

Education for All



A Worldwide Commitment to Education

At the World Economic Forum in 2000, the U.S. joined 180 other countries in committing to the goal of achieving access to education for all children by 2015. This goal is also part of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals endorsed by the U.S.

Children Out of School

Despite dramatic progress – due in part to increased education aid – today approximately 77 million children are not in school. There is still a \$9 billion funding gap to achieve education for all children.

More than half of the children out of school – 39 million – live in conflict affected countries.¹ However, donors give the least education assistance to these countries that need it the most. The children in these countries receive only 18 percent of all international assistance for education.

The Effects of Conflict

Conflict can have a devastating impact on children and their education. Schools close. Teachers flee. And, school systems lose funding. Yet one of the best ways to protect children in conflict situations and give them hope for the future is to provide them with a good education.

The Power of Education

Education can:

- protect children by teaching essential life skills including how to recognize land mines and protect themselves against sexual abuse
- help children cope with the trauma associated with living in the midst of conflict
- help children avoid being recruited into armed groups by keeping them occupied, learning, and preparing for the future
- help break the cycle of violence and poverty by promoting good governance and peaceful, prosperous societies
- give a child hope for the future

What Save the Children is doing

In September 2006, Save the Children launched *Rewrite the Future*, a global initiative to ensure that children affected by armed conflict have access to quality education.

By 2010 Save the Children will bring quality education to 8 million children living in 20 conflict affected countries. Save the Children is also working to encourage governments and international institutions to prioritize education for millions more children.

¹ Conflict affected fragile states include Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, CoteD'Ivoire, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, East Timor, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Education for All



Call to Action

To ensure that the U.S. strengthens its efforts to increase access to quality education for children worldwide, please co-sponsor the **Education for All Act of 2007 (H.R. 2092 and S.1259)**, introduced by Representatives Lowey (D-NY) and Bachus (R-AL) in the House and Senators Clinton (D-NY) and Smith (R-OR) in the Senate.

The Education for All Act of 2007:

- (1) Recognizes our common responsibility to ensure that all children have access to quality education by authorizing the appropriation of \$10 billion over the next five years to help developing countries meet the goal of universal basic education by 2015.
- (2) Supports the elimination of school fees and training of teachers.
- (3) Supports the inclusion of education along with food, water and shelter as part of every humanitarian emergency response.
- (4) Promotes civic education and life skills training and seeks to ensure that schools are not incubators for violent extremism.
- (5) Calls on the President to establish a comprehensive strategy to reach education for all by 2015 and to create a position of an Education for All Coordinator to ensure the implementation of that strategy and better coordination among government agencies.

In addition to Save the Children, the *Education for All Act* is endorsed by: The ONE Campaign, The Basic Education Coalition, The Academy for Educational Development, DATA, The International Rescue Committee, World Learning, The Global AIDS Alliance, The U.S. Global Campaign for Education, RESULTS, Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), The Center for Universal Education at the Council on Foreign Relations, CARE, and DevTech Systems, Inc.

To Co-Sponsor the Act:

To become a co-sponsor of H.R. 2092, please contact Lucy Heenan in Representative Lowey's office at lucy.heenan@mail.house.gov or Jason Britt in Representative Bachus' office at jason.britt@mail.house.gov.

To become a co-sponsor of S.1259, please contact Ann Gavaghan in Senator Clinton's office at ann_gavaghan@clinton.senate.gov or Daniel Knezevic in Senator Smith's office at daniel_knezevic@smith.senate.gov.

For more information, please contact Mandy Folsie at mfolsie@dc.savechildren.org