



## EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT: PLAN, PRIORITIZE, PROTECT EDUCATION IN CRISIS-AFFECTED CONTEXTS

### EDUCATION IN CRISIS-AFFECTED CONTEXTS:

#### ✚ Is what parents, children and youth ask for:

- A good education is top priority in humanitarian crises
- Education offers a life with dignity and hope

#### ✚ Is smart economics:

- Today's education provides the foundation for tomorrow's economic recovery and growth
- Not investing in education severely diminishes development outcomes
- For every \$1 spent on crisis prevention (including education), \$7 is saved in recovery costs
- Six days of world military expenditures would fund the Education for All goals

#### ✚ Is life-saving and life-sustaining:

- Children and youth learn how to cope, feel safer in times of crisis, and protect themselves from physical dangers and exploitation
- Education supports other child-focused services (health, protection, nutrition, water, sanitation)
- Education helps children choose peace over war
- Providing education helps create peace dividends

#### ✚ Is a human right and a moral imperative:

- Children and youth do not forfeit their right to education during disasters or conflict
- 28 million girls and boys of primary school age are not in school in countries affected by armed conflict
- Students, teachers and schools are targeted for attack as a weapon of war, and education facilities are used for military purposes, with devastating impacts on learning opportunities
- Children and youth cannot wait for a future, they need education today

*“When I talked to [families] about what they wanted most for their children, it was not shelter, although they needed it; not security, although they required it; not food, although they desperately wanted it; it was education for their children.”*  
Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy

## WE CANNOT WAIT: ADOPT THE 3Ps APPROACH

**PLAN for prevention, preparedness and response.** Education Sector plans must analyse, prepare for, respond to, monitor, and budget for potential risks affecting education. They must ensure that education is equitable, inclusive and of good quality, and that education continues throughout crises.

**PRIORITIZE what children, youth, and families affected by crisis want.** Increase the education share of humanitarian funding from 2% to 4%, to respond to community demands for education during crises, and to support our accountability to crisis-affected populations. Elevate education in humanitarian response so it receives equal status to other priority sectors.

**PROTECT children, teachers and education facilities.** Protect students, teachers and learning facilities from attack. Keep education safe by ensuring strict observance of international law and humanitarian standards, and ending the use of schools and universities for military purposes.

## EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT: PLAN, PRIORITIZE, AND PROTECT!