

Equity for Children 2017

Equity for Children (EFC) operates in the United States, Argentina, Mexico and Brazil, and exists to improve the living conditions of poor, marginalized and underserved children around the world. Its knowledge portal is delivered in English, Spanish and Portuguese. EFC is housed at the Studley Graduate Program in International Affairs at The New School in New York City.

Our Mission

EFC advances an agenda of social justice for children and strengthens the impact of programs and policies connected to child wellbeing, creating and disseminating knowledge to stimulate critical and innovative thinking about child poverty and inequality.

What We Do

EFC develops impact driven recommendations and highlights best practices in four focus areas: early childhood development and childcare, intra-urban inequities, social protection and climate change. We:

- Emphasize multidimensional assessments of poverty, instead of the income only approach, highlighting its link to inequality
- Promote the active voice of children and young people
- Establish exchange, debate and advocacy among researchers, policy makers, agents of social movements, practitioners and civil society agents
- Shine a light on new, innovative practices that translate complex theories and research into applicable tools and information
- Network with activist and advocacy groups

How We Do It

Original Research providing practitioners, academics and policy makers with novel, easily adaptable tools and information:

1. Approaches to Equity: The two-year study distills emerging ideas online and in print about the concept of equity as viewed by leaders of international organizations, foundations and research institutions. The findings enhance a common understanding of equity, providing a framework for collaboration across sectors and recommending evidence-based action for policy makers, practitioners and researchers.

2. Climate Change, Children and Young People: This research utilizes case studies and analyses concerning climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives that are organized by or that target children and young people. It addresses the complex relationship between climate change, poverty, inequality and child / adolescent resilience. It is disseminated online and in public sessions for advocates of child wellbeing.

3. The Intra-Urban Inequities Study: In 2015, EFC completed the first phase of a research study with local Colombian partners, providing evidence about living conditions and inequities affecting early childhood in seven large Colombian cities. We recently completed assessments in

two additional cities, Lima, Peru and Recife, Brazil, to begin expanding the initiative across Latin America and other developing countries.

Learning and Networking, using a tri-lingual website to disseminate research and stimulate discussion about the equity approach and child rights. EFC convenes policymakers, academics, practitioners, young people and students to foster discussion and launch concrete action that advances child wellbeing:

1. *Websites*: *Equidad para la infancia* (www.equidadparalainfancia.org) and *Equidade para a Infância* (www.equidadeparaainfancia.org) focus on Latin America and provide key resources to enhance academic and public understanding of issues related to child poverty and social policy. *Equity for Children* (www.equityforchildren.org) creates and disseminates knowledge about the multiple dimensions of child poverty and provides a global, evidence-based platform.

2. *Events*:

- “Urban Inequities and Children Conference” at The New School in April 2016 highlighted specific inequalities affecting urban children, such as the lack of youth perspective in urban design, and fostered debate on solutions in both developed and developing cities.
- “Climate Change, Cities and Youth Engagement” at The New School in November 2015 promoted innovative contributions made by young activists addressing the climate crisis, giving voice and participation to catalytic youth-led environmental justice work across local communities around the world.
- A 2015 public forum in Cali and Manizales, in partnership with the Fundación Corona, the Red Colombiana de Ciudades Cómo Vamos, and the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali, presented EFC’s Colombia research results to Colombian government officials and press.
- A “Colloquium on Violence and Child Development” in 2014 addressed early childhood violence and its complex causes, manifestations and impact. Organized with the Brazilian Red Nacional Primeira Infancia; National Network for Early Childhood (RNPI), the session emphasized effective practical experiences, actions and policies.

Advocacy, engaging governmental and public authorities at all levels to reduce child poverty and inequities by influencing policies and programs.

1. *Monitoring Social Inequities*: EFC leverages its deep partnerships with local grassroots organizations to measure and analyze inequalities. We generate field-based evidence and give voice to those affected, especially children. We research and present recommendations to local and national governments using a model highlighting replicable, good practices that are based on social accountability and civic engagement.

2. *Engagement with International Governmental Agencies*: EFC’s research and programs engage with initiatives such as the United Nations’ Post-2015 Development Agenda and the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *Approaches to Equity*, which was presented during the 69th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York to inform the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and other studies offer unique tools for advocacy and social change.

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