



© Ibrahim Mohamed Samna / World Vision

Transforming Education to Protect Children's Right to Education in Emergencies and Crises

Virtual Roundtable

Outcome Report

June 2022

Introduction

In emergencies and protracted crises, access to education is critical to advancing children's wellbeing and future opportunities both during crises and in the aftermath. Yet, the challenges to increasing political will for education in emergencies and protracted crises (EiEPC) at local and global levels are numerous. Some are the consequence of the current humanitarian assistance architecture contributing to the humanitarian-development divide; others fall within the 'traditional' funding gap of the education sector. Education makes up [3 percent of total humanitarian funding, according to the Inter-agency for Education in Emergencies](#), far below the 4 percent UN target and meeting less than half of humanitarian funds requested for education.

As part of efforts to advance political will and momentum for EiEPC ahead of the G7 Summit (June 26-28), Transforming Education Pre-Summit (June 29-30), Transforming Education Summit (September 19), and the Education in Emergencies (EiE) High-Level Financing Conference (February 2023), a roundtable discussion was hosted on June 9, 2022, by [World Vision International](#), [Global Campaign For Education](#), [Global Campaign for Education-US](#), [100 Million Campaign](#), [Send My Friend To School](#), and the [United Nations Girls' Education Initiative](#) (UNGEI).

This event brought together 87 global education stakeholders from over 25 organizations across the EiEPC community, including world leaders, policymakers, teachers, donors, international organizations, civil society organizations, youth and student-led organizations, to have open, meaningful, and reflective discussions on the three following critical challenges and needs of the EiEPC sector:

- Increasing Gender Equality and Support to Marginalized Groups
- Increasing Resilience in Education
- Increasing Accountability and Financing

Session One: Increasing Gender Equality and Support to Marginalized Groups

In the midst of unprecedented challenges facing the world today, including war, climate change, food insecurity, and rising food prices, young children, particularly girls and children with disabilities, are most vulnerable to multiple risks that violate the rights to education, protection, and health. Session One brought together advocates from across sectors impacting children and youth to discuss innovative and multidimensional ways to transform education systems in becoming gender-transformative, disability-inclusive and safe for all children and youth.

Key Outcomes

Governments, donors, and multilateral agencies should:

- 1. Prioritize meaningful representation and partnership with marginalized children and youth — including young women and girls, learners with disabilities, and those living in emergency settings — in the planning and development of humanitarian and education responses. Increase recognition of children and youth as equal stakeholders in governance structures.**
- 2. Incorporate gender transformative approaches, gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response, and disability mainstreaming into EiEPC response strategies.**
- 3. Coordinate to provide inter-sectoral, whole-child support to comprehensively address the gendered and intersectional barriers to education that children — particularly girls — are experiencing, including in emergency and crisis contexts.**



Session Two: Increasing Resilience in Education

Building resilient systems is critical for increasing resilience in education. Effective resilient systems — which include continued equitable access to quality learning; adequate nutrition; accessible and disability-inclusive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); mental health and psychosocial support; protection from violence and exploitation; and other comprehensive and integrated support for children's development — allow children, young people, and communities to remain safe, protected, resilient and more equipped to continue their education, even in times of crisis. Session Two explored the diverse and inter-sectoral approaches to increasing resilience across education systems.

Key Outcomes

Governments, donors, and multilateral agencies should:

- 1. Consult with local stakeholders — including children, youth, students, teachers, parents and other vulnerable populations — to identify contextual factors that result in exclusion from education and to ensure that humanitarian and development interventions best address those barriers for all learners.**
- 2. Ensure that education budgets and multisectoral financing for physical, psychosocial and mental health support are protected from cuts during times of crisis and that quality and disaggregated data allows for robust planning of education and humanitarian responses.**
- 3. Invest in the health and nutrition of children, as well as other interrelated areas of child wellbeing and inclusive early childhood development, which are essential preconditions for learning.**



© Agatha Mali / World Vision International

Session Three: Increasing Accountability and Financing

Effective, sustained, and expanded mobilization of education financing is critical to increasing multi-year global funding for education and comprehensive support for all areas of children's development. These investments increase capacity and are a force multiplier for the development of children, youth, and local communities. Session Three explored how education financing and accountability can transform education to become more inclusive, gender-responsive, and resilient in both short-term and long-term contexts.

