

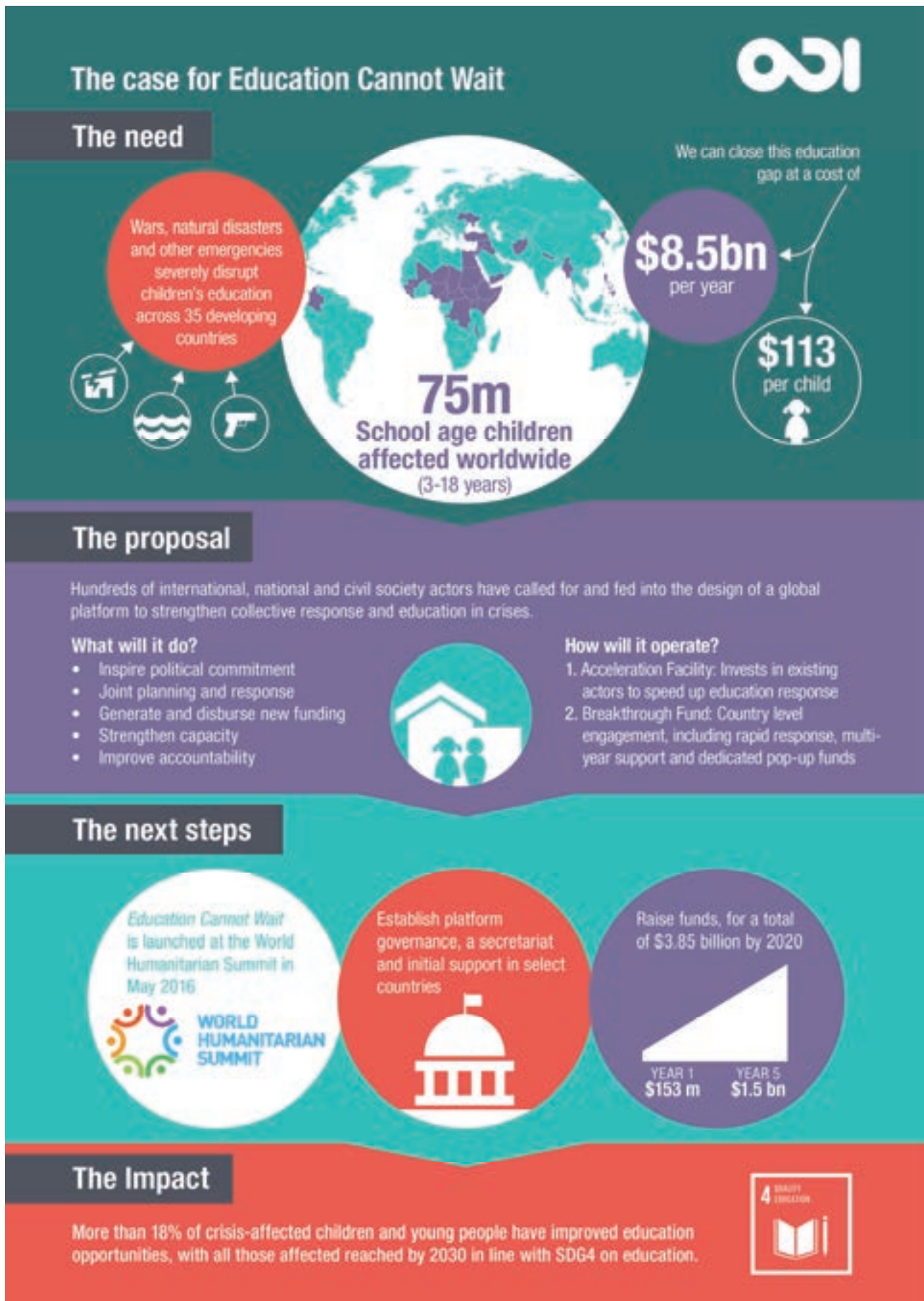
A young girl with dark skin, wearing a bright yellow headscarf and a yellow top, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is holding a piece of white chalk in her right hand and is in the process of writing on a grey chalkboard. Her left hand is pressed against the board. The background is a blurred brick wall. The text 'EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT' is overlaid in the top left, with 'a fund for education in emergencies' in smaller text below it. At the bottom, the text 'CASE FOR INVESTMENT' is written in orange.

# EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

a fund for education  
in emergencies

**CASE FOR INVESTMENT**

# OVERVIEW



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**A growing number of conflicts, natural disasters and other crises means that 75 million school-age children and youth, especially girls, are in desperate need of educational support.<sup>1</sup>**

## OUR VISION

**To create a world where no child or young person will have her or his education interrupted because of an emergency or crisis**

## THE ISSUE

**When conflict or crisis erupts, the educational needs of children and youth are often the last consideration – an afterthought following food, water, shelter and protection.**

In 35 countries affected by emergencies and protracted crises, 75 million children need educational support. However, a staggering finance gap of US\$8.5 billion a year means that 37 million children are likely to remain out of school. If nothing is done, more will be at risk of having their learning interrupted. We cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without delivering education in crisis environments.

**Children and youth fall through the divide between humanitarian and development aid.**

Education receives less than 2 per cent of humanitarian aid and the support comes too late and is woefully insufficient to cover the need. Silos between the humanitarian, development and security sectors fail to respond to the challenges presented by protracted crises. They are not short-term challenges, as worldwide people spend on average 17 years in displacement.<sup>2</sup> The result is that entire generations are denied the opportunities offered by a full and uninterrupted education.

**In the absence of education, children face risks including trafficking, child labour and child marriage.**

In times of crisis, education can offer stability, protection and the chance to gain critical knowledge and skills. It can provide hope. Without education, children face many risks. In times of crisis, young people in some of the most marginalized communities can become frustrated by the lack of opportunity and vulnerable to extremism and violence.

**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 the 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, quality education for 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. Good quality education and the opportunity to learn is a counterbalance to despair and desperation. Unless this problem is urgently addressed, it will get significantly worse.

## THE SOLUTION

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: A Fund for Education in Emergencies is part of the solution.**

The new fund is founded on the recognition that we can no longer separate humanitarian, development and security needs. Children and youth in emergency settings tell us that, in addition to medicine, food and shelter, what they want most is the opportunity to learn. The fund can help provide that opportunity and meet one of the core principles of the Sustainable Development Goals: *“to leave no one behind and to begin with those farthest behind.”*

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<sup>1</sup> ODI Proposal, May 2016

<sup>2</sup> [www.internal-displacement.org/globalreport2016/#home](http://www.internal-displacement.org/globalreport2016/#home)

**The Education Cannot Wait fund will play a groundbreaking role.**

It will usher in a more collaborative approach to financing education so some of the world’s most vulnerable children and youth can pursue peaceful and prosperous futures. The fund will bring together public and private partners to increase the efficiency of current approaches, leverage additional financing, catalyse new approaches to funding, and innovate the delivery of education in emergencies and protracted crises.

