

A DECADE OF DREAMS

A JOURNEY OF PARTNERSHIP IMPACTING
5 MILLION CHILDREN AND YOUTH

التعليم | education
فوق | above
الجميع | all

unicef 
for every child

A DECADE OF DREAMS: REACHING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH EDUCATION

Celebrating 10 years of Partnership between Education Above All Foundation and UNICEF

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and UNICEF have a strong and longstanding partnership that has been instrumental in advancing education opportunities and access to quality education for children and youth, particularly the most marginalized, across the world. The partnership has not only helped more than five million of the hardest-to-reach children and youth worldwide to realize their right to a quality education but also has been influential at the global and country levels to advocate for the right to education, rallying partners and stakeholders to prioritize quality education for all children.

2023 marks the half-way point to the deadline set for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the global community mobilizes to bring education back on track, there is a need for accelerating the scale-up of evidence-based solutions and innovations in education to reach the most marginalized children.

Over the years, the Education Above All Foundation, supported by the Qatar Fund for Development, and UNICEF have reached the most marginalized children in countries including Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, Colombia, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Paraguay, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, The Gambia and Yemen.

“A Decade of Dreams” offers a glimpse into this transformative journey. Through compelling photographs, we invite you to step into the lives of children from some of these countries, children who now stand with the ability to dream of a better future. Their stories, just a snapshot of the impact, represent countless dreams ignited, and lives changed through the power of education. We invite you to explore these stories and resources in this collection and hope that they inspire you to incorporate the takeaways and best practices from our journey into your work.

SOMALIA

Total enrolments: 65,755 Total commitments: 300,000

Her first time in school

Ifrax, a 10-year-old girl with an engaging smile, lives in a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia. She had never been to school before, but is now attending a temporary IDP school near the city of Baidoa.

“Before our school was built, I used to stay at home doing nothing. Now I am in school. I can read and write thanks to my Somali teacher. Since I joined this school, I have made many new friends. I love my school and my teachers,” she said.

“Despite the challenges, our morale as teachers and that of our pupils is very high,” said Farah, a teacher at the school. He is a returnee from a refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya, and his experiences there gave him the drive and determination to educate his pupils. “As a teacher, I have nothing else to give them except my time to educate them and impart as much knowledge as possible.”

Ifrax and many other displaced children in Baidoa IDP settlements, have received education opportunities through Education Above All’s Educate A Child Programme and UNICEF joint programmes implemented by the Bay Regional Education Committee (BREC). EAA/UNICEF projects in Somalia enhance the quality of education by constructing new schools with gender-sensitive WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), accessible facilities and safe spaces. They also provide teacher training, distribute school materials and strengthen alternative learning programmes.



Scan this QR code to learn more about how temporary learning spaces provide hope for children in Baidoa, Somalia.









BANGLADESH

Bajua Government Primary School had participated in a sports programme as part of this project, which was launched on 13 January 2018.

In 2015, 1 in 11 primary school children were out of school globally. These were often children in the most vulnerable situations such as war zones or living in remote and marginalized communities. The FC Barcelona Foundation, UNICEF, and EAA's Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) programme worked together to change that in places like Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal.

The '1in11' programme, launched in 2015, harnessed the power of sports, play and education to ensure that each child has the opportunity to fulfil her/his potential. It aimed to ensure sports are incorporated into school curricula. Studies show that including sports in the curricula inspires children to attend and stay in school, leads to better physical health and helps to improve their grades.



Read more about the 1in11 programme in Bangladesh, by scanning this QR Code.













SUDAN

Total enrolments: 653,904

One step closer to becoming a doctor

It is graduation day in South Kordofan, Sudan.

Bosh cannot hide his excitement, as he is one of the graduates. In fact, the 14-year-old emerged as the best student after scoring distinctions in all the subjects, including Arabic, mathematics, and English.

Two years before, Bosh and his had family fled their home to escape the ongoing conflict, leaving everything behind and ending up in a refugee camp near the border of South Sudan. His education and that of his three siblings came to a halt.

When the family returned home after two years, Bosh and two of his siblings enrolled in the new Alternative Learning Programme, supported by UNICEF in partnership with the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation. In Sudan, the programme targets children in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as in the host communities, who cannot enrol in formal schools and are falling behind in their education.

“The children enrolled in this programme are very bright and score highly. Bosh is one example,” said the head teacher.

Bosh is now confident that he is one step closer to achieving his dream: becoming a doctor. When asked why a doctor, he said, “I want to help my family.”

Scan this QR Code to learn more about how the Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) in Kadugli, Sudan gives a second chance to children and adolescents who otherwise would have missed out on education.



