



WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

ISTANBUL • 23-24 May 2016

Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises

SPECIAL SESSION SUMMARY

Core Responsibility Three of the Agenda for Humanity



I. Overview

In 35 countries affected by emergencies and protracted crises, 75 million children and adolescents are in urgent need of educational support. However, a staggering finance gap of US\$8.5 billion a year means that 37 million children and adolescents are likely to remain out of school. If nothing is done, more will be at risk of having their learning interrupted. Despite both parents and children identifying education as one of their highest priority needs, education receives less than 2 per cent of humanitarian aid and the support comes too late and is woefully insufficient to cover the needs. Furthermore, silos between the humanitarian, development and security sectors fail to respond to the challenges presented by protracted crises.

Quality education and the opportunity to learn are vital investments in children and young people's future, in the future of their communities and in development and social stability. The special session on education in emergencies and protracted crises included the launch of the [Education Cannot Wait: A Fund for Education in Emergencies \(ECW\)](#) a collaborative, international solution that will deliver quality education to all children and youth even in the toughest of circumstances. ECW is founded on the recognition that humanitarian, development and security needs can no longer be separated.

“Action now has to happen urgently because of the sheer scale of numbers of children impacted. These young people are missing out on schooling and this is becoming a “full-blown global crisis” that will haunt the world for generations.”

Gordon Brown, United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education

Guided by Core Responsibility Three of the Agenda for Humanity (Leave no one behind) and its commitment to “eliminate gaps in education for children, adolescents and youth”, the core principle of the Sustainable Development Goals: “to leave no one behind and to begin with those farthest behind”, the Education 2030 Framework for Action, and the *Oslo consolidated principles for education in emergencies* and protracted crises, stakeholders have pledged to redouble their efforts to close the gaps that inhibit the continuous and long-term provision of education under all circumstances.

II. Key outcomes/themes

Education Cannot Wait – an idea first initiated at the Oslo Summit on Education for Development in July 2015 came into existence due to the commitment and support of governments, organizations and networks. These champions include the Governments of Canada, the UK, Lebanon, Norway, South Sudan and the US, the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Education, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Dubai Cares, the European Commission (EC), the Global Business Coalition for Education (over 100 leading business partners), the Global Compact on Learning Donor Network, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE – a network of more than 12,000 individual members and 130 partner organizations in 170 countries), Save the Children and the World Bank.

Launched at the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, *Education Cannot Wait* galvanized an initial commitment of **90 million USD** from Dubai Cares, the European Commission, the governments of Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Netherlands. The Global Business Coalition for Education announced the mobilization of **USD \$100 million in financial and relevant in-kind contributions** for *Education Cannot Wait*. In addition, a fundraising campaign has been launched and further commitments are expected in the coming months leading up to the UN General Assembly.

Young people and civil society across the globe rallied their support, with over 250,000 representatives signing a petition calling on world leaders to commit to supporting ECW. Over **1,200 people** actively participated on social media from around the world, generating a total of **14,000 tweets** reaching a potential audience of over **225 million**. It brought worldwide attention to issues relating to quality education in emergencies. **#EducationCannotWait** was the third most tweeted hashtag, coming after the official hashtags of the Summit.

At the WHS Special Session, an **ECW High Level Steering Group** was announced - a group which will provide strategic guidance and leadership. The stakeholders to date include: Tariq Al Gurg, Chief Executive Officer, Dubai Cares; Marie-Claude Bibeau,

Minister of International Development and Francophonie, Canada; Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO; Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway; Dean Brooks, Director of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies; Julia Gillard, Chair, Global Partnership for Education; Fillippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees; Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom; Former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete; Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF; Elias Bou Saab, Minister of Education, Lebanon; Gayle Smith, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development; and Tove Wang, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children Norway.

During the special session, the speakers recognized that when conflict or crisis erupts, the educational needs of children and young people are often the last consideration – an afterthought following food, water, shelter and protection. It is not just the children and youth in crisis-affected countries who suffer; so do economies, families, communities and the world. Many of the 35 countries affected by crisis are in regions that are driving global economic growth. The economic strength of a region can be compromised by the lack of an educated workforce and the instability caused by mass migration and forced displacement that comes when families leave their homes in search of a stable environment, including opportunities for quality education for their children and youth. Migration and forced displacement deeply affect countries and regions across the globe including countries in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Europe.

It was strongly emphasized that quality education and the opportunity to learn are vital investments in children's future, in the future of their communities and in development and social stability. A collaborative, international solution is needed, a solution that will deliver quality education to all children and youth even in the toughest of circumstances.

Education Cannot Wait will drive change in five key areas that currently prevent or limit response in emergencies and protracted crises. ECW will:

1. Inspire political commitment so that education is viewed by governments and funders as a top priority during crises;
2. Plan and respond collaboratively with a particular emphasis on enabling humanitarian and development actors to work together on shared objectives;
3. Generate and disburse additional funding to close the US\$8.5 billion funding gap needed to reach the 75 million children and youth affected by crises;
4. Strengthen capacity to respond to national and local crises, improve the ability to coordinate activities and deliver learning in the hardest to reach areas;
5. Improve accountability in the humanitarian and development systems by sharing knowledge and collecting more robust data in order to make better-informed investment decisions.

