

Popular Education on the margins of the system

Toward an educational continuum That leaves no one behind:
Populations Facing Discrimination in Educational Opportunities

Groups Excluded from the Right to Learn

Populations Served

Percentage distribution of populations mentioned in reported programs.
(Total mentions: 163). A single program may mention more than one population.



Girls and female adolescents affected by early marriage, early motherhood (6.0%), and domestic burden (7.4% of mentions).



Boys and young people forced to earn a living (in the agricultural, informal, mining, or subsistence sectors).



Students lacking accessible infrastructure, trained teachers, or specific support (2.5%).



Migrant, displaced, or refugee populations with documentary and linguistic barriers (6.7%).



Rural and Indigenous communities facing geographic isolation and a lack of secondary education options.



Individuals whose education has been interrupted and who lack flexible educational options (40.5% of mentions).



Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and Garifuna communities lacking cultural relevance (5.5%).



Children aged 0 to 3 years without coverage or early childhood care (8.6%).



Children in street situations, orphans, or those living in environments dominated by gangs.



Adolescents in conflict with the law and adults in correctional facilities (3.7%).

The cost of “free” schooling

**EXPENSES EXCEED
50%
OF THE FAMILY INCOME**

In several countries, The annual cost of sending a child to school amounts to over 50% of the basic basket of goods and services, or the family budget.

MOST COSTLY EXPENSES:



Transportation

The largest expense in rural areas and urban outskirts.



Supplies and Uniforms

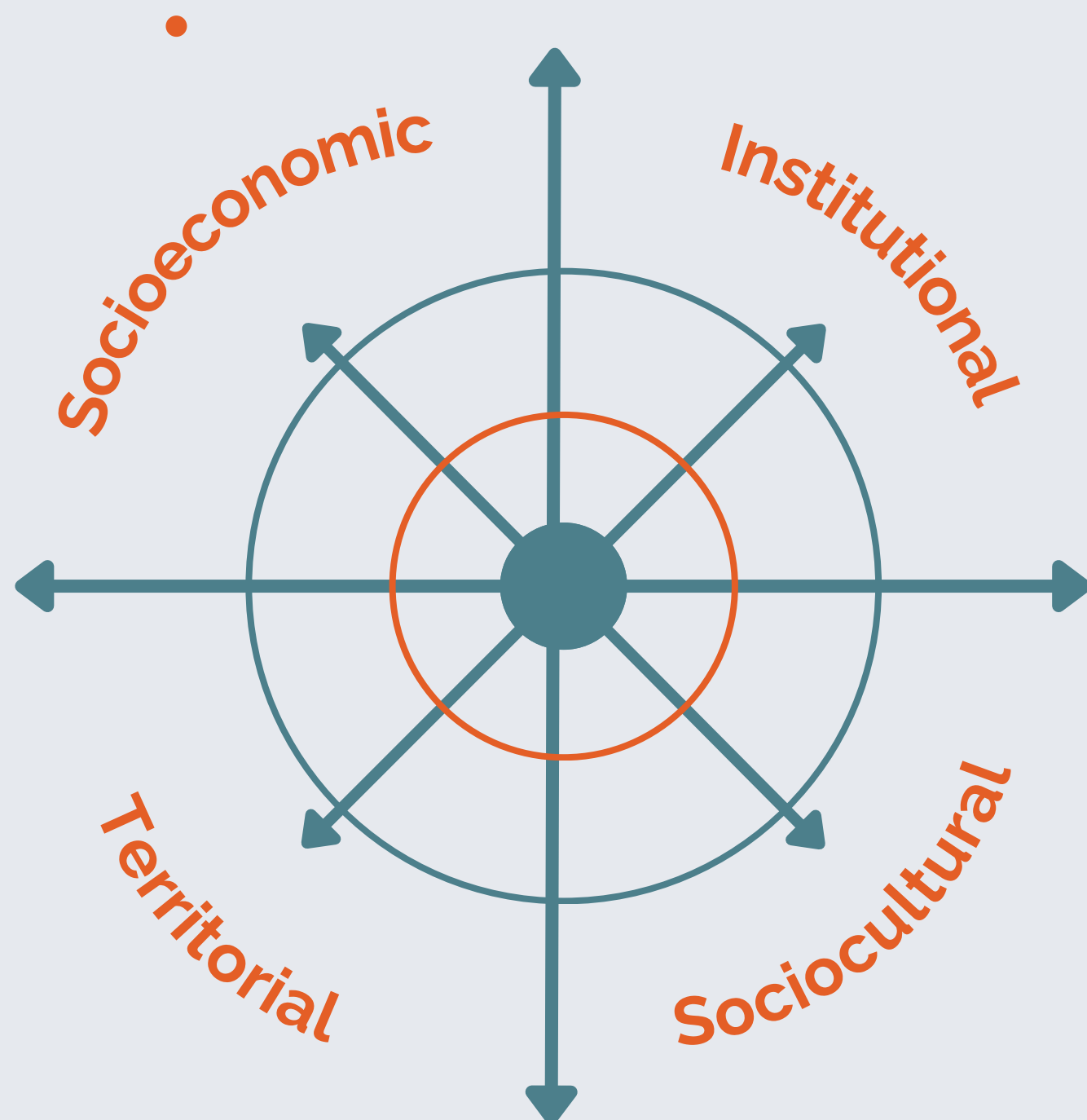
A direct burden on vulnerable families.



