Preface

It would not have been possible to write this Handbook a decade ago due to the fast pace of change in research concerning education in developing countries. The new research around low cost private schools, the acknowledgement of their existence by the global community and their contribution to quality education for all is relatively new. The focus within these chapters is ‘schooling’ or ‘education’ aimed at children. Education is so much broader, but there has to be a limit to the amount one can include. This Handbook is structured so that it provides a journey for the reader. It starts with understanding why schooling and education is so important to economic development and growth. The issues around measurement and modelling are also explored. Part I is written by expert economists and underpins the whole Handbook. International development really does depend very much on quality education and this is made very clear from the start. Part II provides contributions by expert researchers in the field of schooling in developing contexts. Some of the authors look at how schooling has developed over the years and how the emergence of low cost private schools has changed everything. Part III provides chapters that set out some innovative pedagogies that have been or are being trialled in developing contexts. These chapters are written by those working at the cutting edge of development, schooling and pedagogy. The final part, Part IV, considers if funding, whether from governments, aid agencies, philanthropists or charities, could speed up the improvements in access to and quality of schooling and again is written by experts in this field. The contributors to this Handbook have provided the reader with a snapshot of the exciting times we are experiencing in international development and education. There is much to celebrate, and much more to be done. The journey continues.

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