

Celebrating World Catholic Education Day 2021

DRAFT

May 13, 2021 (Ascension, 40 days after Easter)



Facts and Stories about Catholic Education Globally



Celebrating World Catholic Education Day 2021: Facts and Stories about Catholic Education Globally

Abstract

Catholic schools serve 61.7 million students globally at the preschool, primary, and secondary levels. In addition, 6.5 million students are enrolled in Catholic higher education. As the largest non-governmental education network in the world, the Catholic Church plays an important role in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in low income and lower-middle income countries. Within the framework of the Global Compact on Education, this pamphlet provides basic facts about Catholic education globally and excerpts from stories of within and beyond the classroom.

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Cover photo: Students in the DR Congo.
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Disclaimer

This pamphlet is a product of the volunteer-led Global Catholic Education project which aims to contribute to Catholic education and integral human development globally with a range of resources, including a blog, events, guidance on good practices, publications, and data. The pamphlet is co-sponsored by the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC), the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), the World Organization of Former Students of Catholic Education (OMAEC), the World Union of Catholic Teachers (UMEC-WUCT), the International Catholic Child Bureau and the European Committee for Catholic Education.

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Towards a Global Compact on Education

Excerpts from Remarks by Pope Francis

“To educate is always an act of hope, one that calls for cooperation in turning a barren and paralyzing indifference into another way of thinking that recognizes our interdependence... We consider education to be one of the most effective ways of making our world and history more human. Education is above all a matter of love and responsibility handed down from one generation to another.”



**GLOBAL COMPACT
ON EDUCATION**

“Education is a natural antidote to the individualistic culture that at times degenerates into a true cult of the self and the primacy of indifference. Our future cannot be one of division, impoverishment of thought, imagination, attentiveness, dialogue and mutual understanding. That cannot be our future.”

Source: Remarks from Pope Francis delivered on October 15, 2020 through a video message for the event organized by the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Pontifical Lateran University on a Global Compact for Education.

Towards a Global Compact on Education

Excerpts from Remarks by Pope Francis

“We commit ourselves personally and in common:

First, to make human persons in their value and dignity the centre of every educational programme, both formal and informal, in order to foster their distinctiveness, beauty and uniqueness, and their capacity for relationship with others and with the world around them, while at the same time teaching them to reject lifestyles that encourage the spread of the throwaway culture.

Second, to listen to the voices of children and young people to whom we pass on values and knowledge, in order to build together a future of justice, peace and a dignified life for every person.

Third, to encourage the full participation of girls and young women in education.

Fourth, to see in the family the first and essential place of education.

Fifth, to educate and be educated on the need for acceptance and in particular openness to the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Sixth, to be committed to finding new ways of understanding the economy, politics, growth and progress that can truly stand at the service of the human person and the entire human family, within the context of an integral ecology.

Seventh, to safeguard and cultivate our common home, protecting it from the exploitation of its resources, and to adopt a more sober lifestyle marked by the use of renewable energy sources and respect for the natural and human environment, in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity and a circular economy.

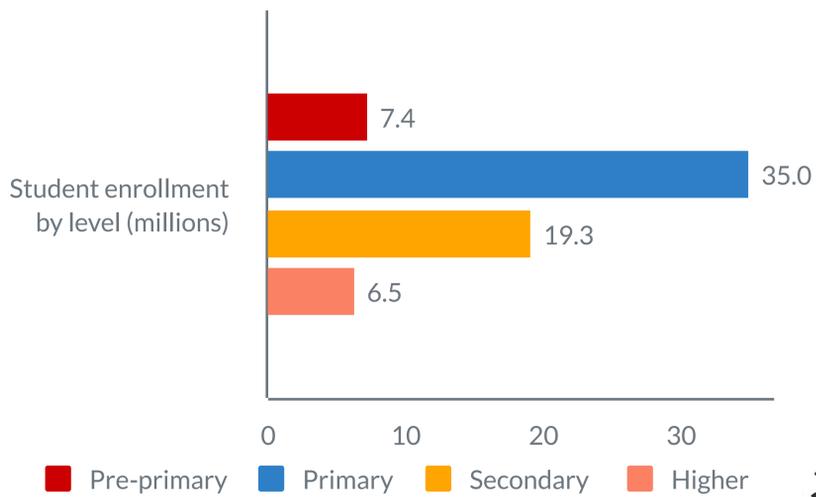
Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we want to commit ourselves courageously to developing an educational plan within our respective countries, investing our best energies and introducing creative and transformative processes in cooperation with civil society. In this, our point of reference should be the social doctrine that, inspired by the revealed word of God and Christian humanism, provides a solid basis and a vital resource for discerning the paths to follow in the present emergency.

Source: Remarks from Pope Francis delivered on October 15, 2020 through a video message for the event organized by the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Pontifical Lateran University on a Global Compact for Education.

