



Philanthropy beyond the school walls: connecting communities to support quality learning

OECD netFWD Education Working Group 2021 Online Meeting

14 October 2021 | 15.00 - 16.30 CET

About the meeting

With prolonged school closures forced by COVID-19, caregivers and communities have taken on new roles to support children's learning. While greater parental involvement in education can boost learning and wellbeing, children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds are less likely to benefit from supportive home learning environments, have access to connected devices, or develop the needed digital skills to fully grasp remote learning opportunities. Incoming data is already showing a dim picture. In São Paulo for example, the risk of drop-out amongst middle- and high-school students almost tripled, while students learned close to one fourth of what they would have learned during a typical in-person school year. Dropout risk and learning loss were more accentuated amongst students from low-income households. Similarly in India, students in public schools (generally from low-educated families) experienced greater learning loss compared to students in private schools.

The OECD netFWD Education Working Group meeting will bring together global leaders in philanthropy and experts of the education sector to discuss philanthropy's role in supporting caregivers, and connecting and mobilising communities to ensure learning continues beyond school walls.

Draft agenda

15h00 - 15h05 Welcome

- Fabio Segura, Co-CEO, Jacobs Foundation
- Andrew Cunningham, Global Lead Education, Aga Khan Foundation

15h05- 15h15 Opening presentation

- Rowena Phair, Deputy Head, Early childhood and schools Division, Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD

15h15 - 15h20: Q&A

15h20 - 15h45: Discussion: Philanthropy beyond the school walls connecting communities to support quality learning

Greater parental engagement with schools can spread awareness about the importance of schooling, improve student participation and help children learn better. Similarly, communities can facilitate learning by mobilising local volunteers and tutors to support children as they acquire foundational skills, or catch up with the standard curriculum. Technology can play a critical role in connecting schools with communities and families.

However, caregivers and communities do not always fully recognise the role they can play in children's learning, and social and emotional development, and well-being. Fulfilling learning beyond the schools walls demands investments in schools and communities' digital infrastructure, high-quality and accessible virtual learning content, and digitally skilled educators, caregivers, and learners.

- **Angela Dannemann**, CEO, Itaú Social
- **Lucas Machado Rocha**, Head of Innovation, Lemann Foundation
- **Harish Doraiswamy**, Project Director EdTech B2G, Central Square Foundation
- **Nina Blackwell**, Executive Director, Firelight Foundation
- Moderator: **Natasha Ridge**, Executive Director, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research

In this session, foundations will explore:

- What is the evidence on effective approaches to support community-led learning? How can education donors ensure these strategies strengthen and complement school education?
- What are some of the key investments education funders can make to sustainably improve home-learning environments, particularly in vulnerable communities? How can donors help connect teachers to children and home learning environments?
- How can foundations contribute to the supply of high-quality, relevant and broadly accessible technology solutions to support learning in and outside of school?

15h45-16h20 Discussion

16h20- 16h30 Closing