

Save the Children's Commitments for the World Humanitarian Summit, May 2016

Background

At the World Humanitarian Summit, Save the Children invites all stakeholders to join our global call that no refugee child be out of education for more than a month.

We are facing a displacement crisis on a scale not seen since the Second World War. Millions of children are being denied the chance of a future.

It's time for this to change. Every displaced child deserves a new deal – one that guarantees their rights to a safe and productive life.

Save the Children is calling for all stakeholders at the World Humanitarian Summit to commit to a 'new deal for every forcibly displaced child'.

We see the Summit as a pivotal opportunity to enshrine the norm that ***no child should lose their right to learn just because they are a refugee***. We're calling on donors and Member States to provide increased support for host-country governments to expand education to refugee populations, including:

- ensuring that all out-of-school refugee children have the opportunity of education
- scaling up good-quality basic education for refugee children
- expanding early childhood care and education opportunities for refugees.

We're also calling for a new approach more broadly for every forcibly displaced child, as laid out in our [policy briefing](#).¹ In addition to commitments on education, our proposed 'new deal' includes commitments to:

- ***ensure national and cross-border protection for children on the move***
- ***develop a new model for supporting countries that are hosting large populations of refugees or internally displaced people***
- ***uphold existing internationally agreed norms and standards.***

At the World Humanitarian Summit we will also announce our own commitments to respond to the needs of displaced children and their families. In support of the Agenda for Humanity, we are making priority commitments are in the following areas:



- forced displacement
- protection
- education
- child participation and accountability
- gender equality and empowerment
- localisation
- cash transfers and social protection in humanitarian action
- health
- support for the 'Grand Bargain'.

We set out here our commitments in each of these areas.

We have additional policy recommendations linked to these areas in a second [policy briefing](#)² prepared for the World Humanitarian Summit.

Forced displacement

Through our programmes and advocacy, we commit to:

- support the provision of access to good-quality education for all internally displaced and refugee boys and girls equally, and to advocate for this to take place within one month of displacement.
- scale up programmatic responses to forcibly displaced children and youth, and to all children on the move, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, working across institutional divides and mandates, and in multi-year frameworks to achieve clear outcomes.
- support the development of national legislation, policy, strategies and capacities for the protection of conflict-affected IDP and refugee children and youth. This will include supporting and advocating for coordinated policies and practices between countries of origin, transit and destination in at least three key migration corridors and addressing discrimination on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality and nationality.
- support:
 - access to child and gender-sensitive social protection for conflict-affected, internally displaced and refugee children and youth, including economic security to meet basic needs; and legal, social and economic opportunities to access education, healthcare, livelihoods, labour markets, and protection from violence and exploitation, without discrimination and in a manner that also supports host communities
 - legal rights to a secure stay in host countries – including through adequate, safe and dignified reception conditions and robust registration, including birth registration
 - additional and expedited pathways for admission of refugees –, including resettlement and humanitarian admission, family reunification, private sponsorship, labour mobility and educational opportunities



- increased capacities and resilience of host communities and of formal and informal existing systems to quickly adapt to influxes of refugee and internally displaced families and children, guarantee that they access dignified reception, good-quality health services, livelihood opportunities and long-term solutions.
- establish effective regional coordination mechanisms to ensure that our response is one of improved quality across all the divides and sectors. We will test those coordination models, evaluating them to provide evidence for the coordination of other actors, including governmental actors.
- strengthen and systematically use the best interest of the child both as a principle and as a tool in our programmatic interventions to ensure that every individual child is supported and cared for according to his or her identified needs – ensuring that unaccompanied and separated children receive priority attention and response in our programmes
- address the specific needs of adolescents and youth in humanitarian crises, building on their strengths and assets, and supporting them as essential contributors to development and peace.
- advocate for a reduction of the key drivers of displacement, including through enhanced programming that reduces these drivers. Advocacy will be through initiatives such as:
 - promotion of the Safe Schools Declaration and broader work within the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, noting that attacks on education and military use of schools are a key driver of displacement
 - advocacy work on the grave violations against children and gender-based violence and support for the Children and Armed Conflict agenda and Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies initiative and roadmap, noting that these violations against girls, boys, women and men are a key driver of displacement
 - continuing to document within the International Network on Explosive Weapons the harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the work towards a political declaration to reduce such harm, noting that this practice is a key driver of displacement
 - promotion of international humanitarian law, Article 18 of the Geneva Convention, Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949; Article 5(2) of the Hague Convention IX; and UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/2286 in relation to the protection of healthcare facilities, workers, vehicles and supplies, and ensuring access for medical missions, noting that attacks and disruption of health services are a key driver of displacement
 - promoting concrete action on Security Council Resolution 2242 [2015], recognising the pivotal link between gender equality and the international peace and security agenda. This includes: action for women's and girls' meaningful participation in leadership, ensuring humanitarian and peace-keeping actors address gender inequality; strengthening access to justice for women and girls;



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and investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence.

