



## EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

ECHO FACTSHEET

### Facts & Figures

- **75 million children** affected by emergencies are out of school worldwide (Source: UNICEF, 2016).

### EU action

- The EU allocated **€201.5 million** for education in emergencies between 2012 and 2017\*, including **€34 million** through the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, and **€23.5 million** through the Emergency Support Instrument.
- **Over 5.5 million children in 52 countries** have benefited from EU-funded EiE projects.
- As a key donor, the EU is involved in shaping **global policy** on education in emergencies.

\* estimate

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\* All the latest ECHO  
Factsheets:  
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A class being taught at Lufunda Primary School in Mpati, North Kivu.

Credits: NRC/Christian Jepsen

### Key messages

- The European Union is a leading humanitarian donor in the area of education in emergencies, one of the most underfunded areas of humanitarian aid.
- With the level of funding at 1% of its annual humanitarian budget still in 2015, the European Commission increased this share to 8% in 2018 and aims to reach 10% by 2019. Globally, less than 3% of global humanitarian funding is allocated to education.
- Education in emergencies is lifesaving. It protects children and gives them a chance for a healthy development of boys and girls. It can rebuild their lives; restore their sense of normality and safety, and provide them with important life skills.
- It helps children to be self-sufficient, to be heard, and to have more influence on issues that affect them. It is one of the best tools to invest in their long-term future, and in the peace, stability and economic growth of their countries.
- Over 5.5 million girls and boys in 52 countries have benefited from EU-funded education in emergencies actions between 2012 and 2018.

## Humanitarian situation and needs

According to UNICEF, 75 million children are out of school in the world today due to emergencies. Among refugees, 50% of primary school-age children and 77% of secondary school-age adolescents are not enrolled. Girls living in conflict-affected countries are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys. They also face a much greater risk of gender-based violence and early marriage, resulting in early pregnancy.

Education helps girls and boys regain a sense of normality and overcome the trauma of a crisis and disruption. It prevents lost generations and allows children to learn the necessary skills to build a future for themselves and their communities. Education is crucial for the development and well-being of every child.

Education in emergencies is significantly underfunded as a humanitarian sector. Less than 3% of global humanitarian funding is allocated to education. This is mainly because other life-saving emergency actions often take priority over education during crises, despite the overwhelming benefits of education for children, and the priority that affected families and children themselves attach to it.

## The European Union's Humanitarian Response

When the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012, it used the prize money to launch an initiative in funding education in emergencies. Since then, the EU has scaled up its humanitarian funding for education in crises each year. The total amount spent on education in emergencies reached €201.5 million between 2012 and 2017, which includes €34 million through the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey and €23.5 million through the Emergency Support Instrument.

This also means that the share of the European Commission's humanitarian aid budget allocated to education in emergencies significantly increased over the past few years: from 1% in 2015 to 6% in 2017 and 8% in 2018. As of 2019, the EU will aim to dedicate 10% of its humanitarian assistance to education in emergencies.

By mid-2018 5.5 million boys and girls in 52 countries will have benefitted from EU funded projects in the area of education in emergencies, including in Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen.

The European Union aims to provide children affected by humanitarian crises with access to safe, inclusive and quality formal and non-formal learning opportunities at the primary and secondary levels; to support responses to return children to education within 3 months; to help children learn life-saving and life-sustaining skills. Each action is tailored to take into account the different needs of children based on their age, gender and other specific circumstances.

EU-funded actions include improving access to formal education, e.g. providing transportation to educational centres, rehabilitation of damaged and establishment of new learning spaces, and the provision of learning materials. The EU also funds projects facilitating access to non-formal education, life-skills training, psychosocial assistance and recreational activities. Humanitarian projects that strengthen the quality of education, such as the recruitment of qualified teachers and their skills development are also supported. In March 2017, the EU launched its largest ever humanitarian programme for education in emergencies - this €84 million Conditional Cash Transfer Programme has enabled over 290 000 refugee children to attend school in Turkey.

In parallel, the Commission is involved in international discussions that shape global approaches in education in emergencies through the Inter-Agency Network on Education in Emergencies, Education Cannot Wait and the Global Education Cluster. In October 2017 the Commission hosted the annual meeting of the Global Education Cluster in Brussels, and announced €1 million in humanitarian funding to the Cluster. In May 2018, the Commission adopted the first ever policy framework dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises, demonstrating the EU's commitment to leaving no-one behind.

