



Photo: ECW

## EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT: AT A GLANCE

8 May 2019

At Education Cannot Wait, we believe in a world where all children and youth affected by crises can learn free of cost, in safety and without fear in order to grow and reach their full potential.

An estimated 75 million girls and boys have limited or no access to education due to crisis and conflicts around the globe. That's more than the total population of Canada, Denmark and the Netherlands combined. It is urgent to invest in their education now to safeguard their future. This is an investment in girls and boys living in some of the harshest and most dangerous conditions on the planet. It is also an investment in stronger societies, in more resilient economies, in the end of poverty and hunger, and in a brighter future for generations to come.

These millions of girls and boys are left behind in the midst of war and disasters. They flee violence and crisis. They are in war-torn communities and in refugee and displacement camps. Yet, funding for education in humanitarian crises remains significantly lower than for other sectors. This deprives the next generation of children and youth of their basic human right to education. Still, education is often the last and only hope they have to rebuild their lives.

Speed is crucial to save lives and deliver aid in humanitarian crises. Speedy

education responses are essential to protect children and nurture hope and resilience. Children cannot wait until the end of crises or for peace to arrive, which can take decades. We must act immediately to invest financial resources to empower them to withstand the shocks of crisis and emerge stronger and better prepared for life.

As a fast-moving and results-driven fund for education in emergencies, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) is mobilizing a broad coalition of international stakeholders to generate US\$1.8 billion in total finance by 2021 for the Fund's investments to support quality education for 8.9 million children and youth in conflict and crises settings.

This will be a stepping stone in our collective efforts to fill the estimated US\$8.5 billion required annually in financing to provide education to the millions of children and youth in emergencies and protracted crises. Only then can we reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



Photo: UNICEF/Azoura

**“ Here in Dar es Salam [camp], we have food to eat, we go to school, we play with friends, we feel safe. When I get older, I would like to become a doctor to look after sick people.”**

—Aisha Mahamadou, 16, came to the Dar es Salam refugee camp in Chad in January 2015, fleeing a Boko Haram attack on her village near Baga, Nigeria.

## ABOUT US

Education Cannot Wait is the first global multilateral fund dedicated to supporting education for girls and boys in countries affected by wars, disasters and crises. It was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 by a coalition of international aid agencies and public and private donors to usher in faster and more sustainable education responses in crisis settings.

Education Cannot Wait's investments are designed to provide speedy emergency responses when a crisis erupts or escalates, while also linking humanitarian and development aid efforts to ensure quality learning outcomes for children and youth in protracted crisis contexts.

The multi-year resilience programmes funded by Education Cannot Wait ensure access, continuity, protection, equity and gender equality in education for children – especially the most vulnerable groups with special attention to girls, children with disabilities and minorities.

Education Cannot Wait serves as a catalyst to empower children and youth to tap into their own inner strength, resilience and perseverance, in order to develop their potentials and acquire the skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Education Cannot Wait acts as a broker bringing key stakeholders together to accelerate the mobilization of financial resources and facilitate joint programming by humanitarian and development actors. No single stakeholder has the capacity to meet the full scope of needs alone. Collaboration towards joint results is the only way to successfully strengthen learning outcomes for all girls and boys in crisis settings.

In that sense, the Fund supports ongoing reforms in the multilateral aid sector to strengthen cooperation and complementarity towards results and sustainable change through the 'New Way of Working.'

Additional information is available at [www.educationcannotwait.org](http://www.educationcannotwait.org)

## OUR STRUCTURE

Education Cannot Wait is hosted by UNICEF. The Fund is administered under UNICEF's financial, human resources and administrative rules and regulations, while operations are run by the Fund's own independent governance structure.

The High-Level Steering Group provides strategic

guidance to the Fund's operations. Convened at the ministerial level, it is chaired by the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Rt Hon Gordon Brown, and is comprised of partner organizations, including heads of UN agencies and multilateral aid agencies, CEOs of civil society organizations and foundations, and private

sector representatives. These constituencies are represented in the Fund's Executive Committee which oversees operations. Education Cannot Wait's day-to-day activities are carried out by a Secretariat under the direction of the Education Cannot Wait Director, Yasmine Sherif.