III. Way Forward

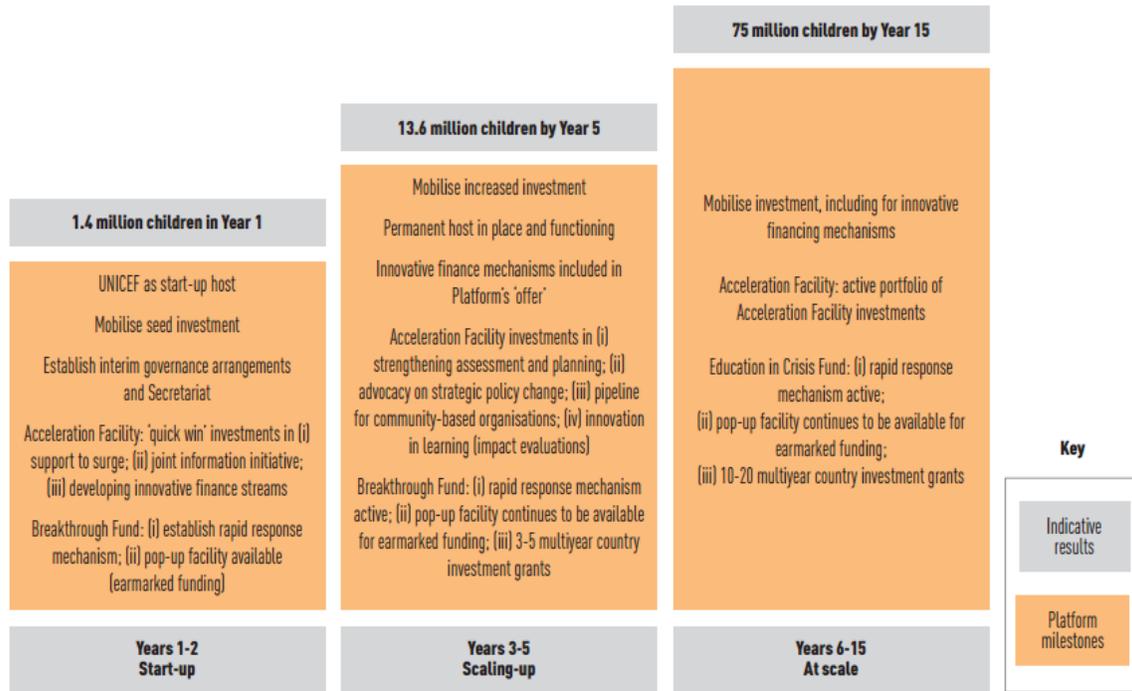
Guided by a High Level Steering Group, established at the WHS, and working with partners in the public and private sectors, ECW will stimulate phased change in the number of children and youth reached and in the quality of education they receive. The aim is to increase the number of children and youth benefitting from access to quality education each year from 1.4 million in Year 1 to 13.6 million in Year 5 and to 75 million in Year 15.

Hosted and administered within UNICEF, an interim Secretariat is under establishment and will be responsible for implementing the day to day work of ECW under the direction of the High Level Steering Group. The Secretariat will provide the essential skills and functions required to deliver results as envisaged for the first year of the fund and to establish a solid foundation for operations over the next five years. Roles in the Secretariat are aligned to the five key areas that currently prevent or limit response in emergencies and protracted crises:

- Inspire political commitment
- Plan and respond collaboratively
- Generate and disburse additional funding
- Strengthen capacity to respond to crises
- Improve accountability

Funding education in emergencies is a shared problem with massive potential for success if we work collaboratively: Every contribution, whether financial or nonfinancial, will make a difference. Generating funding will be important and will allow the Education Cannot Wait fund to provide opportunities to learn for millions of children in emergencies and protracted crises. Non-financial contributions will be equally valuable to the fund's success and to the futures of the 75 million school-age children and youth at risk. The fund will collaborate with public and private partners so that it has the best available resources and expertise allowing it to operate at scale and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing approaches. Expressions of interest from prospective partners are welcome.

ECW Roadmap: ECW has a clear roadmap for turning the current and upcoming commitments into practical action so that the international community can maximize its collective potential to address the challenges of education in emergencies. This three-stage roadmap is illustrated below.



IV. Speakers

Moderator:

- Mr. Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education

Speakers:

- Lebanon - Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Turkey - Ministry of Education
- Democratic Republic of Congo- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Global Partnership for Education
- United Kingdom Department for International Development
- UNICEF
- European Commission for International Development and Cooperation
- Education Above All
- United States Agency for International Development
- Save the Children International
- Malala Fund
- Norway