

#SaveOurFuture

A global campaign to protect and reimagine education in a post-COVID world



We are in the greatest education emergency of our lifetime. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified and exacerbated the global learning crisis. This reality threatens to continue creating lost generations of children without education.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

- At the height of the worst health and economic crisis in a century, **1.6 billion** children – roughly **90 percent** of the world's student population – were out of school, with more than **80 percent** of these in developing countries.
- **63 million** teachers along with the wider global education workforce are grappling with ways to ensure that learning does not stop.
- Children who are out of school for more than a year are **unlikely** to return, and girls are **2.5 times** more likely to drop out than boys.
- Almost overnight, learning has become reliant on connectivity. But nearly **50 percent** of the world's students don't have Internet access.
- Children out of school could lose as much **\$10 trillion** in lost earnings.

WHAT'S THE REALITY

The huge economic, health, and societal ramifications of COVID-19 have set the whole world back in its efforts to achieve the SDGs. We should expect to see increasing poverty, stagnating growth, increased morbidity and mortality and, potentially, an increase in conflict. As the world focuses on the immediate health, economic and social impacts of the pandemic, there is a risk that the devastating impact on education will be ignored.

WHAT WE KNOW

While education is clearly a victim of the pandemic, it is also the solution to the longer-term recovery from COVID. Education creates the health workers, the entrepreneurs, and the engineers of the future. Education benefits the economy and individual incomes. Education, especially for girls, is the vaccine for healthier populations. Education increases peace and stability and is essential for sustainable development. In

fact, education is so central for facilitating development that each one of the 17 SDGs includes a target which relates to or depends upon learning and education. Educated youth also become the activists, politicians, and thought leaders needed to create a better future. Without education, we would not have Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Emma González, Kelvin Doe, Nupol Kiazolu and Zulaikha Patel. The future of an entire generation of children is at stake. We cannot – and must not – fail that generation.

WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY

We must act now to build back better! We must seize this opportunity to reimagine and reboot education in bold ways, developing a new vision for the future and for children in the decade ahead. To achieve a world where everyone lives with dignity and opportunity – a vision leaders embraced in the global goals for sustainable development – we must take strong education action. But it will take all of us. Every community, and every person must play an active role in protecting learning.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

A global coalition of diverse voices – from CSOs to the private sector, youth to researchers, media to multilaterals, foundations to influencers and more – is uniting to launch an innovative campaign amplifying the voices of children and young people as they deliver a simple yet loud and powerful message: **Save Our Future.**

This campaign, supported by some of the largest organizations in education will drive awareness and highlight the connection between education and the other sustainable development goals; showcase education solutions, evidence-based research, and innovations; bring together communities to promote collaboration; and engage people around the world in a dialogue around education to help ensure all children can learn.

Together we can build back better for the world's children and youth.

Join this movement. Start HERE.

*We welcome all to join as partners in this campaign currently guided by a core hub of the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Education Cannot Wait, the Education Commission, the Education Outcomes Fund, the Global Partnership for Education, Save the Children, UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank.