



The global fund for education in emergencies

EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT ANNOUNCES MULTI-YEAR INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CRISIS-AFFECTED CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CHAD

Education Cannot Wait's US\$16 million catalytic grant will set in motion an innovative three-year programme to support over 230,000 girls and boys caught in crisis

11 December 2019, New York – Education Cannot Wait announces a new multi-year investment in Chad to support quality education for over 230,000 children and youth affected by the protracted crisis that's put 2.4 million children at risk and pushed 1.2 million children (aged 6 to 11) out of school.

The two-year US\$16 million seed funding grant from Education Cannot Wait will support the roll out of a new comprehensive programme designed to meet pressing educational needs of vulnerable girls and boys. This seed funding grant is allocated to UNICEF and will serve as a catalyst to raise additional resources to fully-fund the multi-stakeholders three-year US\$51 million programme.

"With generous funding from Education Cannot Wait, this new programme will reach girls and boy that have been left behind as the result of ongoing crises and emergency in the region. It's an investment in our children and in a more prosperous future for the country," said H.E. Aboubakar Assidick Tchorama, Minister of National Education and Civic Promotion of Chad.

Years of crisis have plunged Chad to the last place on the World Bank's [Human Capital Index](#). As a result of ongoing violence, population displacement, the effects of climate change and widespread poverty and hunger in the Lake Chad Basin, 4.3 million people need humanitarian assistance in Chad, including 1.2 million girls and 1.1 million boys. Only 19 per cent of girls and 40 per cent of boys access lower secondary school education, and only one out of every ten girls complete middle school.

"UNICEF expresses its gratitude to ECW for their substantial contribution, that will allow thousands of children in emergency affected areas of Chad to access inclusive quality education in a secure environment. I would also like to thank the Government of Chad for their trust in UNICEF in the selection of the grant management entity," said Dr Viviane Van Steirteghem, Representative of UNICEF Chad.

Developed under the auspices of Chad's Ministry of National Education and Civic Promotion (MENPC) with the support of Education Cannot Wait and a range of United Nations agencies and international and national civil society partners, the new multi-year programme focuses on refugee, displaced and host community children and youth and those affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

"We can no longer sit idly by while millions of children are left behind. We must step up to fulfill the right to education of every child. Girls and boys uprooted by conflict, violence and disasters deserve to access quality education. They deserve the opportunity to learn and thrive and realize their dreams," said the Director of Education Cannot Wait, Yasmine Sherif. "Together with the Government of Chad and our partners, we can fulfill that promise and ensure a better future for all."

The programme includes comprehensive interventions to reintegrate out-of-school girls and boys into learning and training programmes, improve learning environments and train teachers, improve the governance of the education system in emergency situations, provide psychosocial and school feeding services, support early childhood education and increase enrolment and retention through social mobilization. In particular, out-of-school adolescent

girls and boys (aged 9 to 14) will benefit from non-formal education and skills development to gain basic literacy and improve their employability.

This new multi-year programme works in alignment with Chad's Transitional Education Plan, Programme to Strengthen Literacy, Humanitarian Response Plan and Education Cluster Strategy. It builds on the results of the Education Cannot Wait-financed [Initial Investment in Chad](#) from 2017 to 2019, which reached a total of 186,000 children (45 per cent of whom were girls), trained over 1,000 teachers and built or rehabilitated 150 classrooms.

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. Education Cannot Wait is hosted by UNICEF. The Fund is administered under UNICEF's financial, human resources and administrative rules and regulations, while operations are run by the Fund's own independent governance structure.

To date, ECW investments span more than 30 countries affected by armed conflict, disaster and forced displacement.

Please follow on Twitter: @EduCannotWait @YasmineSherif1 @KentPage

Additional information available at: www.educationcannotwait.org and www.act4education.org

For press inquiries, please contact:

Kent Page, kpage@unicef.org, +1-917-302-1735

Anouk Desgroseilliers, adesgroseilliers@educationcannotwait.org, +1-917-640-6820

For any other inquiries, please contact:

info@educationcannotwait.org