



WORKING TOGETHER TO CLOSE THE EDUCATION FINANCING GAP IN REFUGEE HOSTING STATES: A JOINT PLEDGE

In advance of the Global Refugee Forum, the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait announce their joint pledge to improve the coordination and financing of their efforts in support of education for refugees and host communities.

Refugee situations continue to increase in scope, scale, and complexity. There are some 25.9 million refugees around the world, and 85 percent of them are hosted in low and middle-income countries facing their own economic and development challenges.

Of the 7.1 million refugee children of school age, 3.7 million - more than half - do not go to school.

This is clearly unacceptable. Thankfully the international community has committed in the Global Compact on Refugees to “contribute resources and expertise to expand and enhance the quality and inclusiveness of national education systems to facilitate access by refugee and host community children (both boys and girls), adolescents and youth to primary, secondary and tertiary education.”¹

Countries that receive and host refugees, often for extended periods, and which include refugees in their national education systems, make an immense contribution from their own limited resources to both the collective good and to the rights and dignity of refugees.

However, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, the gap between needs and the resources available to meet, including for education, continues to grow.

As three multilateral organisations committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all, we recognise the urgent need for more and better financial resources to ensure that countries hosting refugees can deliver the promise of quality learning opportunities made in the Global Compact.

We also recognise that we have a role to play, and that there are opportunities for each of us, working together, to provide more effective, efficient and aligned support.

We are therefore delighted to announce our joint pledge to improve collaboration, coordination, and financing of global efforts in support of education for refugees and host communities.

1 Global Compact on Refugees, p. 13, paragraphs 68-69

“Reducing the gap between educational needs in refugee contexts and the financing available to meet those needs is absolutely vital,” said Keiko Miwa, Regional Director for Human Development of the World Bank.

“Faced with the global refugee crisis, we have witnessed the emergence of new financing initiatives designed to improve responsibility sharing, including the World Bank’s IDA refugee sub window. The Bank remains committed to working together with our partners to ensure our support is aligned and above all leverages more financing for countries already doing so much,” concluded Ms Miwa.

Yasmine Sherif the Director of Education Cannot Wait said “Education has historically been the poor cousin of an underfunded and over-stretched humanitarian system, receiving less than 2 percent of all humanitarian funding. Education Cannot Wait was established to turn that situation around and we are delighted to be committing to work with our multilateral partners to both grow funding for education in refugee contexts and ensure that we are working together to provide the most efficient and effective support possible.”

Alice Albright the CEO of the Global Partnership for Education said, “A growing number of countries are opening their national education systems to refugees, delivering in practice the principle of inclusion which sits at the heart of the Global Compact on Refugees. Those countries can only do so with additional external assistance. We are committed to supporting their commitment with both our own funding and support and by working with the World Bank and Education Cannot Wait.”

“We welcome the pledge made by the World Bank, Education Cannot Wait and the Global Partnership for Education to improve collaboration, coordination, and financing in support of education for refugees and host communities. It is a real and meaningful demonstration of the desire of these organisations and the wider group of education sector stakeholders that they bring together to step up and share the responsibility we all have to ensure every last refugee child has access to a quality education,” said Save the Children’s Joseph Nhan-O’Reilly.

The pledge made by the three agencies is as follows:

- **A commitment to improved collaboration, co-ordination, and financing of global efforts in support of education for refugees and host communities.**
- A serious and persistent lack of funding remains a critical barrier to providing both refugees and their host community peers with quality learning opportunities.
- Specific responses to address this gap include the creation of Education Cannot Wait, the Global Partnership for Education’s support in fragile contexts and the World Bank’s IDA regional sub-window for refugees and host communities, which has a wider remit but has supported educational provision.
- We recognise the urgent need for more and better external assistance to provide education to refugee and host community children, and that we have a specific role to play.
- We therefore commit to work together to increase and improve the financial support and technical assistance we provide to countries hosting large refugee populations to meet their educational needs through their national education systems.
- We will support governments and country-level partners to coordinate and align the planning, financing, and delivery of education assistance to refugees and their host communities.
- As a first step we will publish by no later than mid 2020 a plan about how this commitment will be operationalised.
- We will review our efforts annually and publish an overview of progress detailing where, when and how we have worked together and report on these efforts to the second Global Refugee Forum in 2023.

This pledge is made by:

With the support of:

