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About Global Action Week for Education:

Since its beginning in 2003, the Global Campaign for Education has recognized Global Action Week for Education (Gawe) as a focal point of the Education For All movement. The week provides national and regional campaigns with the opportunity to highlight an area of their education advocacy agenda and to make targeted efforts to achieve valuable change on the ground. With the support of millions of members of the public and education champions worldwide, the Global Action Week for Education 2019 aims to strengthen civil society participation, mobilize global education funding, and inform a strong, multilateral commitment to human rights.

Since 2015, Gawe has emphasized active participation to achieve all targets of United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 4 by the year 2030. This year, students starting school in 2019 will complete their 12 years of basic education by 2030, making this an ideal moment to mobilize.

Theme:

My Education, My Right(s): Making the right to an inclusive, equitable, quality, free public education a reality. The aim of Global Action Week for Education 2019 is to merge global and local connections through interpersonal experiences. By wielding the power of story-telling as a tool to create a network of narratives, the Global Campaign for Education movement strengthens its commitment to human rights. “My Education, My Right(s)” is a call to action rising up from the voices of individuals, and disseminating across a united front. The focus on personal stories empowers advocates at all levels of activism to engage with a range of issues barring access to quality education globally. Today, one of the most pressing issues facing universal accessibility is displacement and the fate of students in regions of conflict.

Who Are We?

The GCE-US is a broad-based coalition of national and community-based organizations, international NGOs, teacher unions, faith-based groups, and advocates dedicated to ensuring universal quality education for all children and youth. GCE-US is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit and member of the GCE global network with efforts in over 100 countries.
What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? In 1992, during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, over 178 countries adopted an inclusive plan of action to create a global partnership for sustainable development. Following the summit, in 2000, member states unanimously signed on to the Millenium Declaration which outlined eight Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015. By 2015, the number of people living on less than $1.90 a day had been reduced from 28.6% of the world population (1999) to 10%.

However, the mission to create a sustainable world did not end there. In 2015, all United Nations Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as “a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.” There are 17 SDGs, each recognizing various interconnected areas of reform and outlining specific targets and indicators to achieve success by the year 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development elicits governments and civil society to adjust their priorities and align policies and budgets to meet these standards. Their progress is reviewed on an annual basis by a High-Level Political Forum which allows countries to demonstrate the steps they have taken to achieve each goal.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning: In 2018, more than half of children and adolescents globally were not meeting minimum proficiency standards in mathematics and reading.

SDG 4 encompasses the following targets:

- Universal access to early childhood development.
- Universal access to free, equitable, and quality primary and second education.
- Universal access to quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education.
- Eliminate gender disparities in schools
- Eliminate disparities among persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.
- Ensure that all children acquire skills to promote the principles of sustainable development and human rights.
- Build and upgrade education facilities.
- Expand the number of scholarships available to developing countries.
- Increase the supply of qualified teachers.

Full list of indicators and targets here.

View the graphic below to see the full list of goals. Which goals are important to you?
Fast Facts:

- **Impact:** About 1 in 8 people are internal migrants, and about 1 in 30 are international migrants.
- The number of international migrants increased from 93 million in 1960 to **258 million** in 2017.
- More than half of persons forcibly displaced are under the age of 18.
- The educational progress of migrants and displaced populations is difficult to monitor under SDG 4 due to their legal status and movement across areas.

- **Financing:** To meet the most basic education needs of children in crisis would require the share of education in humanitarian aid to increase **10 times**.
- **Right to Education:** Refugees’ right to education in host countries was guaranteed in the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

All Data sourced from the UNESCO GEM Report 2019. [Read it here.](#)

Barriers to Education:

- Asylum-seeking children and youth are detained in many countries, often with limited to no access to education.
- Immigration and citizenship policies often hinder access to school.
- Teachers affected by migration and displacement are often ill equipped. In six European countries, half of teachers felt there was “insufficient support to manage diversity in the classroom.”
- Major displacement would require extensive teacher recruitment, retention and training.
- Displaced persons settling in remote areas are typically subject to resource constraints.
- Public attitudes can affect migrants’ and refugees’ sense of belonging, and can lead to discrimination in schools. The more educated have more positive views toward immigration.
- In 2017, compared to other students, twice as many foreign-born youth left school early in the EU.

What Is Education Cannot Wait (ECW)? **ECW** is “the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises.” It was established during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 as a way to advance the education agenda in the humanitarian aid arena. ECW brings together public and private partners to mobilize funding to children victimized by natural disasters, conflict and emergencies. Since its inception, ECW has reached more than 765,000 children and youth with quality education.
GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:
Partner up to review the resources and answer the following questions below. Create connections and inferences from the material. Use information from the links in bold to support your answer.


How are the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) different from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2015?
- Compare your knowledge of the UN Declaration of the Rights of a Child to the MDGs and SDGs. What are some noted differences, why do you think things have changed, and how do you think it will impact the outcome?
- How do the MDGs and SDGs respectively apply to youth in emergency or conflict situations? Do you think they effectively address education in emergencies?

