



a global fund for education in emergencies

Concept note

A high-level ECW Replenishment Event for Education in Emergencies & Protracted Crisis

Background

In its first two years of operations Education Cannot Wait reached 1.3 million children and youth – half of whom are girls – in 19 crisis-affected countries through crisis sensitive and coordinated investments. Five ground-breaking multi-year response programmes were launched with additional ones due in the months leading up to the 74th UN General Assembly in 2019.

Yet, more needs to be done. 75 million school-aged children and youth caught up in crisis are in desperate need of access to quality education. They are either in danger of, or already missing out on their right to an education.

Education Cannot Wait and its partners are calling on governments, private sector companies and foundations, philanthropic organisations and global leaders to support its efforts to mobilise \$1.8 billion in funding for education in crisis settings by 2021. This investment will support the delivery of quality education to nearly to 9 million children annually in some of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

This replenishment effort includes \$673 million for the Education Cannot Wait Global Trust Fund, which supports rapid emergency responses when new crises strike, capacity building and global goods. The global Trust Fund also supports seed-funding investments for the multi-year education response programmes through which Education Cannot Wait seeks to catalyse an additional \$1.2 billion in co-financing at the country level.

This is a critical year for action on education in crisis.

Alongside the 74th UN General Assembly, the first Sustainable Development Goal Summit since the adoption of the Goals in 2015 will be held. It will review progress towards implementation of the Global Goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education. Furthermore, the first ever Global Refugee Forum will be held in December whereby policy and financial commitments will be made in support of implementing the Global Compact on Refugees.

The high-level event on Education in Emergencies & Protracted Crisis will bring together member states, donors, private sector companies and foundations, and civil society to learn more about Education Cannot Wait's success stories and provide a platform to announce new pledges in support of its urgently needed investments.

Join us as we accelerate this work, focus on concrete action and increase our investments on the ground, so that we can reach those furthest left behind and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Goals and objectives

The goal of the event is to build political and financial support for Education Cannot Wait to ensure it can support quality education to close to 9 million children by 2021 through its collaborative and innovative approach.

The event will achieve this by:

- Providing participants an opportunity to announce new financial commitments in support of Education Cannot Wait's investments in quality education.
- Developing a shared understanding of the needs and challenges in providing education in emergencies and protracted crises.



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- Showcasing best policy and practice in education in emergencies and protracted crises from across the world, including the unique design and impact of Education Cannot Wait's investments
- Exploring how innovation and collaboration in education in emergencies and protracted crises can create lasting results

Themes

The following themes are proposed to be included in the 3-4 panels of the event are:

- **Quality education in crisis: a people-centred approach.** Through its support to multiyear programmes in protracted crises, Education Cannot Wait enables investment in quality education and ensures its continuity for girls and boys caught in protracted crisis. By bridging the humanitarian – development divide and facilitating a collaborative approach among a wide range of stakeholders. This panel will explore how we, together with our partners, link humanitarian responses to the long-term development interventions. During the different panels' discussion, ECW's mechanisms for promoting localization and accountability to affected people and their effectiveness across education and protection sectors as part of ECW people-centered approach will be discussed.
- **Innovation: do things differently.** Innovation will be key if we are to successfully meet the scope of needs of the 75 million children and youth in crisis settings who urgently need access to quality education. Education Cannot Wait works systematically with partners to promote innovation, experimentation and finding new ways to address needs. The discussions will explore innovative and creative ways of delivering education; using technology-assisted learning to improve learning outcomes and innovative financial partnerships.
- **Investment: investing in our shared humanity.** More and better financing is urgently required to meet the education needs of the 75 million children in crisis- and conflict affected countries. Such investment will have a positive impact both for the children and youth, as well as for their societies and the world at large. This theme highlights how Education Cannot Wait's model is cost-effective, speedy and transformative. It helps meet the challenge of providing investment for quality education services where it is the most needed across countries affected by crisis. In the different panels' discussions, how the ECW financing model speaks to other models such as GPE and IFFEd will be explored.
- **Inclusion and Gender Equality: reaching those left furthest behind.** Education Cannot Wait insists on prioritising the most marginalized, discriminated and forgotten and supports in-country partners with the tools, policy and funding to achieve inclusion and equality for all. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, minorities, vulnerable adolescent girls, children with disabilities and special needs, or those requiring mental health and psychosocial support, all face unique and intersecting barriers to education. The discussions will focus on how we, together with our partners, access and empower those furthest left behind in crises, highlighting approaches that are yielding results and the scope of challenges that we need to address.
- **Forgotten crises: underfunded emergencies.** There are countless crises – often protracted - which do not make the headlines where millions of boys and girls are missing out on learning. This theme will explore the impact that Education Cannot Wait is already having in these crises and what more could be done with greater investment in the Trust Fund and at the country level.

We anticipate that the event will showcase new and existing policy and financial commitments from recipient countries, donors, foundations and the private sector.

Format

The event will include at least three – 45 minutes sessions to allow speakers and participants the ability to engage in an inspiring dialogue on opportunities and challenges facing education in emergencies while also informing on progress to date. The format of these sessions is not yet determined and we welcome



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suggestions from partners. ECW is eager to have a none-traditional and innovative style to guide the discussions and presentations using special effects and videos.

This section of the concept requires a clear structure for the sessions outlining sequence, timing, and style.

Geographical focus

Education Cannot Wait has a global mandate and operates on a needs-based approach in line with humanitarian principles. In this event, attention will be given to ensure a diverse geographic representation. As crisis is rarely confined within the borders of one country, the event will also aim at looking at regional perspectives, where applicable.

Participation

High-level representatives of member states, UN agencies, multilateral organisations, the private sector and civil society organisations. We expect youth advocates will voice their hopes and wishes. We particularly aim to amplify the voices of girls and boys and the communities Education Cannot Wait's celebrity Champions for Education Cannot Wait will also participate.

Education Cannot Wait will co-host the event and is reaching out to key partners and member states to canvas interest in co-host and contribute at the event.

Date and location

The date of the event is Wednesday 25th September during UNGA high-level week in New York at a location TBC (nearby the UNHQs).

Further information

To discuss the proposal please contact:

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