

Equity for Children Impact Report 2017

Equity for Children advances social justice for children and strengthens the impact of programs and policies connected to child well-being. It creates and disseminates knowledge to stimulate critical thinking about child poverty and inequality, working to improve the living conditions of poor, marginalized and underserved children around the world.

Accomplishments 2017

- **Improving dialogue with city leaders and guiding local policy about children’s health, education and early childhood development needs.** Equity for Children researched and collected evidence about inequalities affecting youth from marginalized neighborhoods in Latin American cities including Bogota, Manizales, Pereira and Cali, Colombia; Lima, Peru; and Cordoba, Argentina. It found that in Cali, Colombia, 74 percent of 15 to 19 year olds’ teen pregnancies are concentrated in four communities located in poorer neighborhoods of the city. In Bogota, the under age five mortality rate mapped by locality shows that the probability of dying before age five is almost five times more likely in the most disadvantaged areas than in the least disadvantaged areas (*find out more at <http://bit.ly/2mocC52>*).
- **Partnering with global leaders to ensure children’s voices are reflected in policies, programs and budgets.** Equity for Children was chosen to assess UNICEF’s Child-Friendly Cities initiative in its Latin America Region. In October, we will present our findings and recommend actions to enhance cities’ responsiveness to child malnutrition, prenatal care and education. The forum for child rights experts will be held in Spain. The report will review services in 11 countries, including Brazil, where nine million children will be affected over the next three years. (*to find out more visit <http://bit.ly/2h4OXrv>*).
- **Influencing policy to create change.** This fall, in partnership with UNICEF and national government agencies in Equatorial Guinea, Equity for Children is developing a system to assess the government’s financial support of services to children. Equity for Children was chosen for this project because of our emphases on data, transparency and the ability to understand and make recommendations about the impact of spending over time to improve the delivery of basic services (*to find out more visit <http://bit.ly/2yvywIb>*).
- **Encouraging measurement of child poverty by looking beyond income to impact policy, drawing on our experiences in Latin America and the Arab region.** Income provides only one measure of poverty, and can sometimes hide serious issues. In 11 Middle East and North African countries we recently examined, on average, 1 out of every 4 children experience under-nutrition. Across 9 countries, more than half the children experience violent discipline. In a keynote speech at a UNICEF conference in Morocco, Equity for Children Executive Director Alberto Minujin spoke about the importance of looking at child poverty’s root causes and considering issues such as housing, sanitation and education quality. A report with our recommendations will be published in November 2017 (*to find out more visit <http://bit.ly/2qojR0b> and <http://bit.ly/2y03Qyv>*).

- **Launching new research and replicating best practices:** “Approaches to Equity, Part II” is being prepared as a follow up to the numerous inquiries received and the high level of interest produced by our 2015 “Approaches to Equity Report”. This new study will help articulate the conversation around innovative solutions to eliminate urban inequalities affecting the most underserved children. A first paper was prepared this summer and we are interviewing leading experts from international organizations, research institutions and non-profits to identify good practices across fields (*to find out more visit <http://bit.ly/2ui412k>*). In addition, our new step-by-step guide for monitoring child wellbeing and empowering communities to impact policy was published this summer (*to learn more go to <http://bit.ly/2rlQ5XT>*).