Key Outcomes

Governments, donors, and multilateral agencies should:

1. Support national governments to uphold their responsibility to finance quality, equitable, inclusive and free public education for all.
2. Mobilize resources to support key education multilateral funds like Education Cannot Wait and the Global Partnership for Education while working to improve domestic financing of education for sustainability.
3. Increase scrutiny of education budget execution to ensure resources are targeting and reaching the most marginalized children and youth, and those with highest risk of exclusion, by establishing citizen-led consultations and accountability mechanisms.



© Charles Kabene / World Vision International

Conclusion

During the roundtable, diverse education stakeholders across the EiEPC community agreed that in spite of the demonstrated importance of education in crisis settings, funding for education has long been excluded from the priorities of humanitarian assistance programs. Stakeholders recognized that in many humanitarian spaces, education and the advancement of gender equality in and through education is typically considered a goal of long-term development rather than a necessity to emergency humanitarian responses. However, evidence demonstrates that the role of gender-responsive and disability inclusive education in building resilience against conflict and crisis and fostering just, peaceful and prosperous societies is irrefutable.

The roundtable participants agreed that in a world of increasing instability as a result of inter-related challenges, including the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian conflicts in Afghanistan and Ukraine among others, and climate-related changes, it is more critical than ever to employ inter-sectoral responses prioritizing gender-responsive, disability inclusive, safe and quality education for all children and youth. Collaborative, inter-sectoral responses must be inclusive to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized children, including girls, displaced and refugee children, and children with disabilities are actively and meaningfully engaged as both beneficiaries and agents of change.



© Jim Wungramyao Kason / World Vision International

Reference Documents

- African Union, March 2022. [‘Commemoration of the 7th African Day of School Feeding \(ADSF\)’ - Final Communiqué.](#)
 - *See [here](#) for French, Arabic, Portuguese translations
- [G7 Call for International Cooperation to Protect Children’s Right to Education in Emergencies and Crises’](#)
- IX Regional Forum on School Feeding for Latin America and the Caribbean, April 2022. [‘Final Declaration of the IX Regional Forum on School Feeding for Latin America and the Caribbean 2021.’](#)
- Latin American and Caribbean Education Ministerial, May 2022. [Declaration of Buenos Aires 2022: ‘El derecho a la educación en contexto: recuperar y transformar.’](#)
- United Nations Transforming Education Summit, May 2022. [‘Action Track One on Inclusive, Equitable, Safe, and Healthy Schools’ Discussion Paper \(Draft 1\).](#)
- United Nations Transforming Education Summit, June 2022. [‘Action Track One on Inclusive, Equitable, Safe, and Healthy Schools’ Discussion Paper \(Draft 2\).](#)
- World Vision, Oxfam, Global Campaign for Education, 2022. [‘Transforming Education to Protect Children’s Rights to Emergencies and Crises: An Appeal for Global Action.’](#)

Roundtable Speakers

Michael Messenger, *President & CEO, World Vision Canada*

Nhial Deng, *Young Refugee Advocate, Member of Canada's Refugee Education Council*

Sujata Bordoloi, *Education and Gender Specialist, UN Girls' Education Initiative*

Hawa Abdiaziz, *Young Feminist Activist, Transform Education*

Chloë Fèvre, *Safe to Learn Director, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children*

José Viera, *Advocacy Director, International Disability Alliance and Senior Manager, Global Disability Summit (GDS) Secretariat*

Peter Kwasi Kodije, *Secretary General, All-Africa Students Union*

Hoda Jaberian, *Programme Coordinator, Migration, Displacement, Emergencies and Education, UNESCO*

Susan Meyers, *Senior Advocacy Advisor, School Meals Coalition, World Food Programme*

Aaron Oxley, *Executive Director, RESULTS UK*

Maarten Barends, *LL.M, Chief, Humanitarian Liaison and External Relations, Education Cannot Wait*

Geoff Adlide, *Advocacy and Communications Director, Global Partnership for Education*

[* Speaker Bios and Headshots](#)