



# Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the background and rationale for the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies?

Humanitarian crises, conflict and displacement deny millions of children and youth their right to education. Of the world's approximately 257 million primary and secondary school-age children out of school, 127 million live in countries affected by emergencies. Nearly 30% of the world's primary and secondary school age children and youth live in crisis-affected countries. However, prior to the COVID19 pandemic, they accounted for almost half of all out-of-school children. The situation is even starker at primary level: in 2019, less than one-third of primary-school-age children resided in crisis-affected countries, but almost three-quarters of those out of school resided in these countries.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, education is one of the most underfunded sectors in humanitarian response plans and is particularly vulnerable to economic shocks.

That is why at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, Switzerland pledged to make Geneva a Global Hub for Education in Emergencies to leverage the Geneva international community by convening actors and creating synergies for joint action so that all crisis-affected and displaced children and youth have their right to education fulfilled, respected and protected. The pledge was co-signed Education

Cannot Wait (ECW), the Global Education Cluster (GEC), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), UNICEF, the University of Geneva, UNESCO and UNHCR.

### Why now?

Our commitment to contribute to the realisation of the right to education for crisis-affected and displaced children and youth comes at a time of unprecedented humanitarian needs. The number of forcibly displaced people is at an all-time high and continues to climb. Over half of the world's forcibly displaced people are children and nearly 250 million children live in countries affected by conflict; millions more face risks from climate change, disasters, violence and epidemics.

We are witnessing a global crisis in which children and youth are at heightened risk of losing years of education.

The urgent need to respond effectively to the global education crisis is why the co-signatories have pledged at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum to making Geneva a Global Hub for Education in Emergencies via a physical and virtual platform.

### What is the focus for the Hub?

The Hub will be a catalyst for joint action among

<sup>1</sup> INEE: 20 years of INEE, *Achievements and challenges in Education in Emergencies*. 2020.

members and increased collaboration with other sectors to prioritise education in emergencies. The Hub will harness the expertise and capabilities of International Geneva's diplomats, humanitarian, development, migration, human rights, protection, peace, health and climate change experts and organisations, and academia to inspire change internationally, increase country-level impact as well as political, financial and operational commitments for education in emergencies.

The Geneva Global 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; in certain circumstances, the Hub may engage in dialogue on the transition from compulsory to post-compulsory education. It will also shine a light on the need for quality pre-service and in-service training for teachers.

The Hub's focus includes all crisis-affected and displaced children and youth, regardless of their status (i.e. refugee, host community, internally displaced children and youth, as well as those affected by conflict, violence, disasters and epidemics).

## What is different about this Hub?

Geneva is the world's humanitarian capital. Yet, when it comes to education in emergencies, the related opportunities remain largely untapped. That is why the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies will work across sectors and strengthen the collaboration between Geneva's wide array of experts and organisations to contribute to the realisation of the right to education for all crisis-affected and displaced children and youth.

Rather than creating a new institution, the Hub brings together the expertise and capabilities of a range of key actors. It builds on the strengths, functions and mandates of its members through

complementary and collaborative action. Therefore, our joint action will bring the strategic community of committed thought leaders in Geneva together to prioritise the education in emergencies agenda and nurture global leadership. We are also committed to reducing the duplication of efforts, increase synergies and address gaps. While the convening actions will focus on Geneva, 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.

## How will the Hub make a difference?

The Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies will strengthen policy and integrated approaches across the humanitarian, development, peace and migration spectrum in Geneva to better prioritise and support inclusive education in emergencies for crisis-affected and displaced children and youth. This will be achieved through increased collaboration of International Geneva actors and beyond, including linking up with other relevant initiatives.

We are committed to inspiring political will and commitment, and influence agenda setting so that governments and partners see education as a top priority before, during and after emergencies and in protracted crises.

Our joint action will boost the country-level impact of education in emergencies preparedness measures and responses through better data, evidence on what works, innovative research and solutions that support the delivery of safe and quality education while building resilient education systems.

Overall, the Hub will be a catalyst to accelerate progress towards SDG 4 in humanitarian settings and help realise the commitments set out in the Global Compact for Refugees.

## How is the Hub set up?

The Hub Steering Group is the governance and oversight body, made up of the initial co-signatories.

The Steering Group contributes to the overall strategic objectives. A Working Group provides technical expertise and takes on leadership for various activities as per the work plan.

The dedicated Hub Coordinator is seconded by Switzerland, and together with a part-time Humanitarian Project Specialist, hosted by the Global Education Cluster in UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) Geneva offices.