- develop new partnerships to encourage innovative approaches to support the self-reliance of refugees and IDPs, through seeking funding for programmatic responses on child protection, education, health and livelihoods; through participation and civic engagement; and through encouraging investment that facilitates access to livelihoods for refugees and host communities
- advocate for Member States and other actors to uphold existing rules and standards and to integrate such standards into national-level legislation and policy.

Protection

We will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit to:

- reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to ensuring that our humanitarian policy and practice recognise child protection as a life-saving intervention, and to prioritising this across all our humanitarian action, including in the first phase of an emergency response
- reaffirm our commitment to speak out and advocate on behalf of the children in need of humanitarian assistance when existing mechanisms fail to address their needs adequately
- commit to playing a lead role in identifying and responding to capacity-building needs among humanitarian practitioners, and in developing sustainable approaches to embedding child protection competencies among national disaster management and social welfare workforces in priority countries
- commit to taking the first turn at being the NGO co-lead of the new Child Protection in Emergencies Coordination Group, and to use this position to forge close links between this group and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, including sharing of lessons learned
- join End Violence (the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children), facilitate the engagement of civil society organisations, children and youth in its governance structures and activities at national and global levels, and advocate for it to bridge the 'humanitarian and development divide' by protecting children in all contexts
- promote commitments on the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies and its Roadmap by 2017 within our own humanitarian work, as well as national and international policy platforms where Save the Children is involved.

Education

We will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit to:

- reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to ensuring that our humanitarian policy and practice recognise education as a life-saving and life-sustaining intervention, and to



prioritising the provision of safe, good-quality and inclusive education before, during and after emergencies.

- commit to playing a lead role in building the programming and coordination capacity of education in emergencies practitioners and education authorities to respond to humanitarian crises effectively and in line with the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies.
- reaffirm our commitment to co-leading the Global Education Cluster and working with coordination staff and partners at the global, national and sub-national levels to strengthen response capacity and the transition to recovery.
- continue to lead civil society engagement relating to the establishment of the Education in Crisis Platform, and work to ensure ongoing civil society engagement and buy-in.
- commit to being the first agency to formally endorse the 'Key Principles of Community-Based Safe School Construction'; and commit that for every classroom we substantially remodel or rebuild, we will adhere to these Principles, including by meeting 'life safety' standards.³
- commit to continue working with schools and communities in conflict or post-conflict situations to advocate against the targeting of schools for attack or using schools for military purposes.

Child participation and accountability

We will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit to:

- commit to promoting meaningful engagement with children and youth as a mandatory component of humanitarian preparedness and response, accounting for and addressing discrimination on the basis of gender, age and other grounds. In major emergency responses, wherever possible we will conduct formal consultations with children and young people, ideally in partnership with other child-focused organisations and government counterparts. We will ensure that these consultations inform our programming and advocacy, involve children where appropriate in implementing their recommendations, and where possible provide children and youth with feedback on the way in which their recommendations have been taken forward.

Gender equality and empowerment

We will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit to:

- commit to using humanitarian assessments, project monitoring and evaluations to collect data that is, at a minimum, disaggregated by sex and age, and incorporates gender, age and disability considerations utilising the IASC Gender guidelines, IASC GBV guidelines, Child Protection Minimum Standards, and Age and Disability Minimum Standards.
- commit to designing humanitarian programmes that are gender-sensitive as a minimum and based on data disaggregated by age and sex, and to ensuring that programmes target



the needs of vulnerable groups, even at the expense of a more costly or complex response.

- commit to building the knowledge of our staff on standards, guidelines and principles applicable to protection, gender, age, disability-sensitive programming, and where appropriate, building specialist skills to address gender inequality, as well as the needs of other vulnerable groups.
- commit to working with others to develop cross-agency mechanisms to empower women, adolescent girls and other vulnerable groups to participate meaningfully in programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and to adapting programmes based on feedback received through these processes. Participate in formal and informal decision-making structures and processes, including assessments, community committees, monitoring and feedback within Save the Children's humanitarian responses.
- develop, document and share learning from innovative gender transformative pilot projects to promote the empowerment of women and girls and engage men and boys as part of the solution, in order to address the root causes of gender inequality and prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis settings by 2020.

