World’s leading education experts, NGOs and campaign organisations urge financing for education in emergencies at World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

In 2015 alone, more than 80 million children and young people had their education disrupted or destroyed by emergencies and prolonged crises. Record numbers of attacks on schools, natural disasters, wars and the largest refugee crisis since World War II have increased the need for education in emergencies.

Despite this, less than 2 percent of all humanitarian funding has gone to education every year since 2010. There is now an approximate $9 billion dollar gap for education in emergencies annually. Generations of displaced and refugee children are losing their right to rebuild their lives and communities.

That can all change soon.

In May 2016, at the first ever World Humanitarian Summit, world leaders will launch a new education crisis platform. The platform will include a ‘Breakthrough Fund’ to begin to adequately finance efforts to meet the educational needs of millions of children and young people affected by crisis. This fund must:

• be financed with multi-year donor commitments,
• be supported by new funding and resources that are ambitious enough to address the scale of the crisis in education and emergencies,
• be supported by resources that are additional, and not at the expense of other critical education and poverty-fighting interventions, and
• build on existing financing mechanisms so as to ensure smooth transition from crisis response to longer term development of education systems.

Call to Action: Ambitious new resources for education in emergencies

Education is a human right. We cannot stand by while children are shut out from the opportunity for an education due to conflicts and disasters. We must bring new and immediate financing to deliver education alongside protection and other essential social services.

The undersigned organisations call upon world leaders at the World Humanitarian Summit to launch an education crisis platform and make new, multi-year, pledges aimed at funding the platform and supporting the 80 million affected children so that it can truly be a breakthrough for children living without education in the most dangerous or unstable contexts.

World leaders have said “Education Cannot Wait,” and must now take action to keep that promise to the most marginalised and vulnerable children.
We the undersigned call for action so that all children everywhere will be able to realise their right to education.