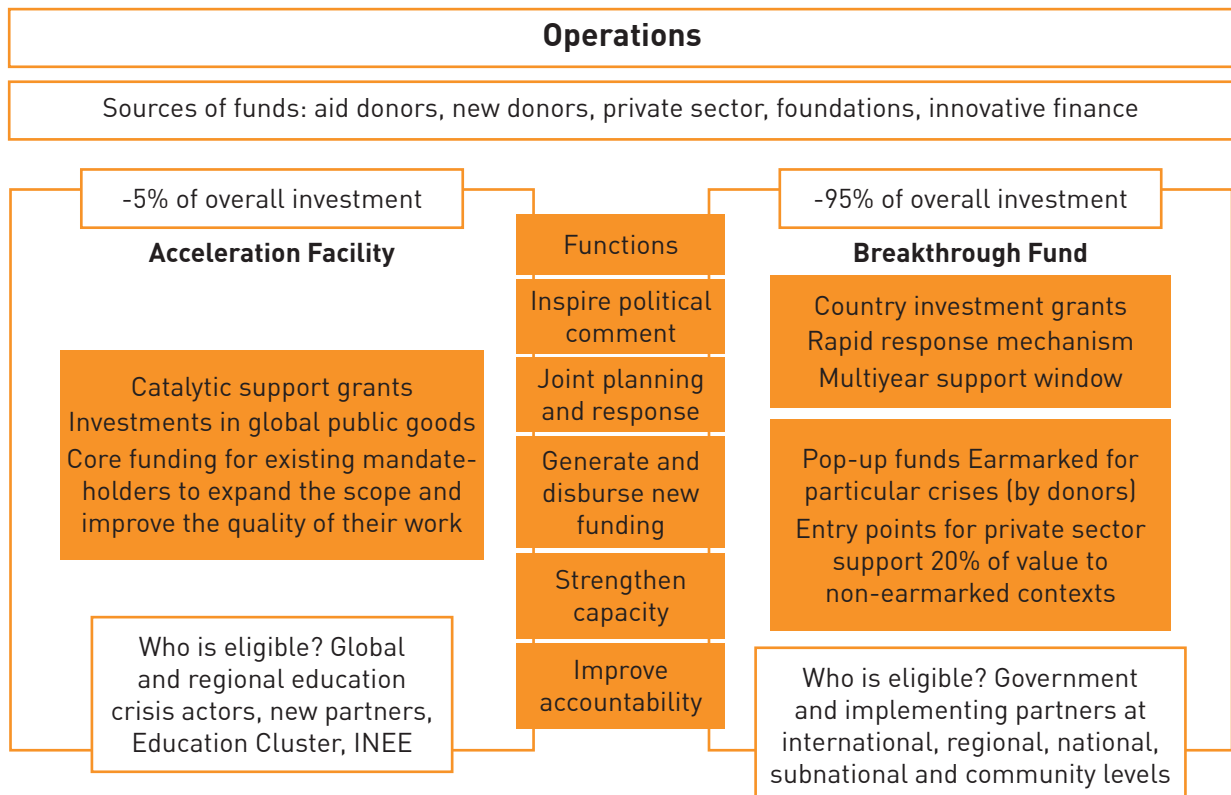
**The Education Cannot Wait fund offers a platform for global collaboration across humanitarian and development responses and will provide opportunity, hope and protection through education. The fund will deliver new resources, greater efficiency and new approaches to providing education in emergencies.**

- At the onset of an emergency, the fund will support immediate action. It will assess where children and youth are, develop an immediate education strategy and enact a delivery plan.
- In the direct aftermath of a crisis, funding will be provided and children and young people will have the opportunity to learn in safe spaces.
- After the immediate crisis has passed, the fund will bridge the divide between humanitarian and development efforts with longer-term plans to finance and deliver education and strengthen systems.

Put simply, the Education Cannot Wait fund will provide the necessary financing and leadership to improve how education response is planned, delivered and monitored for children and youth whose lives are disrupted by emergencies and protracted crises. Your support is needed to make this vision a reality. The following pages describe:

- The impact of crises on education
- The proposed solution
- The urgency of acting now

*Figure 1: How the Education Cannot Wait fund will work.*



# THE IMPACT OF CRISES ON EDUCATION

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**Conflicts, natural disasters and other crises place the education of 75 million children and youth at risk. However, only a fraction of them are reached by education initiatives.**

**The education of 75 million children and youth is at risk.**

For the vast majority of children and youth caught in emergencies and crises, education is at best interrupted and at worst never attained. Nearly half of the children and youth affected are out of school. Many others face problems that make learning impossible, problems such as overcrowded classrooms and sub-standard teaching.

**Without an education, children and young people are denied the tools they need to thrive.**

Education increases the chance for a healthy life and a higher income and the opportunity to live in a more equal society. In short, education provides children and young people the skills and life chances they need to build a better future for themselves and their families.

**Education is not just about securing the future, it also has immediate benefits.**

Education mitigates the immediate and costly long-term psychosocial impact of conflict and disasters and helps protect the most vulnerable children and youth. Education provides a sense of stability and normality and a safe space to learn and play. Without education, children and youth face an increased risk of violence and exploitation from extremists, traffickers and criminals.

**Vulnerable and marginalized groups including children and youth who in poverty, girls and those with disabilities, are disproportionately affected.**

Very young children are vulnerable to health problems and developmental delay. School-age children and youth face risks including early marriage, recruitment into armed groups and labour exploitation. Girls are especially vulnerable because they are 2.5 times more likely to be out of primary school and 9 times more likely to be out of secondary school than boys.<sup>3</sup>

**A record number of refugees and internally displaced children and youth is a particularly difficult problem for education.**

By the end of 2014, a record 60 million people were exiled from their homes, over half of whom were aged 18 or younger. When a child is displaced for longer than six months, there is a high probability they will remain displaced for at least three years.<sup>4</sup> However, only half of primary-school-aged refugees are in school and just a quarter are in secondary education.<sup>5</sup>

**The need for education in emergencies and protracted crises greatly outstrips the supply.**

In 2015, humanitarian response plans identified nearly 40 million children and youth in need of education. Education appeals targeted just 45 per cent of those in need and only 12 per cent were reached because of a lack of funding. Education is not only rarely considered in donors' strategic plans for emergencies. It is also not addressed in the national educational plans for two thirds of the countries affected by crisis. The national plans inform donor funding.

