

# G7 Call for International Cooperation to Protect Children's Right to Education in Emergencies and Crises



COVID-19, climate-induced disasters, the Afghanistan crisis, the Ukraine conflict, and other forgotten crises – threats against global stability and security are at extraordinary highs and projected to worsen. Communities, families, and children are suffering at unprecedented levels, with basic securities being stripped from them, often in the blink of an eye. Essential services like education, health, and child protection are deteriorating, or sometimes abruptly disappearing, only further exacerbating related refugee crises and challenging recovery efforts.

G7 members must urgently invest in better futures and SDG 4 by increasing international cooperation to protect the right to education of all children and learners from being disrupted by crisis and establish safe, inclusive, gender-responsive, quality education and lifelong learning systems that are resilient to emergencies and crises like COVID-19, climate change, and conflict.

### **Resilient education systems**

G7 members must support the strengthening and transformation of quality education systems to be resilient against emergencies and crises like COVID-19, climate change, and conflict.

- **Anticipatory and adaptive education:** Integrate disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness measures into education sector planning, including climate change learning and adaptation, and prioritize education in emergency planning and response in consultation with children, youth, and communities to build resilient education systems.
- **Child safety and wellbeing:** Increase support to early childhood education and development programs, mental health and psychosocial support, social and emotional learning, and uninterrupted school meal programs, and strengthen prevention, reporting, and referral mechanisms to mitigate sexual and gender-based violence, early pregnancy, and harmful practices against girls, particularly child marriage and FGM, especially in areas at risk of conflict or insecurity.
- **Learning recovery and acceleration:** Prioritize the retention and remuneration of teachers and their safe and healthy working conditions, and increase equitable access to high-, low-, and no-tech remote learning solutions, non-formal and community-based education, and accelerated learning and catch-up programs, particularly for foundational literacy and numeracy.

### **Gender equality and marginalized groups**

G7 members must support the establishment of gender-responsive, crisis-resilient education systems with and for all children – with a focus on the most marginalized groups, particularly girls and children with disabilities.

- **Child participation:** Consult children, youth, teacher organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, parents, communities, and other organizations that can bring children's perspectives into education and emergency response planning to ensure that design and implementation meet the needs of all children.
- **Marginalized groups:** Strengthen data systems and approaches to more successfully identify and ensure the targeted inclusion of marginalized children and youth – including girls, children and youth with disabilities, pregnant girls and young mothers, refugees and forcibly displaced children and youth, and indigenous groups – in education, health, and

child protection systems and services, particularly during times of crisis and conflict and in response plans and interventions.

- **Girls' education:** Fulfill G7 commitments to support 40 million more girls in school by 2026 in low and lower-middle-income countries and 20 million more girls reading by age 10 or the end of primary school in low and lower- middle-income countries by 2026, including by recruiting and training an additional 1.8 million teachers.

### **Accountability and financing**

G7 members must mobilize public and private investments to increase predictable yet flexible multi-year funding for education with an aim to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus and harmonize acute emergency response with longer-term education system resilience.

- **Continuity of G7 education commitments:** Ensure continued progress, financing, and accountability to the G7 2018 Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, G7 2021 Declaration on Girls' Education, and the COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact.
- **Protection of education budgets:** Protect education and lifelong learning systems from budget cuts during times of crisis and emergency, and ensure resources are allocated equitably, effectively, and efficiently.
- **ODA to education:** Increase G7 ODA to education and allocate at least 10 percent of humanitarian funding to education in order to fulfill G7 education commitments, including by committing at least \$1.5 billion to Education Cannot Wait's new strategic plan and filling the unmet \$1.2 billion resource needs of the Global Partnership for Education. Ensure education foreign assistance reaches communities abroad, is protected from diversion to domestic assistance, and increases proportionally alongside defense spending.

Endorsed by:

1. 100 Million Campaign
2. ActionAid International
3. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
4. All-Africa Students Union (AASU)
5. Amal Alliance
6. Amnesty International
7. Association d'Aide à l'Éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)
8. Canadian Lutheran World Relief
9. Campagna Globale per la Educazione (Italy)
10. Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
11. Canadian International Education Policy Working Group (CIEPWG)
12. Coalition Éducation (France)
13. Code (Canada)
14. Education Cannot Wait
15. Education for All Coalition
16. Education for All Somalia Coalition (EFASOM)
17. Education International (EI)
18. FHI 360
19. Finn Church Aid

20. Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie
21. Frontline AIDS
22. Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft (GEW)
23. Globale Bildungs Kampagne (Germany)
24. Global Campaign for Education
25. Global Campaign for Education – The Netherlands
26. Global Campaign for Education – United States (US)
27. Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
28. Global Student Forum (GSF)
29. International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd)
30. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
31. Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE)
32. Kindernothilfe
33. Light for the World
34. Oxfam
35. Plan International
36. Results UK
37. Send my Friend to School (UK)
38. Sesame Workshop
39. She's the first
40. Sightsavers
41. Street Child
42. UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report
43. United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)
44. University of Virginia Humanitarian Collaborative
45. VSO International
46. War Child Holland, War Child UK and War Child Canada
47. Wellspring Foundation (Canada)
48. WeWorld (Italy)
49. World Food Programme (WFP)
50. World Vision
51. ZOA

With contributions by Save the Children and UNICEF.