

The future of an entire generation is at stake.

Save Our Future: Averting an Education Catastrophe for the World's Children **A white paper by the Save Our Future campaign**

QUOTE SHEET

- *"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new reality that necessitates a rethinking of education delivery, with technology coming into sharp focus as an enabler to such a delivery. Today more than ever before, no learner should be left behind. Addressing the challenge of delivering quality education equitably and inclusively, requires out-of-the-box ideas, strategies and partnerships, least of which is the deployment of a multipronged approach as one solution does not fit them all."* **Albert Nsengiyumva, Executive Secretary, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)**
- *"We have learned from past crises that children at highest risk who are missing out on education may never return to the classroom. We cannot allow this to happen as a result of the pandemic. As we build back we must view educators as among the first responders and focus financing on the children who are being left the furthest behind. Let's enable a better future for all by ensuring equity and inclusion through the provision of quality education."* **Mary Joy Pigozzi, PhD, Executive Director of Educate A Child, a global programme of the Education Above All Foundation**
- *"For millions of vulnerable children and youth already impacted by armed conflicts, forced displacement, climate-change induced disasters, COVID-19 is another crisis upon already existing crises. For a young child or adolescent, it is easy to lose hope. As the global community works together to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, we must remember that access to an education is one of the very last hopes for any child and young person enduring a protracted crisis. We must put education of millions of crisis-affected girls and boys at the center of our efforts. If we fail to immediately protect their right to a quality education and the safety, hope and opportunity it provides, post-crisis recovery will not take off, but will remain a mere wish. Let us deliver on their hope and build back better."* **Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait**
- *"For understandable reasons, the lion's share of emergency funding to fight the pandemic has so far gone to public health interventions and economic recovery. But, because it is so essential to every person on the planet – as well as to health, economic development and poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, gender equality, social justice and much more – education deserves a place alongside these priorities. Countries and international bodies must make education the center of the COVID-19 crisis response."* **Liesbet Steer PhD, Director of the Education Commission**

- *“COVID-19 has shone a spotlight on the fragility of education systems around the world. The global community must come together to address this crisis and ensure that our children’s learning is not a victim of this pandemic. To save our future, we must prioritize inclusive, quality education, so that children keep learning, no matter the circumstance.”* **Amel Karboul, CEO of the Education Outcomes Fund**
- *“Disrupted learning and losing the lifeline of school could permanently derail millions of children’s lives, especially the poorest girls. Reopening schools is not enough. We need to create stronger, more resilient education systems and find innovative ways to deliver quality distance learning, so that all girls and boys can reach their full potential and harness the opportunities of the 21st century. Investment in education must be at the center of pandemic recovery plans. Fully funded, GPE will help transform education systems so that they serve the most vulnerable children who have been hit hardest by COVID-19.”* **Alice Albright, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education**
- *“Alongside the Covid-19 health crisis, we are facing a global education emergency. Without an urgent international response, that emergency will rob millions of the world’s most deprived children of the hope and opportunity that comes with learning. This White Paper provides an antidote for the learning crisis. It is a call to action for children.”* **Kevin Watkins, Chief Executive of Save the Children UK**
- *“When education is in danger so is our future. It’s in our hands to make sure that young generations are not excluded from their right to education because of the global health and economic crisis but rather empowered with inclusive, quality learning to act for a more sustainable and peaceful future.”* **Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education**
- *“COVID-19 related disruptions to education systems around the world will have a particularly devastating impact on refugee communities and on refugee learners. Data analysis between UNHCR and the Malala Fund found that half of all refugee girls who are in secondary school – already just 25% of that age group – may never set foot in a classroom again after COVID. Within global and national protocols for safe school re-opening, restarting education for refugees and other vulnerable populations is crucial. One of the best ways to achieve this is through the explicit inclusion of refugees in national plans, budgeted response plans and programmes to enhance the quality of education – both in response to COVID and in the long term. Education is consistently prioritized by refugee children and their parents and we have a duty to provide it.”* **Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**
- *“COVID-19 has exposed deep inequalities in how children learn, the tools available to them, and the investments made in their education,” said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. “This is a child rights crisis. The longer it goes on, the deeper these inequalities become. Business as usual is not an option. We need an urgent commitment to keep children at the centre of all decisions on the safe reopening of schools. We also need new, fast and scaleable ways to deliver quality education remotely.”* **Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director**
- *“Since April, around 370 million children have missed out on meals and essential health services due to school closures. Without school acting as a gateway for families to access health and nutrition programmes, issues like hunger, poverty and malnutrition are exacerbated for millions of the world’s poorest children. If we’re serious about building a more inclusive and resilient education system for future generations then ensuring good health & nutrition is critical. We need to invest in learning AND the learner to ensure a whole generation of the most vulnerable children are not left behind.”* **David Beasley, Executive Director UN World Food Programme**

- “Even before COVID-19, more than half of all children in the developing world couldn’t read a simple passage by age 10. The pandemic has sparked a crisis within that learning crisis. The disruption of societies and economies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is aggravating the pre-existing global education crisis and impacting education in unprecedented ways. Without concerted, aggressive action to help today’s children recover and improve foundational literacy and numeracy skills, they will suffer lifelong scars, leaving school earlier and earning less throughout their lifetimes. But we can act: we know how to turn this around, if we just heed their call to ‘Save Our Future.’” **Jaime Saavedra, Global Director for Education, World Bank**
- “As a record number of children and youth are affected by school closures and governments face serious economic challenges, we need to remind ourselves that education is the most powerful investment in our shared future, and should be a fundamental pillar of global and national responses to the pandemic. Decisions taken in the next few months will be pivotal in enabling or hindering the children of today to secure meaningful employment and have the skills and knowledge they will need to solve the many future world challenges. Now, more than ever, we have a shared responsibility to rebuild a future in which all children can engage in meaningful learning experiences, allowing them to flourish and acquire the skills they need to be productive, lifelong learners. We **MUST** build back better for ALL children as they are the future. The LEGO Foundation is honoured to support the Save our Future campaign which invites all of us to both protect and reimagine education in a post-COVID world.” **John Goodwin, CEO of the LEGO Foundation**

About the Save Our Future Campaign

Save Our Future is a global movement of diverse voices uniting to amplify the voices of children and young people as they deliver a simple, yet powerful message amidst the COVID-19 crisis: Save Our Future. The campaign seeks to ensure that: all children and youth to continue to learn during lockdowns through inclusive distance learning; every child and youth is supported to return to school when it’s safe to do so; and governments and donors invest in education now so we can build better, more inclusive, and resilient education systems for the future.

Save Our Future is led by a core hub of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa, the Asian Development Bank, BRAC, Education Above All, Education Cannot Wait, the Education Commission, the Education Outcomes Fund, the Global Partnership for Education, Save the Children, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the World Food Programme in partnership with over 600 organizations and youth.

