



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 **€132 million** for education in emergencies between 2012 and 2016, including **€34 million** through the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, and **€10.5 million** through the Emergency Support Instrument.
- Nearly **4 million children in 50 countries** around the world benefited from EU-funded EIE projects by the end of 2016.
- As a key donor, the EU is involved in shaping **global policy** on education in emergencies.



A class being taught at Lufunda Primary School in Mpati, North Kivu. Credits: NRC/Christian Jepsen.

Key messages

Education is lifesaving. Education is crucial for both the **protection and healthy development of girls and boys** affected by crises. 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 also one of the best tools to invest in their **long-term future**, and in the peace, stability and economic growth of their countries.

Education in emergencies actions can help prevent, reduce, mitigate and respond to emergency-related academic, financial, social, institutional, physical and infrastructural barriers to children's education, while ensuring the provision of safe, inclusive and quality education.

In 2017, the EU dedicates **6% of its annual humanitarian aid budget to education in emergencies**, one of the most underfunded sectors of humanitarian aid. In 2018, this amount will increase to **8%**.

Nearly **4 million girls and boys in 50 countries** around the world have benefited from EU funding between 2012 and 2016.

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 particularly vulnerable**; they are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys. During conflict, they also face a much greater risk of gender-based violence and early marriage, resulting in early pregnancy.

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00
Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72
email: echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



* All the latest ECHO Factsheets: bit.ly/echo-fs

Education is essential in humanitarian contexts. It 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. Despite recent increases, as of **2017 still 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 dedicated the monetary award of the prize to launch the **EU Children of Peace** initiative. 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 **€132 million between 2012 and 2016**, including **€34 million through the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey** and **€10.5 million through the Emergency Support Instrument.** This goes hand in hand with the Commission earmarking an increasing **percentage of its annual EU humanitarian budget** to education in emergencies, as per the commitment by Commissioner Stylianides made at the Oslo Summit on Education for Development and again at the **2016 World Humanitarian Summit.** Having met a **4% target in 2016** and on track to meet **6% in 2017**, for **2018** this figure will be **8%.**

The Commission's funding is delivered through its humanitarian implementing partners, notably non-governmental organisations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, and International Organisations carrying out humanitarian projects. **By the end of 2016, nearly 4 million boys and girls in 50 countries around the world** benefitted from these projects: in Afghanistan, 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, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

The EU's actions aim to help children affected by humanitarian crises to have **access to and learn in safe, quality and accredited primary and secondary education**; to learn life-saving and life-sustaining skills and gain **increased personal resilience.** The actions also ensure that **children are protected**, and support the **strengthening of education services** through preparedness, response and recovery interventions. Each action is tailored to **take into account the different needs of children based on their age, gender and other specific circumstances.**

In order to achieve these objectives, actions include improving **access to formal education**, transportation to educational centres, the rehabilitation of damaged schools, the construction of new learning spaces, the provision of school materials and uniforms. The EU also funds **education projects facilitating access to non-formal education**, life-skills training, psychosocial assistance and recreational activities. Humanitarian projects that **strengthen the quality aspects of education**, including through the recruitment of qualified teachers and training of teaching staff, are also supported. Finally, the EU funds actions **raising awareness among parents**, caregivers and community leaders about their children's education. In March 2017, the EU launched its largest ever humanitarian programme for education in emergencies. This **€34 million Conditional Cash Transfer Programme** will enable some 230 000 refugee children to attend school in Turkey.

In parallel, the Commission is involved in international discussions that **shape global policy on education in emergencies.** The independent [evaluation of the Commission's Actions in the Field of Protection and Education of Children in Emergency and Crisis Situations](#), published in November 2016, helps determine the way forward. On 30 November 2016, the Commission organised a **Forum on Education in Emergencies** which attracted over 200 participants, including decision-makers, humanitarian experts and practitioners. The Forum was successful in taking stock of, and participating in, current policy discussions. Building on this momentum, in **October 2017** the Commission will host **the annual meeting of the Global Education Cluster** in Brussels.

