



# The importance of community participation in helping children reach their potential

For countless generations we have known that it takes a village to raise a child. Teach For All is working to ensure all children are able to thrive and fulfil their potential by harnessing the power of community leadership.

For decades, countries across the world have been working to improve access to education for all young people. While significant progress has been made, the quality of education varies dramatically, both across and within countries. A child's education can also be dramatically impacted by the environment in which he or she lives.

With more than 80 per cent of a child's learning taking place outside of the classroom, this makes the community's role in the development and education of a child critically important.

## Every child is born with limitless potential

Around the world, children in many communities can only dream of realizing their potential because of where they were born or how much their family earns. The obstacles many face – poverty, hunger, discrimination, trauma, and failing school systems – prevent them from gaining a quality education that enables them to reach their potential and break the cycle of disadvantage into which they were born.

The complexity of the challenges facing today's children and their communities is enormous. Education is a means to unlock the potential of young people and reduce disadvantage the world over.

Teach For All believes that effecting change will require many people pioneering evidence-based solutions and working together to ensure every child has the education, support, and opportunity to thrive. It will require a more coordinated approach and leadership from communities not only supporting schools but also supporting young people's participation in society.

**Teach For All**

## Investing in community leadership for change



The *Teach For All* project is enabled through the BHP Billiton Foundation's **Education Equity Global Signature Program**.

With a global network spanning more than 45 countries, *Teach For All*'s core purpose is to develop collective leadership. This ensures all children have the opportunity to fulfill their potential. Achieving this requires leadership grounded in the realities of the local environment – reflecting the perspectives, needs, and opportunities of communities – and knowledge of successful ideas and practices from around the globe.

Through this five-year project, *Teach For All* will launch a Community Impact Lab for community leaders, teachers and other key partners to share practices and lessons that have led to improved learning outcomes for young people. The project will develop evidence-based hypotheses about the enabling characteristics of communities with the fastest improving learning outcomes and identify the differentiating factors that contribute to that progress, with a focus on the role of community participation and leadership.

To support and build capacity of local communities in this effort, *Teach For All* will work directly with community leaders, businesses, education-based social enterprises, community organizations, parents and teachers to identify the innovation and good practices that create the most impact and help accelerate progress by sharing these insights with likeminded leaders around the world.

**'Across the Teach For All network, we're working towards an ambitious vision: by 2040, communities in every part of the world are enabling all their children to have the education, support, and opportunity to shape a better future for themselves and all of us. These communities are inspiring and informing a worldwide movement to achieve this everywhere.'**

Wendy Kopp, Co-founder and CEO, Teach For All

## Driving change in education systems

BHP Foundation's Education Equity Global Signature Program was developed to catalyze systemic change, with a focus on improving outcomes for young people. We do this by driving changes in education systems, through investment, engagement and advocacy.

Projects supported by the BHP Foundation complement and enhance existing education initiatives and are underpinned by two overarching principles designed to deliver maximum reach and impact:

- **Inclusion:** improving access to quality education for the most disadvantaged young people
- **Innovation:** using the transformative power of evidence-based innovation to disrupt current trends driving disparity of education outcomes.

All children deserve services that support their development; education systems which meet their diverse needs; advocates who challenge the injustices they face; and access to the tools they need to navigate and lead the world they'll inherit.

In the decades ahead, the *Teach For All* project will deliver a network of local leaders who are informed by global insights and work collaboratively to improve educational outcomes. This will help bring about a future where all children have opportunity to achieve greater peace, prosperity and sustainability.

**For more information on the BHP Foundation and the Education Equity Global Signature Program, visit [bhp.com/foundation](http://bhp.com/foundation)**