

Education Cannot Wait!

Help children affected by conflict and insecurity to get an education.

More than 75 million children in crisis-affected and conflict-affected countries need urgent support to receive an education. Half the world's 4 million school-aged refugees are out of school, with refugees five times more likely to be out of school than the global average. Meeting Global Goal 4 ('ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all') will not be possible without safe, inclusive, high-quality education for children and young people affected by conflict and emergencies. In times of crisis, education can play a vital role. It sets children up for success, providing them with hope and the means for a strong future. For a child caught up in conflict, school provides a safe space to learn and a precious sense of normality, routine and calm. And education contributes to a society's potential for long-term stability, peace and prosperity.

'Education Cannot Wait' (ECW) is the only global fund for education in crises. Since it started in early 2017, ECW has operated in some of the most challenging places in the world. This year, ECW seeks to raise enough funds to support the education of 9 million children and young people by 2021. Now, it needs an investment of £75 million from the UK for the period 2019-2021. The UK has been at the forefront of global efforts to scale up investment in education in emergencies, but its spending on education overall is currently reducing. Please visit or write to your MP, telling them about the importance of investing in education in emergencies. Ask them to write to new Secretary of State for International Development Alok Sharma MP, encouraging him to invest £75 million in ECW over three years.

Locked out of school

More than 75 million children in crisis- and conflict-affected countries urgently need support to receive a quality education. More than half the world's four million school-aged refugees are out of school, with refugees five times more likely to be out of school than the global average. Only 61% of refugee children attend primary school compared with 91% of children globally. Refugee enrolment at secondary level is even worse.

When a conflict or natural disaster erupts, education is generally the first service interrupted and the last resumed. Governments are often overwhelmed by the level of need, and humanitarian relief traditionally focuses on people's basic requirements (such as food, water, shelter and protection), with only 2% of humanitarian funding allocated to education. Even though natural disasters do not 'pick their victims' based on ethnicity or gender, research consistently shows that women and girls suffer disproportionately.

Securing stability and prosperity

When children and young people are displaced, the case for education is amplified. Education is the key to their futures, their protection, their happiness and their health, and it cannot be delayed. Providing education

to children can reduce the impact of conflict and displacement, and help children and their communities secure better futures. It keeps boys and girls safe from risks when they are at their most vulnerable. School can mean reduced rates of sexual violence, child marriage, harmful work and recruitment into armed groups.

A safe and high-quality education is vital for any society's potential for long-term stability and prosperity. Each additional year of education can enable a person to increase their income by 10%. Higher levels of education in a country lead to more peace and lower chances of conflict. It will not be possible to reach Global Goal 4 ('ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all') or the other Global Goals by 2030 without increased attention to safe, inclusive, high-quality education for children and young people affected by conflict and emergencies.

Education Cannot Wait

[Education Cannot Wait](#) (ECW) is the only global fund for education in crises. ECW has already reached 1.3 million children and young people in its first two years of operation. This year, ECW seeks to raise enough funds to support the education of 9 million children and

young people by 2021. Since it became operational in early 2017, ECW operates in some of the most challenging places in the world. It currently needs additional funding to continue its vital work, and it is now calling for investments of US \$1.8 billion in funding for education in crisis by 2021, to support high-quality education for close to 9 million children annually in some of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030, the level of investment in education in crises will have to ramp up. This is why ECW is so important, going some way to address the estimated annual funding gap of US \$8.5 billion needed to provide education for the 75 million children and young people affected by crisis.

UK leadership on education

The UK has been at the forefront of global efforts to scale up investment in education, including education in emergencies. It is one of the biggest donors to the [Global Partnership for Education](#) (GPE), a key funding mechanism that supports countries to develop strong national education systems. DFID's education policy, [Get Children Learning](#), published in 2018, recognises that targeted action is needed to ensure the most marginalised children can learn. Between 2011 and 2015, DFID supported the learning of 11 million children, including in some of the toughest places in the world. It was a founding member of ECW and provided an initial £30 million to ECW for the period of 2016-18.

However, the UK's recent [Voluntary National Review](#) of its progress against the Global Goals makes no reference to how the 'Get Children Learning' policy will be delivered in practice. If the UK is to fulfil its ambition of enabling the hardest to reach children to access quality education, it must take concrete steps to deliver

on its commitments. The upcoming replenishment of the ECW provides the perfect opportunity to do this.

Declining spending on education

Securing more and better financing for education is essential for achieving Global Goal 4. But overall, bilateral and multilateral [aid for education is declining](#). The world urgently needs more financing for education generally, as well as more investment into education in emergencies and protracted crises.

The UK must continue to show leadership on financing education for all, including education in emergencies. The UK should also increase the percentage of DFID's aid budget spent on education. It current spends only 7% of its budget on education, far below the International Development Committee (IDC)'s recommendation of 10%, and the [Send my Friend to School call](#) for 15%.

A significant increase in its investment in ECW would position the UK as its leading donor, and set the tone for more and better funding for ECW from other major donors, as well as showing commitment to funding education more broadly.

If you have previously taken action on global education, thank you! Last spring, we asked you to help ensure that schools are [safe places in which to learn](#). Now, we need to show the Government that there is public support for an increased focus on global education. This month, we would like to demonstrate public support for this important part of DFID's work, to encourage the new Secretary of State for International Development Alok Sharma MP to invest £75 million over three years in ECW. Please arrange to visit or write to your MP, telling them about the importance of investing in education in emergencies, and asking them to write to the new Secretary of State.

Take action!

Please arrange to visit or write to your MP, telling them about the importance of investing in education in emergencies, and asking them to write to new Secretary of State for International Development Alok Sharma MP, to encourage him to invest £75 million over three years in Education Cannot Wait.

You can find out information about your MP at <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

Please let the Campaigns team know that you've taken action by emailing Dela at delanderson@results.org.uk.