



Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies

Key messages

>> In 2019, 257 million school-aged children are not in school.¹ Almost half – **127 million** - live in **crisis-affected countries**.² **COVID19** has worsened this situation, with at the peak of pandemic lockdowns affecting 90 per cent of students worldwide and leaving more than 463 million schoolchildren with no access to remote education.³

>> **During emergencies**, vulnerable children and youth risk missing out on education and spend increasingly long periods out of school. The possibility that many will never return to school is magnified and protection risks exacerbated. Girls are particularly affected as they're more likely than boys to be out of school in crises. Also the needs of displaced learners with disabilities continue to be overlooked.

>> The urgent need to respond to the global education crisis is why the co-signatories have pledged to **make Geneva the Global Hub for Education in Emergencies. The Hub is a physical and virtual platform and will be a catalyst for joint action** among members and increased collaboration with other sectors to prioritise education in emergencies. The work will be guided by the needs and voices of crisis-affected and displaced communities, promoting diversity and equity in the global policy dialogue.

>> The Geneva Global Hub **co-signatories include key education in emergencies actors** and it will build on the strengths, functions and mandates of its partners through complementary and collaborative action. The pledge was co-signed by Switzerland, Education Cannot Wait, the Global Education Cluster, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Graduate Institute of International Development Studies and the University of Geneva.

>> The Hub focuses on **school-aged children and youth** in crisis or displacement contexts for enhanced access to and completion of quality pre-primary, primary, secondary education. The Hub is also involved in research and evidence-creation for EiE and data. Its concern includes all **crisis-affected and displaced children and youth, regardless of their status** (i.e. refugee, IDP, affected by conflict, violence or disaster).

>> **The co-signatories envision a world** in which all crisis-affected and displaced children and youth have their right to an inclusive and equitable quality education fulfilled, respected and protected. **Our mission** is to engage governments, donors, civil society humanitarian, and development actors and academics to come together for transformative joint action. We will:

- > strengthen collaboration between Geneva's diplomats, humanitarian, development, migration, human rights, protection, peace, health and climate change experts and organisations and academia to inspire change internationally and increase country-level impact
- > promote policy-dialogue, multi-stakeholder synergies and partnerships
- > inspire political, financial and operational commitments to deliver safe and quality education

>> The founding members welcome the involvement of new partners as we hope to draw on the influence and expertise they can bring to achieve the needed changes. Any government, NGO, civil society, UN agency, academic and other institution with a link to Geneva, committed to the Hub's mission and who fulfils the membership criteria is welcome to join. For more details about membership, click [here](#).

¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

² INEE: 20 years of INEE, *Achievements and challenges in Education in Emergencies*, 2020

³ UNESCO, 2020