

## **A CHILD & YOUTH CALL TO ACTION FOR EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES**

### **Section 1: Prioritise Child Protection and Child Welfare in EiE**

When crises hit, protecting the rights and welfare of children and young people must be an immediate priority for all stakeholders. Failing to do so undermines any effort to deliver education in emergencies. This is especially critical for children and youth who face existing vulnerabilities, such as girls, people with disabilities, and minority groups. We, therefore, call for:

- *Governments* to develop national child-protection boards, including youth representatives as equal members, with a sole focus on safeguarding the welfare of children and young people on the move and in refugee camps and delivering the Core Commitment for Children (CCC)
- *Governments* to create a framework for mental health and psychosocial support to address individual and systemic exclusion of children and young people in crises.
- *Governments* to establish a working group to annually review the adoption of the [Safe Schools Declaration](#) with representation from civil society and young people living in emergency contexts.
- *All stakeholders* to make concerted efforts to improve girl's education in enrolment, retention, and transition and promote gender-transformative education while discouraging harmful cultural practices such as FGM and child marriage
- *All stakeholders* to provide quality information on sexual and reproductive health, support networks, role modelling, and mentorship programmes for school-aged girls living in emergency contexts.

### **Section 2. Stronger Youth Engagement and Partnerships in EiE**

Young people, students, children, and their representative organisations and networks are already leading efforts to deliver and defend education in emergencies across the world. We are not only beneficiaries of programmes and policies but key actors in defending our own rights and those of our peers - nothing about us, without us! Our agency and participation must be recognized by all other stakeholders and decision-makers by:

- *Governments* create a direct mechanism for young people to design, implement and monitor national policy and programmatic responses to EiE.
- *All stakeholders* to partner and revamp, fund, promote and support youth- and student-led organisations to be part of advisory teams and committees that shape EiE decisions in all contexts.
- *All stakeholders* to increase funding for EiE projects led by youth organisations and clubs.

- *All stakeholders* establish paid advisory positions or committees for refugee and displaced youth to ensure that the voices of refugee and displaced youth meaningfully shape EiE decision-making, at all levels.

### **Section 3: Increased policy support and targeted funding to Internally Displaced People, Refugees, and Asylum-Seeking children and young people**

Too often, policy changes, programmes, and funding for EiE don't reach those of us most in need. We need more targeted delivery of these interventions to effectively support, protect and safeguard the rights of refugee, IDP, and asylum-seeking children and youth. We therefore demand:

- *All stakeholders* implement evidence-based initiatives that support adequate funding and legalisation of newly displaced children and youth to enable them to have access to education and other essential opportunities in their emergency states.
- *All stakeholders* to promote inclusion by issuing travel documents to participate in high-level meetings and gain admission to international universities.
- *All stakeholders* invest in building capacity for young people through youth clubs and networks to raise awareness of the increased barriers to education in emergencies, resilience, disaster risk reduction, and management.
- *Governments* to strengthen youth participation through the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) to promote the inclusion of refugees in host communities and permit refugee children and youth to receive and benefit from educational programs from public institutions.

### **Section 4: Greater Accountability and Accessibility**

In recognition of the critical role of EiE intervention in the development of children and youth, We, therefore, call for:

- *ECW* to change its policy on youth to include youth over the age of 18 in line with national, regional, and international definitions and norms.
- *Governments* to implement systems where laws, policies, schemes, and constitutional and international commitments in EiE are accounted for. A system that holds every donor accountable for the pledges made towards EiE.
- *Governments* give access to regional integration of educational systems between neighbouring countries so that children can continue education in an emergency situation and increase vocational training, entrepreneurship, and peace-building in the rural areas.
- *All stakeholders* to implement prepositioning of stocks to provide timely, quality, and relevant EiE.
- *All stakeholders* to implement policies that protect the children and youth from harmful commercial interests.

This **Call to Action** was developed by child and youth delegates participating in the ‘[Education Cannot Wait High Level Financing Conference](#)’, with input from wider youth networks including the ECW Youth Constituency and Y4EIE Global Youth Panel. It builds upon the actions and recommendations from the [Transforming Education Summit Youth Declaration](#) and the [IASC Youth Guidelines](#); to meaningfully engage with young people as leaders in Education in Emergencies. We call on governments, UN agencies, donors & foundations, civil society, children, and youth to support our Call to Action.