**The system needs not only more funding, it needs longer term and more predictable funding.**

Financing for education as part of humanitarian responses will continue to be required, particularly to address short-term needs caused natural disasters or other emergencies. However, the protracted nature of many crises means that governments and partners need to shift towards predictable multi-year financing so long-term needs can be met effectively.

**Financing is important, but so is cooperation.**

Certainly more money is needed. But collaboration is also essential so that education can be delivered at scale. It is essential to find better ways of working together that are based on the most robust evidence of what effectively delivers more and better quality learning opportunities to children and youth.

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<sup>3</sup> ODI Proposal, May 2016

<sup>4</sup> ODI, Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises: Towards a Strengthened Response, 2015

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

# THE SOLUTION

**Education Cannot Wait: A Fund for Education in Emergencies will deliver education in more effective ways and catalyse new approaches to investment.**

## CLEAR VALUE ADDED

The Education Cannot Wait fund is an important, innovative and long-needed change. The fund will allow the global community to respond quickly with high quality learning opportunities for children and youth in emergencies and protracted crisis. The funds raised will supplement funds already dedicated to education. The country, regional and global work of the fund will help coordinate and contribute to efforts already underway to provide learning opportunities in emergencies.

### The Education Cannot Wait fund will:

- Provide immediate and medium-term financing for life-saving, quality education to children youth affected by emergencies and protracted crises; it aims to reach 34 million children and youth in the first five years
- Supplement humanitarian appeals so that more children and youth can be reached
- Pilot and scale up innovative financing mechanisms
- Create opportunities for new donors to invest in global, regional and country initiatives, which will benefit more children
- Improve the cost effectiveness of education interventions through better collection and use of data and evidence
- Incentivize investment in preparedness and risk-informed approaches to help mitigate the impact of crises
- Encourage governments and agencies to think beyond immediate needs and to coordinate efforts so that education systems are better than they were before the start of an emergency or protracted crisis
- Improve political advocacy efforts so education becomes a priority in emergencies and protracted crises
- Bring in fresh ideas to address educational needs in emergencies and protracted crises

## FOCUSED ON FIVE AREAS

The Education Cannot Wait fund will drive change in five key areas that currently prevent or limit response in emergencies and protracted crises. The fund 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. Through investment in the education cluster<sup>5</sup>, 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

## AMBITIOUS AND PHASED TARGETS

Working with partners in the public and private sectors, the Education Cannot Wait fund will stimulate phased change in the number of children and youth reached and in the quality of education they receive. The goal 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 (see Figure 2).

<sup>5</sup> The Education Cluster is an open formal forum for coordination and collaboration on education in humanitarian crises. The Education Cluster brings together NGOs, UN agencies, academics, and other partners under the shared goal of ensuring predictable, well-coordinated and equitable provision of education for populations affected by humanitarian crises

Figure 2: Beneficiary and financing targets

|   | Year 1        | Year 2        | Year 3        | Year 4      | Year 5        |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Total children and young people targeted</b> | 1,360,000     | 3,400,000     | 6,120,000     | 9,520,000   | 13,600,000    |
| <b>Total funding required (\$)</b>              | \$153 million | \$383 million | \$689 million | \$1 billion | \$1.5 billion |

## ONE FUND, TWO MECHANISMS

The fund will provide the combination of global, regional and country support that is required to address the immediate and medium-term challenges of crises. It will also improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the entire response system. Based on the needs in an emergency, the fund will support learning for all children and youth including early childhood, primary and secondary education. It will achieve this through two mechanisms that represent an important, innovative and long-needed change in how children and youth are supported during crises:

- **The Acceleration Facility** (5 per cent) will provide ‘catalytic support grants’ to global and regional players so they can improve the effectiveness, cost effectiveness and scale of existing approaches to education in emergencies.
- **The Breakthrough Fund** (95 per cent) will support country-level initiatives undertaken by governments and implementing partners.

