

The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Secretary of State for International Development
The Department for International Development
22 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

15 April 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

The UK's support for education in emergencies and protracted crisis

As you know one million children in Mozambique are estimated to have been affected by cyclone Idai and thousands of schools have been destroyed. We strongly welcome your announcement of dedicated funding of £4 million to the region which is urgently needed to minimise the disruption to education there. Last week 14 children were killed as their school was hit by an airstrike in Sanaa, Yemen. A country where a quarter of all children are out of school as a result of the conflict.

There are countless other crises which have not made the headlines where millions of boys and girls are missing out on learning. These children are paying the heaviest price for conflict and disaster.

We are proud that DFID has been at the forefront of global efforts to scale up investment, expertise and collaboration in education in emergencies and protracted crises. Your leadership has made a difference to children and the communities they live in. But there is an urgent need for more and better international funding for education.

Education Cannot Wait is the first and only global fund for education in crises. It works across the humanitarian-development divide, to deliver programmes quickly, with impact and value for money. This year Education Cannot Wait seeks to raise enough funds to support the education of 9 million children and youth by 2021. **We are calling for DFID to make a significant renewed investment into Education Cannot Wait of £75 million over the period 2019-2021.** This increase will help address the considerable learning needs of the most marginalised children in some of the most challenging and heartbreaking contexts around the world.

Meeting these significant needs will also require DFID's urgent attention and funding to support teachers, the learning of adolescent girls and to deliver on the world's promise to provide all refugees with an education through implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

We are pleased to share with you a new UK civil society report which demonstrates how DFID can advance this agenda and make a significant difference in the lives of children around the world. Investment in global education is truly transformative aid, having a lasting impact long after the child has left school and that is why the UK public list education as their second highest priority for UK aid.¹

We look forward to hearing back from you on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Tanya Barron
Chief Executive Officer
Plan International UK

Hugh Evans
Chief Executive Officer
Global Citizen

Aaron Oxley
Executive Director
Results UK

Mary Bousted
Joint General Secretary
National Education Union

Justin van Fleet
President
Theirworld

Aleema Shivji
Chief Executive Officer
Humanity & Inclusion UK

Kevin Courtney
Joint General Secretary
National Education Union

Chris Keates
General Secretary
NASUWT

Kevin Watkins
Chief Executive Officer
Save the Children

¹ After health. Hudson, David. 2019. AAT trends and images of development. London: Development Engagement Lab.