

Save Our Future: Averting an Education Catastrophe for the World's Children

Cheat Sheet

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Background Education faces a triple crisis.



90% of children in the world have had their education interrupted due to COVID. This means that vulnerable children are missing out not only on education but also on vital services such as nutrition and health.



Budgets for education are at risk of being slashed due to the financial impacts of COVID and this could lead to a huge funding gap of almost **\$200b per year** for low- and middle-income countries.



These COVID impacts are hitting an education system that was already in crisis: even before the pandemic **more than half of 10 year olds** in low- and middle-income countries were not learning to read by the age of 10.

7 Action Areas

Children who don't develop foundational skills by the end of primary school are very unlikely to ever catch up. If governments and development partners do not act urgently, this crisis could turn into a catastrophe from which millions of children may never recover. **We propose seven action areas which governments globally need to commit to:**

1

We must prioritize reopening schools, resume delivering vital services such as health and nutrition to children, and we need to protect the workforce and treat them as frontline workers.

2

We must transform education making it more inclusive, engaging, and adaptive so that it can act as the engine of sustainable development that we desperately need.

3

We need to strengthen the education workforce so that teachers and other professionals are equipped to enable learning and well-being for all children.

4

We need to focus education technology where it is proven to be effective and most equitable: and we need to avoid the risk that technology continues to exacerbate inequality.

5

We need to ensure that governments protect education budgets and that they target budgets to those who are left furthest behind.

6

We need the international community to step up to fully finance education as a key part of the recovery from COVID.

7

We need to ensure that any funding put into education achieves its maximum impact by improving coordination and the use of evidence.

The challenge for the education system globally is daunting. But while it may seem like an impossible task we owe it to the next generation not to give up. Only by uniting to support effective and inclusive education can we ensure that all children can fulfill their potential to build a better and more resilient world.

