



a global fund for education in emergencies

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY ANNOUNCES 15 MILLION EUROS PLEDGE FOR EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

**SUSTAINED SUPPORT FROM GERMANY ENSURES QUALITY, RELIABLE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN
LIVING IN THE WORLD'S MOST SERIOUS CRISES**

20 November 2018, New York – The Government of Germany announced today a substantial 15 million euros (US\$ 17 million) pledge for Education Cannot Wait, a new global fund dedicated to respond rapidly and provide sustainable quality education to millions of children and youth living in crisis worldwide.

The new pledge adds to Germany's initial 16 million euros (\$US18.7 million) contribution to Education Cannot Wait, providing a total of 31 million euros (\$35.7 million) in contributions to date and making Germany the third largest donor to the Fund. Today's announcement is an important milestone for the coalition of donors, United Nations (UN) agencies and civil society partners working together through Education Cannot Wait, as it ensures the Fund reaches its 2018 target – on its way to a total first funding goal to mobilize US\$1.8 billion over the 2018-2021 period.

The announcement was made at the launch of UNESCO's 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report in Berlin, Germany. "Education and training are the keys with which to unlock development. Yet there are still 75 million children and young people caught up in crisis and emergency situations who have no way to get an education. We must act now, with resolution and determination, otherwise they will grow up without any prospects" said Dr. Gerd Müller, the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"My goal is to invest 25 per cent of the development ministry's budget in education and vocational training. As the next step we are launching a special initiative on training and job creation, setting up new training and jobs partnerships with German and African businesses. At the same time we are strengthening the international education fund for children in emergency situations with an investment of 15 million euros. This money will be used to fund school books in Yemen or to support 60,000 children in Indonesia following the devastating tsunami, so that they can still be taught" said Müller.

Education Cannot Wait has reached more than 800,000 children and youth with quality education – of which 364,000 are girls – in 19 crisis-affected countries since it became operational in early 2017. With continued support from donors, the Fund, hosted by UNICEF, will exceed its target with over 1 million children by the end of 2018.

"This generous pledge further confirms the global role of Germany in showing compassion, generosity and concrete support to those furthest left behind. This funding will accelerate our determined joint efforts to reach 8.9 million children and youth in emergencies and protracted crisis by 2021 and fill the US\$8.5 billion funding gap for education in crises" said Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait.

"The millions of children and youth silently struggling in crisis who do not have access to quality education today sustain themselves by dreaming of one. This renewed pledge from the government of Germany may be the realization of that dream. It signals a continued commitment to achieve our goals for equitable education for every boy and girl on the planet by 2030 as outlined in the sustainable development goals" she said.

Education Cannot Wait is the first and only global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises countries. In partnership with donors, UN agencies, civil society, national governments and other key actors, the Fund is pioneering a new way of working that establishes education as the point of convergence in the humanitarian-development nexus to rapidly deliver agile, well-coordinated and sustainable quality education through collective efforts for children and youth in war zones, emergency areas and other crisis hot spots.

Education Cannot Wait has invested \$134.5 million in 19 crisis-affected countries to date. These include 16 First Emergency Response allocations to countries facing sudden-onset or escalating crises, such as a recently announced programme to support children impacted by the tsunami and earthquakes in Indonesia. Four countries have been targeted by Education Cannot Wait's two-year Initial Investments Programmes to date. The Fund also recently announced its first seed funding to roll out innovative multi-year programmes in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Uganda, while such multi-year programmes are also planned in 20 other crisis-affected countries by 2021.

"By catalyzing agile, responsive and jointly planned programmes, education cannot wait ensures taxpayers' money or strategic donor investments get to the people in need rapidly and sustainably," Sherif said. "Education Cannot Wait brings all partners together to respond without delay and to remain until every child and young person have benefited from their non-negotiable right to quality education. Refugee, internally displaced or war-affected, both girls and boys, disabled and other-abled, make up the 75 million with a right to education in conflict and disasters. Thanks to Germany's generous and continued contribution, their right, their dream, may come true."

Children and youth in fragile and conflict affected countries are 30 per cent less likely to complete primary education and half as likely to complete lower-secondary education than other children. Indeed, conflict widens education inequalities, particularly gender and wealth disparities, derailing global efforts to build a more peaceful world.

"For a little over a \$100 a year, a child or an adolescent living and growing up in the abnormal and testing circumstances of conflict and disasters will be able to get the quality education they deserve and need to give them hope, to give them a future," said Sherif. "Now is the time to invest in these children and youth. Their education cannot wait. If our intention is to make a difference, we need to act today. Because, tomorrow might be too late."

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Notes to Editors:

Information on the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Fund is available at: www.educationcannotwait.org

For more details on ECW's donors and partners: www.educationcannotwait.org/about-ecw

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development: www.bmz.de/en/index.html

About Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

ECW is the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies. It was launched by international humanitarian and development aid actors, along with public and private donors, to address the urgent education needs of 75 million children and youth in conflict and crisis settings. ECW's investment modalities are designed to usher in a more collaborative approach among actors on the ground, ensuring relief and development organizations join forces to achieve education outcomes.

The ECW Fund and its Secretariat are hosted by UNICEF in its Headquarters in New York.