

World leaders, civil societies, philanthropists and concerned citizens met to establish plans to **coordinate** humanitarian and development project planning and funding. Summit objectives include ensuring **efficacy through coordination and efficiency** of project development and establishing **new** funding. Outcomes include much improved success at meeting the needs of the increasing numbers of people living in poverty and those suffering human rights abuses and enabling **equitable** distribution of resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030). The ultimate goal is to move from crisis response to crisis prevention.

Education Cannot Wait Fund

The Education Cannot Wait Fund, a fund for education in emergencies, launched Mon. May, 23, at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), aims initially to reach 13.5 billion children and youth living in crisis situations, such as conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks. The intent is to offer quality education eventually to all 75 billion young people, the number of children and youth (ages 3-18 years) across 35 crises affected countries that in 2015 had their education disrupted. Annual funds needed equals \$157.00 per child. However, only \$44.00 per child is expected creating a funding gap of \$113.00 per child or \$8.5 billion a year. (UNICEF Education Cannot Wait and <https://www.odi.org/comment/10388-five-reasons-why-we-need-global-fund-education-emergencies>)

The Education Cannot Wait Fund, designed to eventually meet the needs of all displaced children and youth aims to transform humanitarian aid for the future. Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy states that the fund bridges the gap between humanitarian and development aid through **predictable** funding. Most humanitarian aid goes to shelter and food. However, development aid including aid to education “falls through the cracks”. 75 million children missing school means a “full blown crisis” and a “generation of children” missing their education as a result of war, child marriage, forced labour and the recruiters of violent extremism. Canada needs to heed the clarion call to make education central to humanitarian action and transcend the humanitarian-development divide.

in Sub Saharan Africa, the fund would support children such as those in South Sudan where one third of children are denied schooling, in Nigeria where Boko Haram have closed 5,000 schools and in the Central Republic of Africa where 1 in 4 schools are not functioning. The fund would also support West African countries where the Ebola epidemic stalled economies and brought education to a standstill.

HOPE:

For children living in conflict affected and protracted crises, education means **HOPE**. Absence of hope spawns... “the soul crushing certainty that there is nothing ahead to plan or prepare for, not even a place in school,” declared Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education.

In times of crises, education also provides:

- the drive for stability, reconciliation and peace building
- defense against social and economic shocks
- safety from abuses like trafficking and recruitment into armed and extremist groups
- protection from child labour and child marriage
- the building blocks for children to rebuild their lives and eventually, their country
- a lever against future crises

Education aid receives less than two per cent of emergency funding.

“The new fund is expected to:

- provide \$3.85 billion educational emergency funding over 5 years, recognizing that the average time a refugee is out of his or her country is more than 10 years and often exceeds 17 years;
- have private sector, foundation and philanthropic windows and be the first comprehensive education public partnership in humanitarian aid; and
- engage philanthropic companies in innovative solutions to deliver education, including bold experiments in online education to help refugees in camps and those holed up in hovels, huts and tents.”

The Canadian Connection:

Julie Shouldice, Director, Education, Child Protection and Gender Equality for Global Affairs Canada (GAC) Co Chaired the Technical Strategy Education Cannot Wait Crises Platform.

We commend, Mme Bibeau, Minister of International Affairs attendance at the WHS and Special Session 4 on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crisis. Mme. Bibeau recognized that **“education is a key element”** in improving the health and rights of women including reproductive and sexual health services to women, in helping to make youth good citizens and to be able to participate in the democratic process and in their country’s economic development and in protecting girls from early and forced marriage and children and youth from involvement with armed groups. She explained that Canada is undergoing a Global Affairs Consultation Process. No funding commitment announcement was made. It is hoped that after the Global Affairs Canada consultation process and perhaps at the UN General Assembly in September, Canada will commit to this important fund.

The UK supported the Education Cannot Wait initiative with a commitment of £30 million. Julia Guillard, chair of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), announced that the GPE strongly supports and commits to making the fund successful.

You Can Take Action:

For the above reasons, the EdWG encourages GRAN participants to use the template letter or write your own letter to your MP, Mme Bibeau, Minister of International Affairs and/or Karina Gould, parliamentary secretary to Mme Bibeau encouraging the federal government to increase priority in education in development and to increase education funding to a minimum of 15% Official Development Assistance (ODA). Please see letter template and resources at <http://grandmothersadvocacy.org/system/files/resources/MayActionGRANletter.docx.pdf>

“Let us become the first generation to decide to be the last that sees empty classrooms, lost childhoods, and wasted potentials.”

Malal Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and education activist.

Resources:

Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Education Cannot Wait: A Fund for Education in Emergencies
<https://www.odi.org/publications/10405-education-cannot-wait-fund-education-emergencies>

UNICEF Education Cannot Wait: A Fund For Education In Emergencies
<http://www.ineesite.org/en/education-cannot-wait>

Special Session 4: Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crisis webcast (1:11: 34) Mme Bibeau speaks at 38:45 min

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/conferencessummits/world-humanitarian-summit-23-24-may-2016-istanbul-turkey/special-sessions/watch/special-session-4-%E2%80%93-education-in-emergencies-and-protracted-crisis-world-humanitarian-summit-23-24-may-2016-istanbul-turkey/4907648165001>

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