Designed to increase the return on investment of initiatives that already have funding as well as to enable different types of donors to participate, it will include:

- **A rapid-response mechanism** focused on returning children and youth to education. The mechanism will fund safe learning spaces, teaching and learning materials, innovative delivery models and psychosocial support. It will also invest in improving planning for short- and medium-term needs.
- A multi-year window that supports long-term plans and the provision of learning opportunities and consolidates existing humanitarian and education sector plans, facilitating a coherent, coordinated approach.
- A pop-up facility that enables non-traditional funders such as the private sector and philanthropists to quickly and easily channel financial support to a specific country, region or part of country’s national plan, without cumbersome procedures that often hinder timely support for education in emergencies.



Figure 3: Examples of the fund's activities

|  | Acceleration Facility   | Breakthrough Fund  |
|--|---|--|
| Inspire political commitment             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support national political actors as they establish an appropriate, coordinated response architecture</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support country-specific political and fundraising efforts</li> </ul>   |
| Plan and respond collaboratively         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen multi-year education plans that include cost estimates</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and implement high-quality, multi-year, costed plans that return children to schools and safe learning spaces</li> <li>Conduct risk and resilience analyses and planning</li> </ul> |
| Generate and disburse additional funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and manage innovative financing options</li> <li>Establish entry points for different types of funders including the private sector and philanthropists</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare country-level cost modelling for response</li> </ul>  |
| Strengthen capacity                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in technology solutions to enable virtual support</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in education in emergency teams or ministries' project management units</li> </ul>   |
| Develop and share knowledge              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve data collection, analysis and tools</li> <li>Establish data-feedback loops to improve accountability</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link up humanitarian data and crisis-sensitive Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)</li> </ul>   |



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## DRIVEN BY RESULTS

To deliver value for money, the Education Cannot Wait fund will measure success through indicators that reflect its goal of improving the scale, efficiency and effectiveness of education responses in emergencies and protracted crises. Regular monitoring and evaluation will allow the fund to share knowledge and to learn from examples. Some of the key results the fund will deliver its first five years of operation include:

- 34 million children and youth provided with quality education by Year 5
- At least \$3.85 billion of additional funds disbursed by 2020
- A substantial increase in additional, predictable and longer-term funding for education in crises

## MANAGED EFFICIENTLY AND COLLABORATIVELY

A lean governance structure will contribute to operational efficiency. A High-Level Steering Group that includes a cross-section of senior representatives of organizations from different sectors will provide leadership, cutting-edge

thinking and a spirit of collaboration that is so urgently needed. A small secretariat will be established to administer the fund. The secretariat will be based at UNICEF for a short period while the permanent hosting arrangement is established.

## FINANCED IN NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS

Funding will be mobilized through a combination of existing and new donors, including:

- Donors already active in the field
- Donors from countries that historically have not contributed directly to multilateral aid
- Matched funding schemes between public and private donors
- Business employee engagement and contributions
- The corporate sector
- Foundations
- Philanthropic institutions
- Individuals with a high net-worth including individuals from communities of diaspora
- International non-governmental organizations including faith-based groups
- Innovative funding sources such as crowd-funding, social impact bonds and microlevies

# THE URGENCY OF ACTING NOW

**As a cornerstone of international development, education should always be a top priority. Current crises – and the costs of inaction – make education in emergencies an even more pressing priority.**

There is a new high-level commitment to collaboration and inclusive quality education for all, including children and youth in emergencies and protracted crises. This commitment provides a powerful impetus for action. And, importantly, the Education Cannot Wait fund has a clear roadmap for turning commitment into reality.

## HIGH-LEVEL COMMITMENTS

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the right of everyone to education in emergencies that urged Member States to support education as an integral part of their humanitarian efforts. The Oslo Summit on Education for Development in July 2015 also made a high-level commitment to address the disruption of education by emergencies and protracted crises.