## BY THE NUMBERS\*

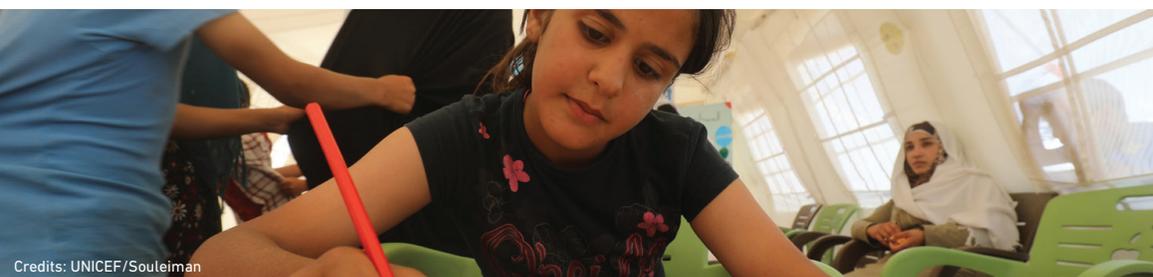
**1 in 4** of the world's school-aged children and youth live in countries affected by crises.

**75 million** Children and youth in countries affected by war, disaster and crisis urgently need educational support. That's greater than the total populations of the United Kingdom, France or Italy.

**\$1.8 billion** Total Education Cannot Wait resource mobilization goal by 2021

**\$8.5 billion** Annual funding gap for education in crisis settings

**\$113** Amount needed per year to fill the education-in-crisis funding gap per child



\* (ODI, 2016)

## WHY IT MATTERS

Girls and boys living in areas affected by wars, disasters and crises who have access to education are better protected, healthier, and have greater access to life saving services. Children and youth who receive quality education are empowered to become agents of change and go on to help create more prosperous, stable and peaceful societies in the longer-term.

Lack of a timely and quality education response in crisis settings exposes children and youth to increased risks of psychological trauma, sexual and gender-based violence, child trafficking, forced recruitment in armed groups, early marriage and pregnancy. It perpetuates cycles of poverty, hunger, inequality, violence and instability. Crisis exacerbates vulnerability and marginalization, disproportionately impacting the education of girls and children with disabilities.

Global efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG4 on education for all) are at risk. This is particularly true in crisis settings, where it is often difficult to deliver safe, reliable education. In these settings children often fall behind, this derails efforts to reach the other Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure no one is left behind as nations across the world move forward to reduce poverty and hunger and ensure inclusive development outcomes for all.

### **30% left behind for primary education**

Children and youth in fragile and conflict affected countries are 30% less likely to complete primary education.

### **50% left behind for secondary education**

Only half of these children and youth are likely to complete lower-secondary education compared to other children.

### **4 million refugee children are out of school**

Of the 7.4 million school-aged refugee children, only 6 out of 10 are able to attend primary school, and just 23% are enrolled in secondary education. Only 1% of refugees will go on to university. Insufficient access to education hinders integration and social mobility.

### **Girls are 2.5 more likely to be out of school than boys.**

In crisis, girls are in double jeopardy. Crisis exacerbates existing gender inequalities which means girls face additional barriers to access education.

### **70 pupils per teacher**

For children who attend school during emergencies, the teacher-to-student ratio is high, and teachers are often unqualified and poorly paid. Quality of education in emergency suffers as a consequence.

### **\$5 to \$1 return on investment**

The economic returns for investing in education in emergencies are significant. For each dollar invested in education, more than US\$5 is returned in additional gross earnings in low-income countries and US\$2.50 in lower middle-income countries.