## Who is the Hub reporting to?

The Hub was created at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum through a pledge made by the initial co-signatories. The pledge is a commitment to collectively advance the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees; therefore, the Hub will report on the progress of the pledge to its co-signatories and UNHCR as guarding of the GRF.

## Where will the resources come from?

The overall cost for the Geneva Global Hub activities will be communicated once the work planning is finalised. In principle, we strive to keep agile ways of working and aim to use existing funding modalities. We are committed to combining and coordinating resources and by reducing duplication of efforts, we will increase synergies and make savings go further. The co-signatories will seek to mobilise resources as necessary.

At the same time, we will inspire political will and influence agenda setting among the Geneva strategic community of committed thought leaders so that governments and partners see education as a top priority before, during and after emergencies and in protracted crises. This can help inspire political commitment, increase engagement, widen participation and substantially raise the levels of financial support for country-level operations.

## Where are the Hub's offices and how can my organisation access the shared office space?

The Hub office space is located at Rue de Varembe in Geneva, close to the UN HQ and managed by Education Cannot Wait. Within the available capacity, ECW in consultation with the Hub Working Group will provide office space to member organizations.

Discussions, policy events and more will be held with a wide range of stakeholders either at the Hub offices or close-by locations.

## Who can join the Hub?

After the launch, the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies will be open to building a wider partnership around common areas of focus.

Membership is open to any government<sup>2</sup>, non-governmental organisation, civil society organisation, UN agency, networks, academic and other institution with a link to Geneva<sup>3</sup> who is committed to its vision and fulfils the below criteria:

- Adhere to and promote the guiding principles of Humanitarian and Human Rights Principles, Partnership, Localisation and meaningful child and youth participation.
- Endorse, adhere to and use the Sphere Standards, the INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, the Child Protection Minimum Standards as well as other inter-agency standards, guidelines, and tools when relevant; and
- Have a proven track record of active engagement in education in emergencies (EiE) activities (policy, advocacy work, operations, research, etc.) and/or working in another related field (e.g. migration, human rights, peace, health, protection or other).

<sup>2</sup> For governmental bodies, the Hub Steering Group will make a final decision on the membership.

<sup>3</sup> Examples of 'links with Geneva' include but are not limited to: a strong relationship with Geneva actors or activities; a leading membership role of a Geneva-based organisation or initiative; active participation in Geneva's policy dialogues or human rights mechanisms, events or advocacy with Geneva actors; and/or having staff physically present in Geneva.

- Sign a commitment letter and actively contribute to making Geneva a Global Hub for EiE.

Individuals cannot be members of the Hub but can receive public information updates.

## How can the private sector, foundations or philanthropies support the Hub?

The Geneva Global Hub encourages all partners to participate in reaching all children and youth who cannot access quality and safe education because of crises. Collaboration across sectors and donors is needed for a lasting impact on the education of the most vulnerable children and youth. Businesses, foundations and philanthropists can support as follows:

*Contribute financial resources:* provide philanthropic contributions to the Hub for its work plan implementation or to specific emergencies via its members in line with international human rights standards, conventions and global policy commitments to ensure free, equitable and quality education (SDG 4.1) and per the Abidjan Principles on the Right to Education. We encourage companies to creatively identify ways to engage in resource mobilisation.

*Donate in-kind services or products:* businesses can provide core business assets, including the deployment of products, services and human resources to operationalize the Hub's activities.

*Share innovations:* we encourage everyone to pinpoint and raise discussion on innovations that could address education in emergencies challenges. We are eager to collaborate to foster innovation and the identification and scale-up of transformative and intersectoral solutions.

## What stage is the Hub at, and how can I get more information?

In 2020, the initial co-signatories started the

implementation of the pledge, which included the setup of the Hub and a joint Call to Action (see [here](#)) to address the threat by the COVID19 pandemic to the education of those left furthest behind.

In November 2020, a dedicated Hub Coordinator was appointed, seconded by Switzerland and hosted by the Global Education Cluster in UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) Geneva offices. A part-time Humanitarian Project Specialist also joined the Secretariat for six months.

In December 2020, the first official Steering Group meeting took place and approved the Hub concept note, outlining the scope, vision, mission, goals and governance.

The Hub will be officially launched on 25 January 2021, with concrete activities to be defined through a work planning process after the launch.

The co-signatories are committed to transparent communication with all partners.

## Further information and contact details

For an overview of the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies, read a 2-pager here: <https://bit.ly/3oeyYF3>

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook [@EiEGenevaHub](#) and tag the Hub in relevant tweets/posts. #EiEGenevaHub. You can also connect with the Hub on LinkedIn.



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