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Enabel 

EDUCATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS



YOUTH SPEAK OUT !

YOUTH SIDE EVENT I RECOMMENDATIONS

Cathelle Studio captured something yesterday that words alone cannot hold. So let me walk you through it, because every bubble, every word on this sketch note is a message. A recommendation. An urgent call!

BOHDAN KYRYCHENKO

Bohdan from Ukraine, told us what happens when infrastructure collapses. Schools destroyed. Materials gone. And yet, people improvised. They became engineers of their own survival. Despite having no light and internet connection, teaching happened.

His recommendation: **collaborate**. Ukraine and the EU have everything to learn from each other. Don't wait. Start now.

MAYS ALAFIFI

Mays said something that silenced the room yesterday. Living under bombings, day after day, she described the feeling of waking up with nothing to live for. And then she said: *education was the only place we felt alive*. Even in those conditions, impossible conditions, people graduated. People got PhDs. Online. Against all odds.

Her recommendation: **support education platforms and internet access**. Because humans need more than food. They need hope. And education is hope.

SILVIA COSTANTE

Silvia carries a bittersweet feeling. She has seized every opportunity to engage, the Junior Programme and the Youth Sounding Board of Enabel, working for Plan International. And she sees progress. Young people are being consulted. But consultation without follow-through is not enough. There is a gap between being heard and being trusted.

Her recommendation: **integrate life skills into education**. And beyond that, take a risk on young people. Trust them. Not just at the table. During the decision-making process.

CARMEL BOYIKA

"In what state do children arrive at school in time of crisis?" That is the question Carmel asked us to sit with. Resilience, she reminded us, is not built alone. You cannot tell a child who has lived through trauma to simply "be resilient." The school must be a safe space for listening, a place of life, not just of learning.

Her recommendation: **embed mental health into education systems**. Because a teacher who is supported can support a student. And a student who feels safe can learn.

"Keep hope in their heart" - Dr. Nafieh Assaf

Dr. Assaf left us with this: *if you don't act, you leave it to the politicians to decide what meets their interests*. Speak for those who don't have what you have.

And finally, we had a **slam writing session led by Ben Kamuntu and Nokabe** that you all heard this morning. They are not merely artistic interludes, but powerful and meaningful contributions that amplify youth perspectives and underline the importance of engaging young people as active partners in shaping education for resilience, stability and peace.

Conclusion

This sketchnote is not decoration, a beautiful drawing. It is evidence. Evidence that young people from Palestine, Ukraine, DR Congo, Sahel, Belgium, sat in a room yesterday and told the truth, their truth, their reality.

Take this visual with you. Share it. Put it on the table.

Because the youth spoke. You've just listened, now it's your turn to act!

Ces recommandations sont le fruit du youth side event 'Education en temps de crises: parole aux jeunes!' organisé par Enabel le mercredi 27 mai 2026 et ont été rédigées par Laetitia Haddad.

These recommendations are the result of the youth side event 'Education in times of crisis: Youth speak out!', organised by Enabel on Wednesday 27 May 2026, and were written by Laetitia Haddad.