2016 GEM REPORT

EDUCATION FOR
PEOPLE &
PLANET

Global Education Monitoring Report
The illustration on the cover of this comic is of a photo taken by Fadil Aziz in the Palau Papan Island in Sulawesi, Indonesia of children from the Bajo tribe, who live in stilt houses. They cross a bridge spanning 1.8 kilometres to the neighbouring island of Melange to go to school every day.

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Hi, this is the Global Education Monitoring Report 2016. ‘Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All.’

Um, looks kind of heavy. Any chance of a quick and simple version?

Well, that’s what we’re here for, let’s call this ‘The GEM Report 2016: E.F.A.A.P.C.S.E.F.A.’

Um, what about just ‘GEM 16: People and Planet?’

We’ve broken the report down into 6 areas: People, Planet, Places, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnerships.

And as you read through, you’ll notice a central theme: Prioritising education is key to creating peaceful, prosperous, fair and sustainable futures for us all.

Have a look!
WHEN IT COMES TO THE PLANET, WE HAVE TO THINK BIG PICTURE. EDUCATION MUST TEACH PEOPLE TO THINK COLLECTIVELY AND NOT INDIVIDUALLY. WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER!

SO EDUCATION HAS TO BE CAREFUL TO NOT PROMOTE UNSUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES. IF WE'RE ONLY LEARNING TO FURTHER OUR OWN CAREERS AND INCOME, THAT CAN HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE NEED TO LEARN NEW GREEN SKILLS AND LEARN TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY SO WE CAN STOP CLIMATE CHANGE.

AND LET'S LOOK AROUND US! WE'RE OFTEN NOT THE FIRST PEOPLE TO HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THESE ISSUES. WE NEED TO REMEMBER TO LEARN FROM INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE THEIR OWN WAYS OF LIVING WITH THE LAND.

OUR SCHOOLS CAN DO ALL SORTS OF THINGS TO RESPOND TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND IT'S NOT JUST US - OUR TEACHERS SHOULD LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TOO!

BUT LEARNING DOESN'T STOP AT SCHOOL - COMMUNITIES AND COMPANIES SHOULD KEEP CHALLENGING THEMSELVES TO FIND NEW WAYS TO PROTECT THE PLANET.

SURELY WE CAN DO THIS BETTER? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Prosperity

Our world is changing quickly. Environmentally, socially and economically.

We can't just buy buy buy, and produce without a care. Our world needs to grow in a way that includes everyone and doesn't destroy our planet for the next generation.

This means learning new skills and continuing to learn throughout our lives.

For example, farmers can learn how to grow more, and grow in a way that doesn't harm the environment.

Focusing on education can help people — and by that we mean all people! With more education, people are paid more, and can get out of poverty.

But education needs to evolve too — computers can do so many jobs now, so students need higher skills, and ones that are relevant for the changing world of work.

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In some ways we’re all so different, but in others we’re the same: we all want to be treated with dignity, to be healthy and be safe.

If we want to teach kids, they need to be healthy, and if you want to be healthy, you need to know how to take care of yourself.

Unfortunately, those who need this education the most are often denied access to it.

Gender equality too is still a big problem. Think how few female leaders in politics and business there are! Violence against women, even in their homes, happens every day.

And to other basic rights too!

But educating women helps to fight untrue judgements about what women can and should do, and gives them a better chance to participate in politics and get good jobs.

It’s time to work together if we’re going to end discrimination.

Educating women also improves their and their families’ health.
Conflict destroys education. Schools, students and teachers are being attacked and displaced.

But conflict makes education even more important.

Schools can be safe places for children and families who are forcibly displaced from their homes.

When we're educated, we're more likely to vote, and protest peacefully, rather than with guns.

We want peace! Democracy now!

And if we can't read documents and understand our legal rights, how are we meant to navigate the justice system?

The right sort of education can prevent conflicts, even if it's not talked about in official peace agreements.

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Cities are growing and changing fast, especially in poorer countries.

People often move to cities for better opportunities, but more people can put a strain on services.

Education helps these people find jobs, and makes cities attractive places to be.

And we can educate cities to become greener too!

Even better - the right kind of education can reduce discrimination, crime and help build stronger communities.

Particularly when mayors and city planners listen to what we want.
This all sounds great, but education costs. Where does the money come from to pay for all this?

Firstly, governments have to raise more funds at home—through taxes, for example. AND education can play a part in helping people understand tax systems at the same time!

Even after that, there is a huge gap—at least $39 billion—between what we need to do and the funding we have to do it.

International aid to education needs to increase. Overall, it’s on the decline—down $1.2 billion from its peak in 2010.

We also need to be smarter about how aid is spent. We need to prioritise countries in conflict and where children are out of school.

Donors and politicians need to be smarter about how they do things—and work together!—so they don’t duplicate costs.

And that’s the key really—partnerships. We all need to work together if we’re to achieve our goals.
This is the youth version of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report, *Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All*. The report shows that countries are not going to meet their education requirements by 2030, having huge consequences for development.

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