Localisation

We will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit to:

- commit to a global target for the proportion of funds to be directed to national and local actors.
- commit to strengthened engagement with existing child rights systems in humanitarian contexts, including children's ombudspersons and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, to ensure a holistic and accountable response to address boys' and girls' needs in humanitarian crises.
- commit to an ongoing contribution to the Start Fund – a pooled fund managed by NGOs that has the potential to increase the proportion of funding going directly to local organisations, with particular focus on addressing the gap in funding available for women's organisations, as frontline responders.
- commit to providing financial, technical and human resources to initiatives aimed at building the capacity of local actors, including the Humanitarian Leadership Academy.
- work continuously across the emergency-development spectrum. We will transition programmes responsibly, consulting with local and national stakeholders as we evolve the intensity of our support and the relative emphasis on different system-building blocks in response to changes in the operating environment.

Cash transfers and social protection in humanitarian action



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We will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit to:

- reaffirm our commitment through the Social Protection Inter-agency Coordination Board to support national governments to develop and scale-up sustainable social protection systems, including in humanitarian contexts, to protect those suffering chronic poverty and deprivation, as well as those affected by humanitarian crises, particularly children, and those facing discrimination on the basis of, for example, gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity.
- commit to working with others to build and disseminate evidence on social protection mechanisms that are able to adapt quickly to address the needs of at-risk children and households in humanitarian crises – for example, by being linked to early warning systems.
- commit to working with governments and humanitarian and development actors to scale-up and better coordinate cash transfers in humanitarian interventions, in a way that responds to needs across sectors and enables cash transfers eventually to be integrated with or developed into social protection systems. Through this work we will build the capacity of local and national actors, particularly governments.
- develop mechanisms for expanded coverage of health services within national social safety nets and other social protection mechanisms, including health insurance schemes, so as to meet the essential health needs of all populations, including refugees and IDPs, as soon as possible in a crisis, and in line with the global health cluster guidance on advocating for suspension of user-fees in the acute phase of a crisis.

Health

We will use the opportunity of the World Humanitarian Summit to:

- pursue the technical and operational capacity to deliver a comprehensive, predictable, integrated package of public health services, ensuring that our offer is fit for the context. The national response will be supplemented by deploying technical advisers, emergency response personnel or our standby Emergency Health Unit within 48 hours of rapid-onset, large-scale emergencies.
- reaffirm our commitment to delivery of the Minimum Initial Services Package for reproductive health, family planning and post-abortion care within 48 hours of an emergency, and ensure safe, gender-sensitive, adolescent-friendly and ethical referral linkages to legal, psychosocial, protection and livelihood services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
- strengthen cross-sectoral work through joint assessments, collaborative planning and financing, and reporting on our collective action towards common outcomes for children and women. In particular, we will leverage educational interventions to deliver preventive services (eg, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, hygiene promotion) and emergency preparedness/disaster risk reduction.
- commit to strengthen local and national health systems. In particular to manage risks, contain outbreaks, provide training for health responders, and build up national rapid



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response capabilities. We will continue to intervene directly in exceptional circumstances as needed, and will primarily respond through support for existing public services and community capacity/resilience networks rather than undertaking parallel action.

- commit to improve international coordination of humanitarian action through active participation and advocacy within the IASC global health cluster, the inter-cluster system and other coordination mechanisms. This includes working together with WHO, national ministries of health, other members of the Health Cluster, and other appropriate and interested parties in order to hold WHO to account and to occupy an appropriate place in the response to humanitarian emergencies with important health consequences.

Support for the Grand Bargain

We commit to engage meaningfully in the Grand Bargain for improved efficiency of humanitarian resources, including:

- to streamline and harmonise our requirements for partners, namely capacity assessments, funding proposals and reporting requirements. This will include a commitment not to ask more of our partners than what our donors ask of us. Consideration should be taken not to let partners take on risks without proper support and/or capacity to manage these.
- to be transparent about the full costs of humanitarian action, including the resources we transfer to our own partners, supporting the IATI framework as a suitable methodology.
- to use cash as our preferred option where/when appropriate.
- to invest in high-quality assurance to objectively demonstrate our adherence to humanitarian standards and good practices, including how we demonstrate accountability to people affected by crisis.
- to support:
 - more resources to first and frontline responders
 - more resources to capacity development of first and frontline responders.

¹ A New Deal for Every Forcibly Displaced Child, Save the Children, April 2016,

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/new-deal-every-forcibly-displaced-child>

² Save the Children Policy Recommendations and Commitments for the World Humanitarian Summit

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/save-children-policy-recommendations-and-commitments-world-humanitarian>

³ For the 'Key Principles of Community-Based Safe School Construction', see GADRRES, 'Towards a Safer School Construction: A Community-Based Approach', available at:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/45179>.