

Send My Friend to School

Action guide: education in emergencies



Children at the Malakal camp for internally displaced people, South Sudan

Photo: Simon Rawles/Oxfam GB

INTRODUCTION

Education is a human right, and between 2000 and 2015 many countries made good progress in giving every child an education. During these years a total of 56 million children were enrolled in school for the first time.

Despite this progress the number of children who don't go to school has remained stubbornly high. Around the world 124 million children (59 million of primary school age) are still missing out on the education that is their right.

37 million, or two thirds, of out-of-school children live in an emergency.

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY?

There are many types of crisis and emergency that affect children's educations. The three main types of emergency are **conflicts**, **natural disasters** and **health epidemics**. Together these account for most of the 37 million children who are missing out on school in crisis affected countries.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Despite the large number of children missing out on school because of emergencies and crises, only 2% of humanitarian aid for emergencies is spent on education. An additional £3 billion is needed each year to get children in crisis effected countries into school.

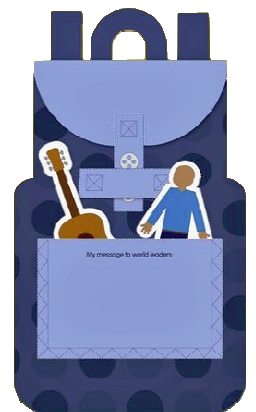
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Decide which actions you'd like to take depending on how much time you've got. These actions begin with something simple and finish with something challenging.

1. Learn about the issues, create rucksack messages and send them to your MP Go to page 2

2. Hold a Day of Action on Friday 1 July and inform the press Go to page 3

3. Organise an event and meet your MP
Go to page 4



Create rucksack messages and send them to your MP



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Create powerful rucksack messages for your MP

Photo: GCE UK

1. Learn about the issues, create rucksack messages and send them to your MP.

Your MP is an ideal person to take your messages about the rights of children in emergencies to the UK Government and world leaders.

Your MP can write to the Minister for International Development or ask a question in Parliament. Winning the support of your MP with a creative campaign is the first step to helping ensure that every child in a crisis affected country has the right to go to school.

Why take action?

Showing that young people feel strongly about education for all helps to persuade MPs to take the issue seriously. MPs are contacted many times every day by local people, so when you organise a creative and imaginative campaign it will stand out and have an impact.

The learning, communication, organisation, time-management and planning skills this campaign will help you to develop are useful in other areas of your school and personal life. So you'll not just be helping to send every child to school. You'll be helping yourself too.

What to do

STEP ONE

Ask your teacher to register for Send My Friend to School at www.sendmyfriend.org

This website also has lots of exciting resources to get you thinking about global education and help you learn about campaigning.

The **Getting Started** activities in the **Young Campaigners Toolkit** will help you to learn more about Education for All before you launch your campaign.

STEP THREE

It's important that everyone understands Education in Emergencies and the rucksack messages action.

There's a campaign PowerPoint presentation in this resource and a film at <http://bit.ly/1W9Y9HD>

STEP TWO

Think about how to collect as many rucksack messages in your school as possible. The **Decisions Decisions** and **Action Ideas** activities in the **Young Campaigners Toolkit** will help you to plan a campaign at school.

Set yourself a target number of rucksack messages to collect and then get started!

STEP FOUR

Put your rucksack messages together and carefully post them with a letter to your MP. MPs' contact details are at <http://www.theyworkforyou.org>.

In your letter summarise the main issues and what you want your MP to do. Try to write this in a really brief, persuasive and inspiring way. There's advice at <http://bit.ly/1iGYbl2>



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Children play in Tundikhel camp for internally displaced people, Nepal. 1 million children were forced to leave school following the 2015 earthquakes

Photo: Aubrey Wade/Oxfam GB

Hold a Send My Friend Day of Action on Friday July 1 2016 and inform the press

Aim to plan a bigger campaign in your school. The purpose is still to send rucksack messages to your MP, but this time you need to think more carefully about how to inspire lots of other young people to get involved.

Friday July 1 2016 is the Send My Friend Day of Action, so work towards your campaign climaxing on or near to this day. But don't worry if you can't make the date. Go ahead anyway. It's taking action that counts.

- Could you design and present an assembly or lesson?
- Could you organise an exhibition, event or film screening?
- Could you visit other local schools and inspire young people there to be involved?
- Could you make a film or write a press release and get a story in your local paper?

Ideas

Emma Woods led Send My Friend campaigns for over four years. Read her tips at <http://bit.ly/1jbZvLk>

There are ideas to help you plan your action at <http://bit.ly/Odvqll>

The **Planning an Action** and **Spreading the Word** sections of the **Young Campaigners Toolkit** will help you to plan the most effective action and successfully work with the media.

What to do

STEP ONE

Ask your teacher to register for Send My Friend to School 2015 at www.sendmyfriend.org

Work through the activities in the **Planning An Action** section of the **Young Campaigners Toolkit**

This will help you to plan the most effective action. Remember your aim is for the climax of your campaign to be on or close to Friday 1 July 2016.

STEP THREE

Next try to get a story about your campaign in your local paper. The **Spreading the Word** activity in the **Young Campaigners Toolkit** has activities to help you influence the media.

STEP TWO

Set targets for your campaign and plan how you'll work together to achieve them. This will involve careful project planning and time management. Make sure you are realistic and set targets you can achieve.

Decide if you'll invite your MP to a meeting on or around July 1 2016 or send rucksack messages to your MP in the post.

The **Young Campaigners Toolkit** contains activities to help you decide and plan your action.

STEP FOUR

Finally meet your MP or post your rucksack messages to your MP with a covering letter.



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Young people from Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr in Cardiff ask Kevin Brennan MP to take their rucksack messages to Prime Minister David Cameron

Photo: GCE UK

Remember. Friday July 1 2016 is the Send My Friend Day of Action. Try to invite your MP to a meeting on July 1 or as close to this date as possible. If you can't, don't worry. Meet on another day. It's taking action that counts.

Organise a meeting with your MP.

Your MP can take your rucksack messages to Parliament and share them with other MPs, the Prime Minister and the Department for International Development (DFID). This is their first step to reaching other world leaders.

Every year around 100 MPs visit schools in their constituencies for Send My Friend to School and participate in events organised by young people.

Organising an MP event provides you and your friends with a great opportunity to develop project management and campaigning skills.

Make sure you ask your MP to take a specific action—for example to write to the relevant Minister—and ask her or him to feed back the results of their actions to you.

Finally don't forget to tell GCE UK about how you got on. We'd love to hear about your success! See <http://bit.ly/1IQdZwV> for how to get in touch

WHAT TO DO

STEP ONE

Ask your teacher to register for Send All My Friends to School at www.sendmyfriend.org

Organise collecting rucksack messages as outlined on Pages 2 and 3. Try to collect as many thoughtful and passionate messages as possible.

STEP THREE

Invite your MP to a meeting. You'll find contact details at <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>. Virtually all MPs also have their own websites which include their contact details.

The **Planning Tree** activity in the **Young Campaigners Toolkit** will help you to plan an MP meeting in greater detail.

STEP TWO

Plan the type of event you'd like to invite your MP to. For example it could be an assembly but try to fit in a face to face meeting. Alternatively you could visit your MP in Parliament. Ask to meet on **Friday July 1st 2016** or as near to this day as possible.

Make sure your meeting is well organised, tightly scripted and creative. Rehearse with a teacher playing the role of your MP so you can iron out any glitches before your big day.

STEP FOUR

Have a great event!

Remember to ask your MP to do something specific. The MP toolkit has suggestions. Take lots of photos, ask your local paper to write a story and tell us how it went.

