

# Factsheet



## KS2 & 3 - Education in Emergencies

Education is vital for all children and critical during emergencies – even more so for children affected by an emergency for whom it is both lifesaving and life sustaining. In the middle of destruction, violence and instability school can be a place of stability, safety, learning, and hope for the future.

### Global Numbers

- **37 million are out of school due to emergencies** and 65 million children from age three to 15 are at risk of missing out on learning due to disruptions caused by conflict, natural disaster or health emergency.
- In Nepal one million children were left out of school after two massive earthquakes which also destroyed 600,000 homes
- Half of all Syrian children now miss out on school and at least a quarter of schools have been damaged or destroyed
- In Sierra Leone nearly 2 million children were forced to abandon school because of Ebola.
- In northern Nigeria 1.4 million children have been displaced from their homes and 900 schools have been destroyed during the conflict and violence from Boko Haram

### Why is education in emergencies so important?

In a crisis situation access to education is vital:

- It gives children the chance to learn information that can help and protect them.
- They can regain a sense of stability and security
- It gives them hope for the future
- It protects them from early child marriage or recruitment as a child soldier.

### Conflict

**230 million children** live in conflict affected areas. Education helps keep children safe and is key to breaking to continuous cycle of war.

Lucie, 12, lives in the Eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The war there has claimed more than 5 million lives.

The fighting left Lucie's family with nothing. Lucie had to drop out of school and go to work in the fields to earn money. Photo © War Child



## Natural Disasters

Every year, **175 million children** are affected by natural disasters. Schools are often destroyed and education is interrupted for many children.

Jednel and his family lost their home when Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines. His school was also destroyed by a six metre high storm surge that followed the typhoon.

While Jednel's school is being formally rebuilt, he goes to school in temporary school structure; *"I was happy when school opened again in January. We still have our classes in a tent, but it doesn't matter."*

Photo: © Pieter ten Hoopen / PLAN



## Health Crises

**5 million children** in West Africa missed out on school due to the outbreak of Ebola. In Sierra Leone **8,000 schools** closed during the epidemic for 9 months.



Isatu was just 12 when her life was devastated by the Ebola virus which killed her mother and father.

Isatu's school was closed for 7 months. When her mum got sick, they had to burn all of her things as a precaution. She now lives with her sister and grandmother and is desperate to go back to school, but she has no uniform.

Photo © Kate Holt/ActionAid UK

## Displacement

Globally, **30 million children** have had to flee their homes and school. Children who are out of school for extended period of times – including during emergencies – become less likely to return to school.

The average length of conflicts around the world is 12 years and people are displaced from home for an average of 20 years. This means that children are being denied access to schooling for several years, many missing out completely, with the result that whole generations are being denied their right to education.



12 year-old Mohamed has been out of education since 2011 when his family had to flee, after an explosive hit their home in Syria. *“I was very scared by the noise and the explosives and often could not sleep at night. We are now living in a refugee camp in Lebanon, along with hundreds of other Syrian families.*

*“I miss school. If I could go back to education I would study to be a doctor, so I could return home to Syria and help people who have been hurt in the war.”*

Photo © Lisa Rutherford/Oxfam

## Cost of ensuring education in emergencies

Education is consistently the most underfunded and under-prioritised area in emergencies aid.

- Less than two percent of humanitarian aid supports education and learning opportunities.
- World leaders need to find an extra **£3 billion per year**, so that every child affected by emergencies can go to school.
- In 2014, just 38 pence per month was used to educate a child in a war zone – That’s about the price of an apple. [War Child, 2016]

**Join Lucie, Jednel, Isatu and Mohamed and speak out for the 37 million children missing out on school due to emergencies.**