



Press Contact:

Gloria Park, 212.560.2063 or parkg@wnet.org

**WIDE ANGLE SPECIAL TRAVELS THE GLOBE TO EXAMINE THE CRISIS IN
ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN *TIME FOR SCHOOL 3* ON PBS**

The Unique 12-Year Documentary Project Revisits Seven Children In Seven Countries As They
Struggle To Attain A Basic Education

*“If they [the Taliban] continue attacking schools, our country won’t progress. Without an
education you can’t get anywhere.”*

-- Shugufa, 16

Is education a privilege...or a right? While September marks the start of the school year for students across America, education simply isn’t an option for millions of children in developing countries. **Wide Angle**, THIRTEEN’s award-winning international documentary series, puts a human face on this global crisis with the third installment of its acclaimed *Time for School* series, a unique documentary project, which, since 2003, has followed seven children in seven different countries each fighting to get what nearly all American kids take for granted: a basic education.

Time for School 3, a **Wide Angle Special**, premieres in two parts on two consecutive Wednesdays, September 2 & September 9 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings).

Wide Angle is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America’s most prolific and respected public media providers.

The *Time for School* series was inspired by a promise that 189 nations made in 2000 to the United Nations: to provide every child around the world with a free primary education by 2015. **Wide Angle** premiered its first installment of *Time for School* in 2003, introducing viewers to seven extraordinary children as they entered their first year in school: Shugufa (Afghanistan), Nanavi (Benin), Jefferson (Brazil), Neeraj (India), Ken (Japan), Joab (Kenya) and Raluca (Romania).

In 2006, **Wide Angle** filmed an update – and now, three years later, the series travels back to each of the seven countries as the young teenagers try to make the precarious transition to middle school. This year’s installment coincides with the halfway point of the U.N.’s “Education for All” 2015 target date, making it a timely snapshot of the world’s progress toward its goal.

Time for School 3 reunites viewers with now-16-year-old **Shugufa**, in Afghanistan, who resolutely remains in school despite the Taliban’s recent acid attacks on young women her age. In the biggest slum in Nairobi, Kenya, **Wide Angle**’s cameras follow 15-year-old **Joab**, who – coping with his mother’s death and abandonment by his father – manages to stay at the top of his class while raising and feeding his two younger siblings. Viewers will also learn that **Neeraj**, 15, from the blazing desert heat of Rajasthan, India, has been unable to realize her dream of entering the 10th grade since her night school closed down. She now helps support her family by grazing the livestock full-time.

Wide Angle will continue re-visiting the children to monitor their progress until 2015, the year they are expected to graduate, coinciding with the UN’s target date for achieving universal education. While each child in **Time for School 3** has a unique story, their collective tale represents the underreported obstacles and challenges millions of children face each day in order to set foot in a classroom.

Visit the **Wide Angle** website – www.pbs.org/wideangle – for original reporting, web-exclusive videos and to watch full episodes.

Wide Angle is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG. Tom Casciato is **Wide Angle**’s Executive Producer. Nina Chaudry is Senior Producer. Pamela Hogan is **Time for School 3**’s Executive Producer.

Funding for **Wide Angle** is provided by PBS, Ford Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Foundation, Judy and Josh Weston, The Estates of Helen and Sam Roseman, Bernard and Irene Schwartz, The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, and the Dr. Robert C.

and Tina Sohn Foundation. Corporate support is provided by Mutual of America Life Insurance Company. Additional funding for educational materials is provided by The Overbrook Foundation. Special funding for ***Time for School 3*** is provided by Ida C. Schwartz, in memory of Bernard S. Schwartz, and Carnegie Corporation of New York.

About WNET.ORG

New York public media company WNET.ORG is a pioneering provider of television and web content. The parent of Thirteen, WLIW21 and Creative News Group, WNET.ORG brings such acclaimed broadcast series and websites as [Worldfocus](#), [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [Charlie Rose](#), [Wide Angle](#), [Secrets of the Dead](#), [Religion & Ethics Newsweekly](#), [Visions](#), [Consuelo Mack WealthTrack](#), [Wild Chronicles](#), [Miffy and Friends](#), and [Cyberchase](#) to national and international audiences. Through its wide range of channels and platforms, WNET.ORG serves the entire New York City metro area with unique local productions, broadcasts and innovative educational and cultural projects. In all that it does, WNET.ORG pursues a single, overarching goal – to create media experiences of lasting significance for New York, America and the world. For more information, visit www.wnet.org.

####