



**WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT**

ISTANBUL • 23-24 May 2016

# Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises

## SPECIAL SESSION

Core Responsibility Three of the Agenda for Humanity



**“Parents and children in crises identify education as one of their highest priority concerns. Education is not a luxury that can stop and start due to external circumstances.”**

**Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit**

## CONTEXT

As many as 476 million children and young people between the ages of three and 18 live in 35 countries affected by crises. 80 million of them have had their education disrupted or destroyed by emergencies and protracted crises. Of these, over 16 million are in refugee, internally displaced and other populations of concern in these same affected countries. Refugees are five times less likely to attend school than other children, with only half of all refugee children enrolled in primary school and less than a quarter enrolled in secondary school. The situation for girls is even worse, being 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys in countries affected by conflict.

Time and again we are reminded that in periods of crisis, parents and children identify education as one of their highest priority needs. Despite this, less than two percent of all humanitarian funding has gone to education every year since 2010, with a current estimated \$9 billion dollar gap for education in emergencies annually.

There are three principle reasons for the gap between educational needs and coverage in emergency settings: insufficient coordination between humanitarian and development actors; limited capacity or political will to reach girls and boys in ongoing crises; and inadequate financing.

Conflict, natural disasters, displacement, epidemics and other crises pose a serious threat to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for education.



The frequency, severity and duration of humanitarian crises are likely to increase this century, with girls and marginalized children being the most at risk.

Throughout the WHS consultations, there were constant calls for education and learning to be at the heart of humanitarian action, for guarantees that no child's right to education be disrupted or interrupted by conflicts or disasters. We must, if we are to fulfil the core responsibilities set out by the Secretary-General, act to support the most vulnerable and reach those most at risk of being left behind.

## OBJECTIVE

The Special Session will launch the Education Crisis platform and produce commitments and actions as part of global efforts to prioritise education in emergencies and protracted crisis. It will attract new funding, including innovative financing and contributions from new donors. It will highlight more effective use of existing resources; improve assessments and planning in support of longer term and better quality education services in crises; strengthen global and national systems which provide more children with an education; and improve the coordination of education services on the ground as well as the quality of information to guide better responses and influence recovery and resilience.

The launch of the Education Crisis Platform represents a fresh opportunity. Just as the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing called for in its Report to the Secretary-General, the Platform will provide faster and flexible support where it is most needed. Sustainable solutions will respond across acute, protracted and recovery contexts, for periods of one to five years. These contexts include: humanitarian crises, including slow-onset and rapid-onset natural disasters and conflicts; refugee crises, where host countries need to provide regional and cross-border educational services; protracted crises which pose significant risks to accessing education services.

## BACKGROUND

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit will take place from 23 to 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. Following three years of extensive consultations with more than 23,000 people in 153 countries, this will be the moment to answer their overwhelming call for a renewed commitment to humanity. In his report for the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations Secretary-General calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to endorse and get behind five core responsibilities. These will ensure that we can deliver more and better on behalf of all those who are suffering and who need assistance. The Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity spells out how this can be achieved.

The Special Sessions respond to the specific calls made during the consultation process. They will focus on launching strategic initiatives underlying the five core responsibilities.



These initiatives aim to harness the vision, skills and capacities of stakeholders in each relevant area. Istanbul is the opportunity to demonstrate unity and solidarity with the needy, to prevent and end suffering, and to take all the necessary steps to place our common values of humanity back at the heart of the decision-making process.

The Special Sessions will provide a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to make specific commitments in support of these and as a means of achieving the Agenda for Humanity.

## FORMAT AND STRUCTURE

The Special Session will take the form of a moderated roundtable discussion that will launch the Education Crisis Platform. A summary document will be prepared, including the individual and collective commitments made during the Session. This will contribute to the Commitments to Action document of the World Humanitarian Summit.

This Special Event will last for one hour. Given the length of the session, there will not be sufficient time for all participants to announce specific commitments. Therefore stakeholders will be asked to share their commitments in support of this Special Session before or during the Summit.

The Special Sessions will be open to media and webcast live. The time and location for this session will be made known shortly.

## REGISTRATION AND SPECIAL SESSION PREPARATIONS

The focal point will engage with interested stakeholders in the run-up to the Summit to seek support for this initiative. Please refer any queries related to this session to Mahsa Jafari at [education.session@whsummit.org](mailto:education.session@whsummit.org). As part of the online registration process for the Summit there will be the opportunity to register to attend this session. Details on registration will be circulated to all invitees in the coming weeks.