Rising inequality is one of the greatest challenges facing the global community today. Nowhere is the challenge of equity more salient than in education, with its potential to positively shape life outcomes — or further exacerbate societal disparities.

Launched in March 2016, the Education Equity Research Initiative is a vital forum for bringing collective knowledge and expertise together to address the challenge of equity. It connects researchers, technical experts working in implementing organizations, and decision makers at the policy level, around a common goal and framework. Through its work, the Education Equity Research Initiative is building a stronger knowledge and evidence base on root causes and effective solutions for improving equality in educational participation and learning.

**MET BY ALL**

Equity is at the heart of the new global development agenda, reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals and in the Education 2030 Incheon Declaration, which states: *no target should be considered met unless met by all.* The next three years present an important opportunity
for the education sector to lay the groundwork for success in the SDG period. Just as quality proved a blind spot in the early years of the Millennium Development Goals, there is a risk that inequity in education will go unmeasured, unreported, and unaddressed. Improved data and evidence will help governments and international actors better address the vital, underlying questions of an equity agenda for education: **Who is being left behind, both in terms of access and learning?** How do contextual factors, such as state fragility and education financing, shape access and learning outcomes for different groups of children? And, how are programmatic interventions and policy initiatives improving or exacerbating existing disparities?

**A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP**

Led by FHI 360 and Save the Children, with RTI International, representatives from more than two dozen organizations are actively participating in the Initiative’s working groups and task teams. Working collaboratively, Equity Initiative partners are developing common measurement frameworks, tackling known data gaps and under-researched equity issues and dimensions, developing and testing hypotheses for strengthening equity, and helping maintain the focus on equity in education in the post-2015 global development agenda.

Concerted efforts today to incorporate an equity lens into data, policies and programs will pay important dividends for years to come. Addressing equity in the coming period will require a reconceptualization of our measure of success: **a goal is not met unless it’s met by all.** The task is huge, but with the right data on who isn’t learning and evidence of what works to meet their needs, it is achievable. The Education Equity Research Initiative will serve as a meeting point and source of evidence and learning for organizations and individuals committed to improving data, monitoring, and reporting on equity to work collaboratively on addressing gaps and building a bigger knowledge base — until the goals of the Incheon Declaration are truly met by all.

**JOIN THE EFFORT**

Support the Education Equity Research Initiative by:

- **CONNECTING** with us on our website or Twitter
- **ATTENDING** or hosting an event
- **CONTRIBUTING** research and data
- **SUBSCRIBING** to our quarterly newsletter
- **APPLYING** recommendations in research design and data analysis