These initiatives echo the broader drive of Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goal 4, which was ratified in September 2015. The goal calls for governments to “ensure inclusive and equitable

*quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”*

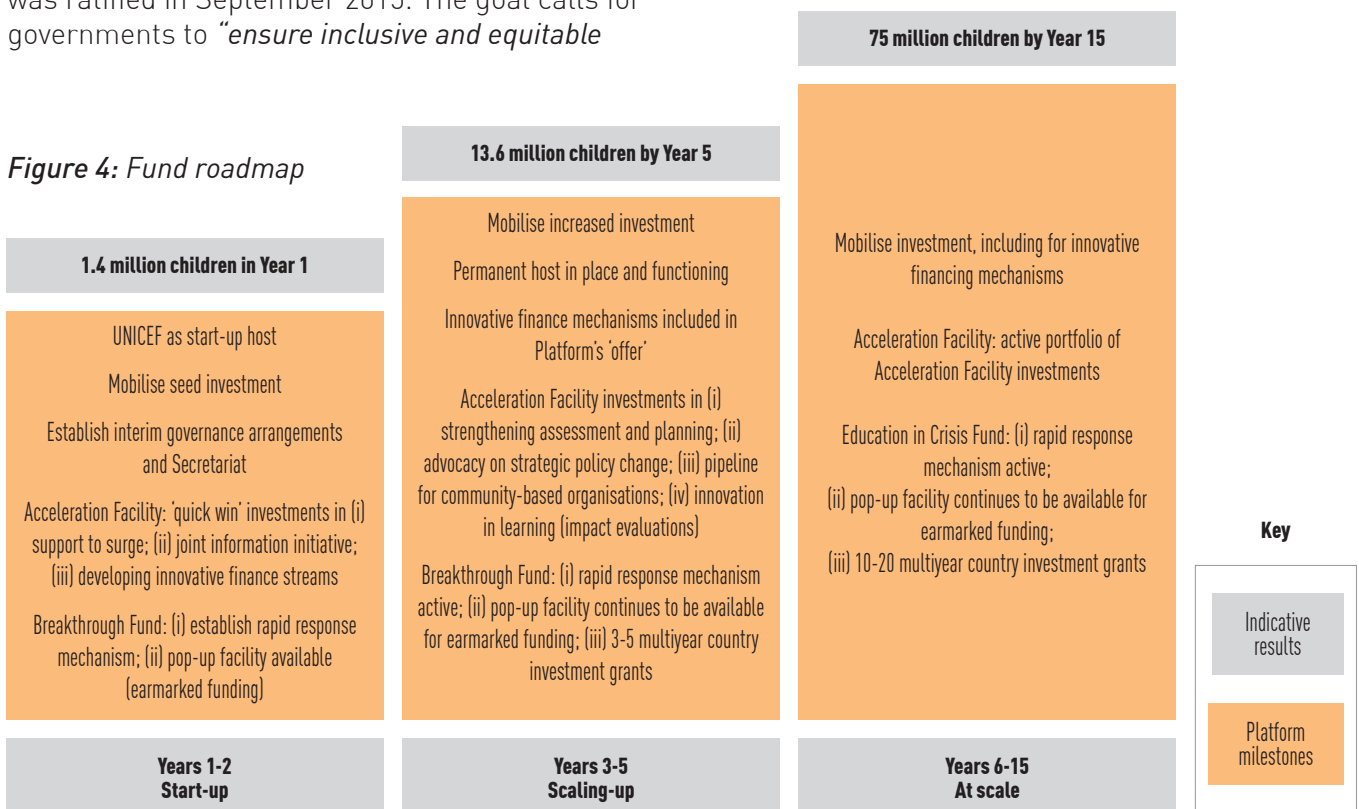
More recently, there have been high-level calls for a more collaborative approach between humanitarian and development efforts. For example, the United Nations Secretary-General’s report, One Humanity: Shared Responsibility, calls for the international community to unite to resolve differences, accept individual and collective responsibility and confront the challenges of our time. The High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing also highlights the need for shared responsibility to address root causes, provide a deeper and broader resource base for humanitarian action, and improve the timeliness and efficiency of delivery.

## A CLEAR ROADMAP

The Education Cannot Wait fund has a clear roadmap for turning these 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.

**Figure 4: Fund roadmap**





## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE

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.

# SECRETARIAT AND INDICATIVE COSTINGS FOR YEAR 1

The Secretariat established to administer the fund 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. The secretariat will provide skills in the following areas: • **Leadership:** The secretariat's director will have overall responsibility for the secretariat, including the performance of the grant mechanisms and outreach to country and global partners.