Facts about Catholic Education

Global enrollment in Catholic education

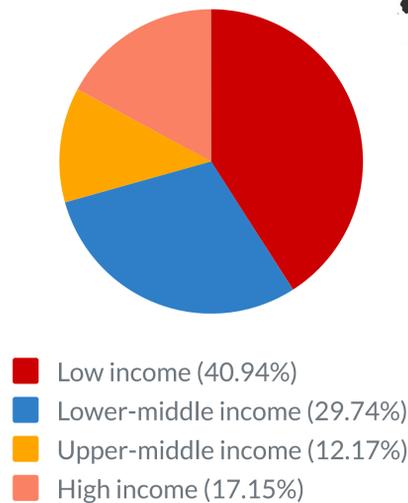
68.2 million students, including 35.0 million in primary school



The 5 top countries by enrolment at the pre-school, primary, and secondary levels are all low or lower-middle income: DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, India, Uganda (income classification from the World Bank)



Share of all primary school students by level of income of the country



Selected contributions of K12 Catholic schools

Economic contributions

- Budget savings for states of more than US\$ 100 billion (PPP) per year in 38 countries
- Contribution to the future earnings of today's workers of US\$12 trillion in 2014

Contributions to education systems

- In sub-Saharan Africa, 11.0% of all primary school students are in a Catholic school
- In low income countries, 13.7% of all primary school students are in a Catholic school
- Catholic schools tend to have higher student well-being and performance (US data)
- Catholic education contributes to education pluralism and the right to education

Contributions to communities

- Catholic schools and universities emphasize values and integral human development
- Catholic schools and universities enroll children from all backgrounds and faiths

Source (click on the link for access): [Global Catholic Education Report 2021: Education Pluralism, Learning Poverty, and the Right to Education.](#)

Stories about Catholic Education

In the classroom: Stories from Catholic Educators around the World

Alexandre Bingo, Burkina Faso

"The entrepreneurship workshop was created within this framework to transmit to young people the values specific to the spirit of entrepreneurship. It is made up of 25 volunteer students interested in the issue of entrepreneurship."

Kathy Mears, United States

"[During the pandemic] I also have seen our teachers and school leaders go above and beyond the call of duty. They worked to make sure that their students had food and internet. They drove by their students' homes so that they could see each other, and they spent hours beyond the traditional school day meeting with students one on one, to ensure that they were learning."

Leonardo Franchi, United Kingdom

"Few academics will make earth-shattering discoveries and even fewer contemporary academics will be remembered in 100 years from now. This should be a consolation as it is a reminder that academic life is about preserving, curating and, when possible, enhancing the intellectual inheritance of humanity."

Martha Seide, Haiti

"The aim of the education of Don Bosco and Mary Dominic Mazzarello is to accompany young people to become honest citizens and good Christians. This formula articulates the two aspects of any Christian education worthy of the name: inviting young people to allow themselves to be totally seized by the Risen Christ until they become saints; help them to fully take their place as citizens."

Peter Tabichi, Kenya

"It is all about having confidence in the student. Every child has potential, a gift or a talent. I try to engage students in various activities and mentor them. It is not a matter of telling them "do this" and then walking away. You need to work with them closely."

Koundya Joseph Guindo, Burkina

"Non-Catholic students represent about 80% of all students in schools Catholics. The time these students spend in Catholic schools allows a lot of them to understand Christian values and to put them into practice by their testimony of life. "

Read these and other stories in (click on the link for access): *Catholic Education around the World: Interviews with Teachers, Principals, and Administrators.*

Stories about Catholic Education

Beyond the classroom: Stories from the International Catholic Child Bureau

Mary Chelladurai
Aina Trust, India

"The community is changing. Before, many children were treated with no respect and dignity. Some were beaten. Today, mothers regard children as God-given gift who need tender nurturing and care."

Rana El Khoury
Fratelli Project, Liban

"Fratelli provides assistance to more than 1,000 Syrian, Iraqi and Palestinian refugees as well as Lebanese in vulnerable situations throughout the year. "

María Consuelo Barletta
Childhood without Bars, Peru

"There is no more enriching experience than contact with the population of adolescents in conflict with criminal law."

Svetlana Mamonova
Perspektivy, Russia

"The main goals of Perspektivy are to enable individuals with severe disabilities to have a normal life, to promote their inclusion in society, and to prevent social orphanhood through support to families."

Emmanuel Kazige
GHOVODI, DR Congo

"Young people and adolescents constitute the most forgotten layer of the population, and yet they are also the basin of hope, the leaders of tomorrow. "

Lola Nasriddinova
IRODA, Tajikistan

"We try to improve services and systems for children with special needs, so that they have access to quality services appropriate for their unique needs."

Thomas d'Aquin Rubambura Mituga
PEDER, DR Congo

"One image has never left me, that of a 10-year-old boy in the middle of the night, sitting alone. It had rained that night and it was cold. He had been beaten, which prompted him to flee to save himself."

Davy Tith
OEC, Cambodia

"A key achievement [today] is that children living in the remote areas go to school. Parents understand the benefits of education and they enable their children to go to school."

Read these and other stories in (click on the link for access): *Ensuring a Bright Future for All Children: Interviews at the Frontline of Working with Children at Risk Globally.*

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