Organizations Call on U.S. Government to Make New Commitment to Education Cannot Wait

Washington, D.C., August 19, 2019 – On World Humanitarian Day, organizations committed to making a difference in the lives of more than 70 million refugees and forcibly displaced persons around the world strongly urge the U.S. Government to make a commitment of no less than $25 million to Education Cannot Wait (ECW) during the 2019 United Nations General Assembly Week this September.

Today, one in four of the world’s school aged children lives in countries affected by crisis. Of these children, 75 million are either in danger of, or already missing out on, their right to education. With global displacement at its highest levels, education offers a life-saving intervention for children during times of conflict. It provides a sense of normalcy in otherwise challenging circumstances, helps children heal from trauma, and supports safety and security. Access to quality education helps create a future for children where they can provide for themselves, their families, and help rebuild their communities.

Education Cannot Wait is the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies. We appreciate the U.S. Government’s initial $21 million investment in ECW in 2016, part of over $300 million in resources mobilized by ECW from both the public and private sectors. As a result, ECW has reached more than 1.4 million children and trained almost 20,000 teachers in 25 countries to ensure that no child’s right to education is disrupted by conflict or disaster. These catalytic investments are supporting quality education in some of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.

The scale and urgency of the current education crisis requires a more robust commitment from the U.S. and others. The 2019 United Nations General Assembly Week will be an opportunity to bring together member states, donors, private sector companies and foundations, and civil society to learn more about ECW’s success stories and provide a platform to announce new pledges in support of its urgently needed investments.

This funding should not detract from current humanitarian and development funding, nor from global basic education programs that are part of development assistance including bilateral programs and contributions to the Global Partnership for Education. Through robust funding of global basic education, we can help reduce poverty through economic growth, build markets for U.S. exports, enhance stability and security, and promote effective development across sectors.

We thank the U.S. Government for its leadership in prioritizing refugee education in its foreign assistance efforts and urge the U.S. to continue this support by making an additional commitment of resources to Education Cannot Wait.

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