- Education in emergencies and protracted crises: The secretariat will have expertise in what works to prevent and end the interruption of education and learning.
- Humanitarian, development and innovative financing: The secretariat will have a deep understanding of funding streams for education at the country level, allowing the fund to add value and incentivize better performance. This includes expertise in innovative financing mechanisms, which can be hardwired into the fund's design in its first five years of operation.
- Data, monitoring and evaluation: The fund will need to quickly show evidence of its impact for children and youth.
- Grant administration and due diligence: The fund cannot burden potential implementation partners with unnecessary red tape, but will be required to prepare and roll out fit-for-purpose grant applications and reporting.

The secretariat will be housed on an interim basis



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at UNICEF, which has a track record of successfully managing new initiatives, including GAVI – the Vaccine Alliance, UNITLIFE (a new innovative financing mechanism that uses microlevies from extractive industries to increase resources for the fight against malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa) and the Global Partnership for Ending Violence Against Children. UNICEF is the largest actor in education in emergencies. UNICEF is the leading advocate for child rights, active in more than 190 countries, territories and areas through country programmes and National Committees.

*Figure 5: Estimated costs for Year 1*

| Function            | Cost category  | Indicative investment (US\$)                     |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Fund core functions | Acceleration Facility Investments  | 5 million  |
|                     | Breakthrough Fund Investments  | 148 million                                      |
|                     | Secretariat including people and technical assistance to operationalize the fund | Approximately 3.8 million (subject to agreement) |



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES AND PROTRACTED CRISES

### Why should education be a priority in emergencies and protracted crises?

There is now more evidence on education's life-sustaining role in emergencies and protracted crises. Education is considered a core component of a humanitarian response. Given the duration and complexity of crises, it is clear that learning cannot be suspended until more stable times: education cannot wait. The failure to prioritize education in humanitarian response risks leaving entire generations uneducated, disadvantaged and unprepared to contribute to recovery from crises.

## FUND CONTRIBUTION

### How will the Acceleration Facility and Breakthrough Fund work?

The Acceleration Facility will invest in order to improve the effectiveness, cost effectiveness and scale of existing approaches to education in emergencies. In addition it will invest in innovative approaches. The Breakthrough Fund, which is the majority of funding, will be invested in country and regional support through rapid response and multi-year investments. The Breakthrough Fund will contribute to efforts to provide more equitable and reliable support to crisis-affected countries and earmark a portion of funds for targeted interventions.

### Why invest in the Education Cannot Wait fund? How is it different than other entities that deliver education in emergencies?

The fund will bring together a fragmented system. It will better safeguard humanitarian and development investments by modelling and informing best practice. It will protect gains made by partners in education and will combine humanitarian and development interventions to contribute to medium- and long-term development goals.

### How will the fund not displace existing investment in education in emergencies and protracted crises?

Actions will *build on* and *build up* existing humanitarian and development architecture including the education cluster. Investment will be made in credible partners and will complement existing humanitarian and development financing streams. The fund will also attract new and non-traditional partners and donors, contributing additional resources (political, technical and financial) for the benefit of children and youth.

### How will the fund make sure investments are protected in fragile contexts?

Accountability and transparency are central to the work of the fund. Though new modalities and expanded partnerships do introduce new risks, the fund will work to minimize operational risk by following *Do No Harm* principles and current best practices in its financing decisions. Significant investment will be made in capacity, data, innovative monitoring, improved accountability and results-based financing mechanisms. As a result, the Fund will establish will incentivize partners to deliver results and allow for a halt to investment if milestones are not met.

## FINANCING AND SUPPORT TO THE FUND

### Are you asking for start-up funds? Should we wait to invest till the fund has proven itself?

Establishing the fund requires support from the widest range of partners. Getting involved early on will make it possible to help mould the fund's strategy and approach so that it can successfully meet its ambitions in the short and long term.

## HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS

### What is UNICEF's role as interim host of the fund?

Before a permanent host for the fund is identified, UNICEF will act as host. UNICEF has a track record of hosting partnership programmes and secretariats, each with separate identities and governance arrangements. UNICEF can quickly provide a home for the Secretariat and act as 'Fund Custodian'. UNICEF's mandate, close working relationship with other United Nations agencies and the Global Partnership for Education, ability to attract financing from the broadest range of donors, and ability to disburse funds to a wide range of recipients globally, regionally and at the country level will help to operationalize the fund quickly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
[info@educationcannotwait.org](mailto:info@educationcannotwait.org)



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# EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

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