

When wars break out, international attention and media reporting invariably focus on the most immediate images of human suffering. Yet behind these images is a hidden crisis. Across many of the world's poorest countries, armed conflict is destroying not just school infrastructure, but the hopes and ambitions of generations of children.

*The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education* documents the devastating effects of armed conflict on education. It examines the widespread human rights abuses keeping children out of school. The Report challenges an international aid system that is failing conflict-affected states, with damaging consequences for education. It warns that schools are often used to transmit intolerance, prejudice and social injustice.

This ninth edition of the *Education for All Global Monitoring Report* calls on governments to demonstrate greater resolve in combating the culture of impunity surrounding attacks on schoolchildren and schools. It sets out an agenda for fixing the international aid architecture. And it identifies strategies for strengthening the role of education in peacebuilding.

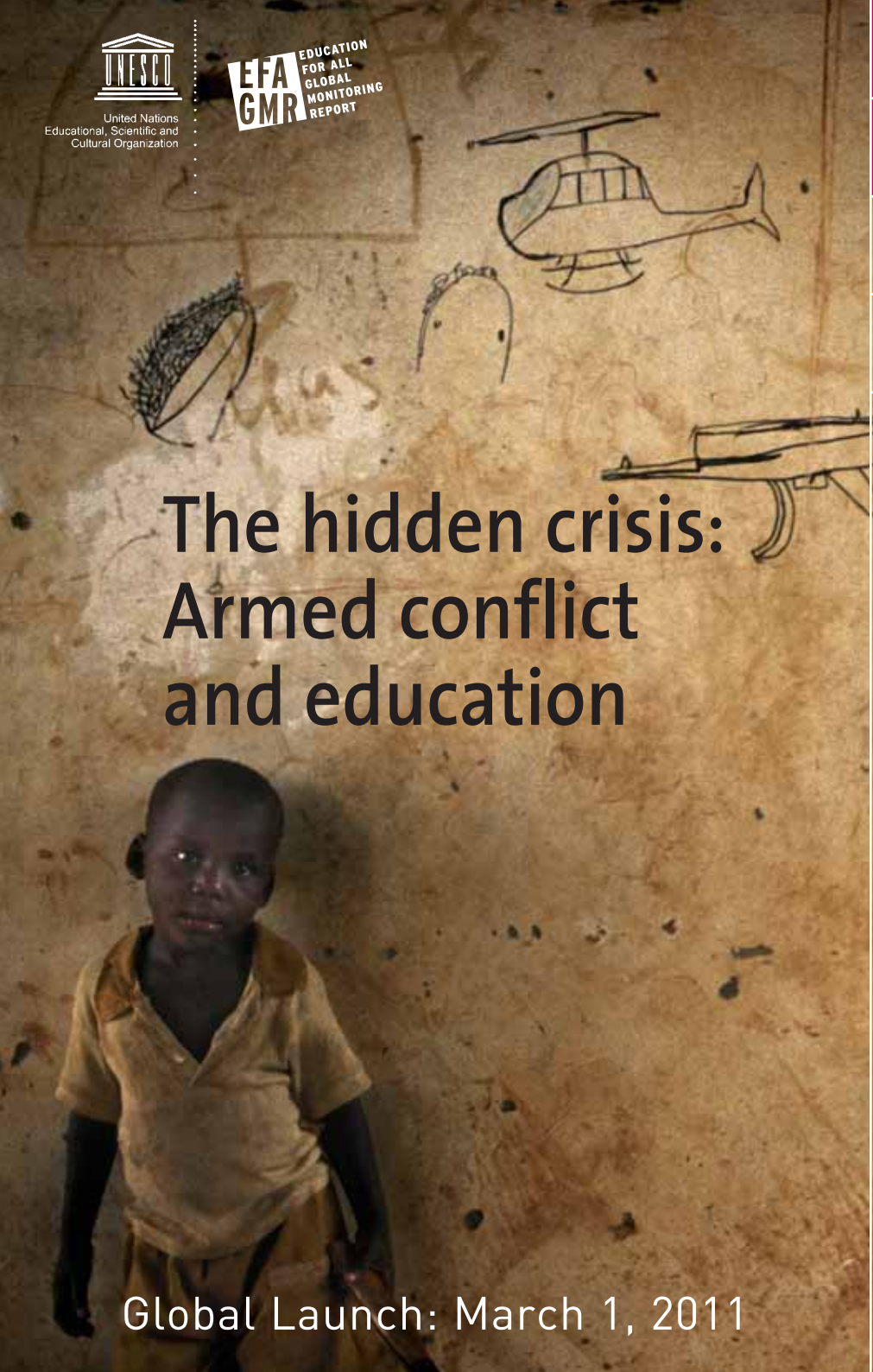
Includes special contributions from:  
Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan,  
Oscar Arias Sánchez (Nobel Peace Prize, 1987),  
Shirin Ebadi (Nobel Peace Prize, 2003),  
José Ramos-Horta (Nobel Peace Prize, 1996) and  
Mary Robinson (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1997-2002).

*“This UNESCO report is long overdue. It documents in stark detail the sheer brutality of the violence against some of the world’s most vulnerable people, including its schoolchildren – and it challenges leaders of all countries, rich and poor, to act decisively.”*

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu,  
Nobel Peace Prize, 1984

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# The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education

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