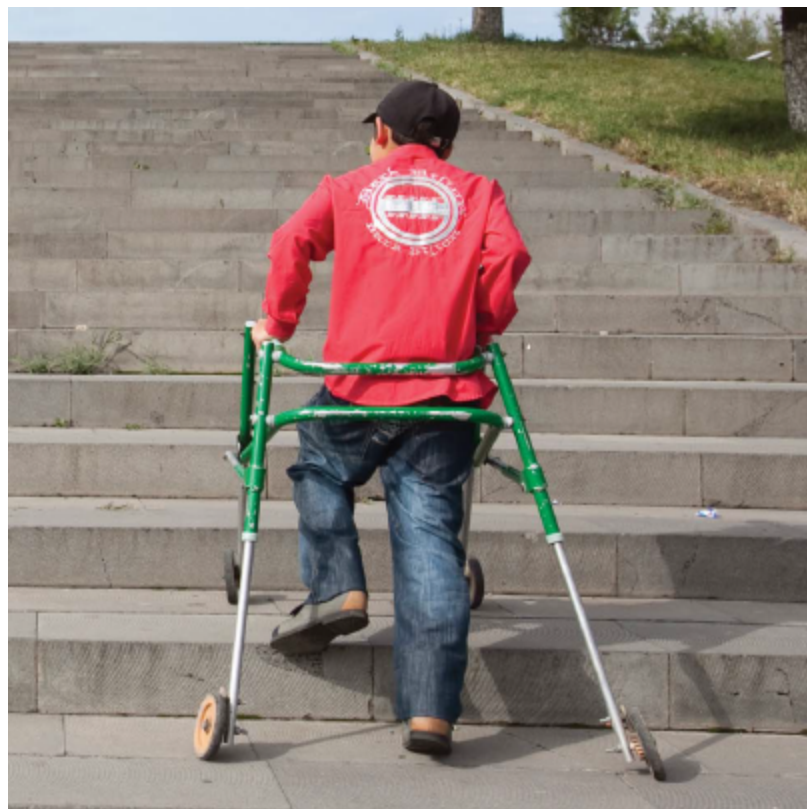

Policy Challenges for Inclusive Education

Including All Children in Quality Learning -
Closing Equity Gaps in Education: Regional
Ministerial Education Conference
Istanbul, Turkey - December 2013

Asking the right question

Don't ask me about his diagnosis. Ask me what challenges he faces.

- Mother, Armenia



Policy Challenge: Defining Education

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26

Everyone has the right to education. ... Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups...Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Defining Inclusive Education

An approach to formal and non-formal education systems, structure, leadership, and teaching practice within formal, informal, and incidental education programs that recognizes all children as valued members of the community.

It addresses obstacles to children's participation in education resulting from majority attitudes toward confession, disability, ethnicity, minority status, minority language and culture, gender or sexual orientation, or social or economic disadvantage.

Policy Challenge: Transitions

Transitions within and adjacent to the education system must support inclusion

- α Support services so that families can make real choices about their children's education
- α Smooth passage from preschool to primary to secondary to higher education
- α Effective use of resources, including special schools, for greater inclusion

Policy Challenge: Supporting Teachers

- α Recognition of teachers as professionals and schools as communities
- α Flexible training opportunities, mentoring, and support within the education system
- α Identifying who can provide support in different contexts

Political Challenge: Framing Reform

- α Better education for all children – inclusive practices make better classrooms
- α Equal opportunities – everyone should be able to succeed
- α Good use of resources – inclusion is a good long-term investment in our children

Open Society Foundations

The overarching goal of the Open Society Foundations in education is to **make the right to education meaningful**:

- α Most countries have laws requiring children to attend school and roughly three quarters have constitutional guarantees on the right to education.
- α Yet this right is threatened through exclusion, segregation, corruption, weak education policies, and insufficient accountability.
- α OSF has a global focus with both operational and grant making initiatives to further justice in education, focusing specifically on the right to education of marginalized and excluded groups.

Contact information

Kate Lapham

Senior Program Manager | Education Support Program
Open Society Institute

kate.lapham@opensocietyfoundations.org

+ 90 542 386 1820 | + 1 646 945 1226

[http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/issues/
education-youth](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/issues/education-youth)

References for this presentation available upon request