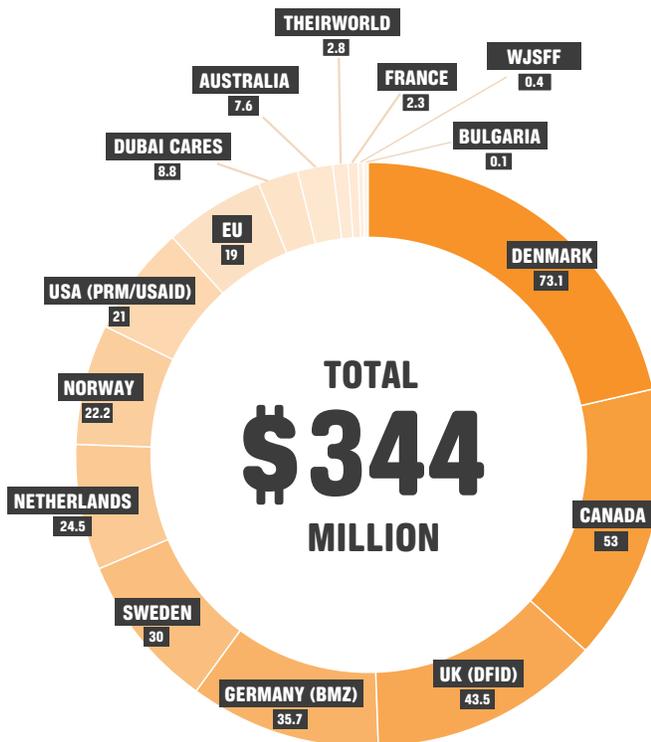
The World Bank estimates that **if every girl worldwide were to receive 12 years of quality schooling, their lifetime earnings could increase by \$15 trillion to \$30 trillion.**



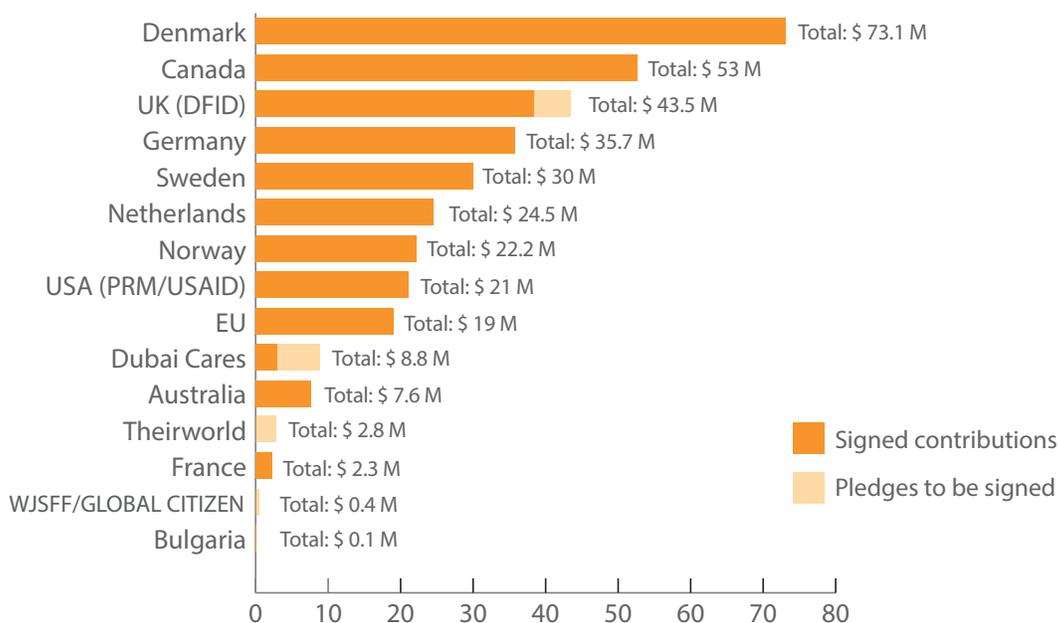
## HOW WE DO IT

1. Inspire political commitment so that education is viewed by governments, policymakers, funders and aid stakeholders as a top priority during crises.
2. Generate additional funding to help close the US\$8.5 billion funding gap needed to reach the 75 million children and youth whose education is disrupted by crisis.
3. Plan and respond collaboratively, with a particular emphasis on supporting programmes that enable humanitarian and development actors to work together on shared objectives.
4. Strengthen capacity to respond to crises, locally, nationally and globally, including the ability to coordinate emergency responses.
5. Improve accountability by developing and sharing knowledge, including collection of more robust data in order to make better-informed investment decisions, and knowledge of what works and does not.

**Total donor contributions to Education Cannot Wait (2017-2019) in US\$ million**



**Contributions and Pledges to Education Cannot Wait Per Donor (2017-2019) in US\$ million**



\* Millions of US Dollars