Read the information about Sustainable Development Goal #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning. What did you find interesting about it? How do you think it’s measured?
- Read through the SDG 4 indicators and targets. If you had to add a new target and indicator applying to education in emergencies, what would those be?

Compare the areas in the world in regards to the percentage of out-of-school children of primary school age. Where are the needs highest? Why do you think that is? Is there present conflict or crisis in the region?

Think locally: What actions would improve inclusive education in your community?
Choose a country from the list found here. Each has a large refugee/migrant population and/or for various reasons has experienced setbacks to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning. Spend some time researching information on your country’s education status to answer these questions:

1. What specific barriers does this country face in achieving SDG #4?

2. Why you think these barriers exist? Base your answer on evidence from your research and the understanding you have from your findings.

3. How is geography related to your findings. How does location affect access? How has regional conflict or an influx of refugees played a role?

4. Are there laws, policies, or programs in place for refugees and migrants to access education?

5. How does the country experience inequality in the following categories in education?
   - Gender
   - Disability
   - Language
   - Rural vs Urban residency
   - Socioeconomic status
   - Are there any other conditions specific to this country?

6. What role does culture and identity play in your findings? What makes this country unique?
Now, imagine you are an advisor to this country’s government, create a plan to achieve SDG #4: pay particular attention to how you will address education in emergencies and crises.

Prepare an oral presentation that would be used to address this country’s government along with a poster or digital presentation to outline the issues in your country and your plan.

- Be sure to include highlights from your research.
- Think creatively. What hasn’t been done before?
WHAT DOES YOUR EDUCATION MEAN TO YOU? WHAT DOES EDUCATION MEAN FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SCHOOLS? TELL YOUR STORY. SHARE YOUR STORY.

NEED AN EXAMPLE? CLICK HERE.

VIDEO YOURSELF SHARING YOUR STORY ON INSTAGRAM STORIES TAGGING @GCE_US. #GAWE2019

WRITE YOUR STORY AS A BLOG AND HAVE IT PUBLISHED ON THE GCE-US WEBSITE. CHECK OUT EXAMPLES HERE.

SHARE PHOTOS FROM THE ACTIVITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA TAGGING @GCE_US WITH #GAWE2019.
CLIMBING THE ADVOCACY LADDER

WONDERING HOW ELSE YOU CAN GET INVOLVED? FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

JOIN GCE-US AND CHILDFUND INTERNATIONAL FOR A SPEAKER EVENT ON FACEBOOK LIVE OR IN-PERSON ON APRIL 25TH @ 2PM IN WASHINGTON, DC. RSVP HERE.

WRITE YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS ASKING THEM TO SUPPORT GLOBAL EDUCATION FUNDING IN EMERGENCY SETTINGS. (SAMPLE LETTER P. 10) OR ONLINE HERE.

WRITE A BLOG OR TAKE A VIDEO ANSWERING: WHAT DOES EDUCATION FOR ALL MEAN TO YOU? #GWE2019

SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL MEDIA: TWEET AND POST ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK. SAMPLE TWEET HERE.

SUBSCRIBE TO ACTION ALERTS, MAKE A DONATION, OR START YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER!

CONTACT US WITH ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS, PHOTOS, VIDEOS, AND BLOGS FROM THE ACTIVITY!
INFO@GCE-US.ORG
Sample Letter to Congress:

Date

The Honorable __________
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

OR

The Honorable __________
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator/Representative _____________,

I believe that the United States has an obligation to its citizens to help end poverty around the world and to ensure global stability through the international affairs budget. Robust funding for global education is in the best interest of the United States and the international community. The international affairs budget has ensured millions of children have entered classrooms for the first time, saved millions of lives through our global health investments, and ensured U.S. leadership through diplomatic efforts around the world. At just 1% of our federal budget, it is critical that the international affairs budget not suffer any additional cuts.

As you consider the FY2020 budget, please include critical international basic education programs. I urge you to support international basic education by calling for $800 million to basic education bilateral programming, $125 million for the Global Partnership for Education, and at least $21 million for the Education Cannot Wait Fund for Education in Emergencies in State and Foreign Operations appropriations.

I support the international affairs budget and the basic education accounts because:

• It’s good for the global economy: U.S. support for global education has diminished the global gender gap in education. Each additional year of schooling can raise a woman’s future wages by as much as 15%.
• It’s good for global security: For each additional year of schooling a boy receives, he is 20% less likely to enter violent organizations such as gangs or terrorist organizations.
• It’s the right thing to do: Because of U.S. leadership, 34 million more children attended school in 2015 than in 2000.
• Every aspect of the international affairs budget is crucial to our economy, safety, and livelihoods.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NAME
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LEARNING SDGS:

Global Goals, Schools for SDGs

United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

World Bank Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals

Microsoft Educator Community

TeachSDGs

The World’s Largest Lesson

REFUGEES, MIGRATION, AND EDUCATION:

The 2018 Global Compact on Refugees

UNESCO 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report on Migration, Displacement and Education

JRS/USA Policy Brief, Challenges and Recommendations to Increase Education for Refugee Girls