



## Press Release

Over 70 million children remain out of school, most of whom are in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia. If those who do not attend regularly, who are two or more years over age, and whose achievement is more than two grades below national norms are included it is likely that more than 300 million children have little or no access to education of reasonable quality. Governments and development agencies have committed themselves to provide basic education to all children by 2015. The Sussex based Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity (CREATE) has been undertaking work on different aspects of educational access since 2006 across a range of countries including Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and China.

Keith Lewin was invited to give the opening keynote address to the inaugural meeting of the Global Initiative on Out of School Children (OOSC) organised by UNICEF and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics. Over 100 delegates from 21 countries met in Istanbul in June after the World Congress of Comparative Education (WCCES) to design projects to collect and analyse data on OOSC over the next two years in each of UNICEF's global regions. The OOSC initiative has adapted the model of "zones of exclusion" CREATE has developed. Each of the 21 countries will develop a programme of research designed to lead to interventions to reduce OOSC between now and 2015, the date set by the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure all children attend school.

The CREATE model of zones of exclusion has also been adopted in the recent DFID Education Strategy Paper which was launched by the DFID Minister in London in March 2010. This Strategy Paper will shape educational aid and will feed in to DFID's preparatory work for the 2010 global review of the Millennium Development Goals scheduled for New York in September.

Publications and other research outputs from CREATE can be found at [www.create-rpc.org](http://www.create-rpc.org)

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