Meals

Absence of school cafeterias or canteens.

Exclusion combines 4 cumulative dimensions:



“No support strategy can replace the need to transform the conditions that force people out.”

Multidimensional Gaps and School Conditions

DIMENSION OF THE GAP	TERRITORIAL MANIFESTATION	IMPACT OR KEY INDICATOR
 COGNITIVE AND READING	Poor reading comprehension and mathematical reasoning due to decontextualized methods.	Only 27% of migrant children in Panama achieve minimum reading proficiency..
 DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL	Total lack of connectivity and equipment in rural areas; inappropriate use of technology as a distraction in urban settings.	Severe exclusion during climate emergencies and virtual classes .
 SOCIOEMOTIONAL	Impact of a context marked by violence, stigma, mental health crises, and a lack of spaces to be heard.	Severe disengagement and progressive pushout from the formal education system.
 CURRICULAR AND RIGID	Standardized curricula that ignore cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as family crises.	Disconnection between education and the labor market or community life. (Up to 6 out of 10 do not complete high school in some contexts.)

Structural Challenges of Schools

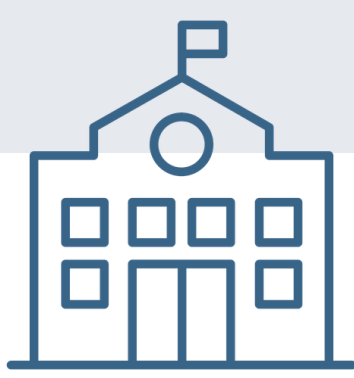
1



Teacher Shortage

Scarcity of teachers specialized in inclusion, specific needs, Indigenous languages, arts, and mental health.

2



Precarious Infrastructure

Deteriorated classrooms, overcrowding, lack of water, electricity, ventilation, and safe nighttime transportation.

3



Community-driven Maintenance

The State only covers salaries; materials and infrastructure costs fall upon the families.

Institutional Retention and Support Pathway

Comprehensive Response Protocol for Non-attendance and School Dropout Risk

1

EARLY WARNING

Continuous attendance monitoring and immediate detection of unexcused absences.



2

HOME VISIT

Direct contact with families, socioemotional assessment, and non-judgmental identification of the causes of vulnerability.



3

FLEXIBILITY

Alternative schedules, modular curricula, distance learning, and a “learning-by-doing” model..



4

CARE NETWORK

Coordination with healthcare services, child protection agencies (CONANI, CONAPINA, CODENI), and local leaders.

Lines of Action and Global Advocacy: “From the Margin to the Center”



Mobilization and Awareness-Raising

- ✓ **Citizen Campaigns:** “Education Transforms Lives” campaign (podcasts, community days, testimonials, and real-life stories).
- ✓ **Community Forums:** Conversation circles, knowledge-sharing dialogues with families, and analysis of the local context.
- ✓ **Demonstrations and Manifestos:** Public mobilization to demand free, high-quality education and fair budgets.



Advocacy for Public Policies

- ✓ **State Funding:** Demanding a minimum public investment of 6% of GDP for education.
- ✓ **Inclusion and Flexibility:** Elimination of documentary barriers for migrants and recognition of non-linear educational paths.
- ✓ **Complementary Services:** Daycare centers in educational facilities for student mothers, and school cafeterias.



Reimagining the System

- ✓ **Life Pathways:** Accompanying diverse life histories.
- ✓ **Care Policy:** Mental health, human connections, and inclusion.
- ✓ **Reverse Innovation:** Ensuring that learning from the margins transforms the center of the system.