THE GAMBIA

Total commitments: 66,765

Zero Out-of-School Children

Her Excellency the First Lady of The Gambia, Madam Fatoumata Bah-Barrow, and Honorable Claudiana Ayo Cole, minister of basic and secondary education, are flanked by students during the launch of the Zero OOSC ('Zero Out-of-School Children') project. Through this project, the partnership between the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and UNICEF intends to send every out-of-school child in The Gambia back to school.

EAA's Zero OOSC approach works with a small number of governments to reach zero out-of-school children. In The Gambia, the EAA/UNICEF partnership collaborates with the government and others to reach every last remaining out-of-school child with a quality primary education and ensure that no child is left behind.



Read more about the Zero OOSC programme by scanning this QR code.



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WORLD GAMBIA GOVERNMENT PROJECT WITH EDUCATION ABOVE ALL FOUNDATION



PARAGUAY

Total commitments: 30,000

At the indigenous school near Asuncion, Paraguay, students explore their creativity and learn about their rights.

This school and others in Paraguay are supported by the Education Above All Foundation's Educate A Child programme, in partnership with UNICEF. The programme aims to enrol 30,000 out-of-school children by 2025. It strives to improve school retention and learning recovery to tackle school exclusion.

Through the EAA/UNICEF partnership, the programme interventions are designed to respond to barriers to school access, such as poverty, lack of adequate school infrastructure, inaccessibility to children with disabilities, absence of facilities for children with learning disabilities, and learning poverty.



Scan QR code to learn more about this programme.





SYRIA

Total enrolments: 1,267,671*

A safe space for learning

On 19 December 2019, 8-year-old student Miriam attends classes in a school in Maskana, in eastern rural Aleppo, the Syrian Arab Republic. Miriam missed out on two years of education while on the move with her family fleeing violence. When she returned to her hometown of Maskana, she was excited to be back in school thanks to rehabilitation works by UNICEF and Education Above All Foundation's Educate A Child Programme.

Before the rehabilitation, Miriam's school was operating with three damaged classrooms, where students attended classes with no desks, windows, or doors, braving the cold to pursue an education rightfully theirs. Years of violence have taken a toll on the education system in the governorate of Aleppo, destroying and damaging schools, and causing teachers to flee their areas, leaving thousands of children without access to learning and overcrowding schools that were functional.

The EAA/UNICEF partnership in Syria provided context-relevant non-formal and accelerated education services to 399,634 of out-of-school children from 2017 to 2021. The partnership implemented a Self-Learning Program (SLP) for out-of-school children and an accelerated learning programme (Curriculum B) for children returning to public schools, to ensure that all children in Syria, whether in public schools, in non-formal education centres, or in accelerated learning programmes, have the opportunity to realize their right to education. To ensure children can obtain certificates and continue their education, textbooks and learning materials used were endorsed by the Ministry of Education. The project also established 845 safe learning and school spaces to facilitate the return of out-of-school-children to the education system.

** OOSC enrollments for children affected by the Syrian crisis in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Syria*

Scan QR code to learn more about this programme.







Back to the classroom

On 12 December 2018 in the Syrian Arab Republic, children are reading at the Al-Mahatta AlAwla primary school in Izra city, in Dara'a Governorate, where 360 students attend school. Out of the 5,350 children enrolled in schools in Izra city at the time, one in four was internally displaced. In Dara'a, out of around 900 schools in the governorate, one-third were fully destroyed and another third partially destroyed and in need of rehabilitation. Since 2011, the conflict has driven a large portion of the population of Dara'a from their homes. In August 2018, displaced families that had been absent from their villages and towns for many years were slowly returning. As families began to return, many children went back to rehabilitated classrooms, supported by UNICEF and the EAC Programme.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Total enrolments: 1,541,270

Nine-year-old Dieudonne attends a school supported by UNICEF and EAA's joint project in Baraka, in the South Kivu Province. The school provides a place for refugee children from Burundi, internally displaced children, as well as children from the host community to learn and play.

Supported by a partnership between the EAA Foundation and UNICEF, the Equitable and Quality Primary Education for All Children project enrolled 1,541,270 out-of-school children aged 6 to 11 in the 13 targeted provinces from 2014 to 2018. The project, which worked on supporting enrolment and ensuring retention, was supported by the Ministry of Education as part of its commitment to education reform. The project also facilitated the design of the county's Education Sector Strategy.

Read more about examples from the Educate A Child programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo, by scanning this QR code.







NIGERIA

Total enrolments: 565,572

The classroom as a haven of peace

Modu attended an EAA/UNICEF-supported school in an IDP camp in Monguno, Borno State. The 13-year-old boy had to flee to Maiduguri during conflicts between the government and Boko Haram, but then returned to his family home, in Monguno, where he was finally able to continue his schooling.

That was in November 2016, when northeast Nigeria was still in the grips of a humanitarian emergency. As a result of the ongoing conflict, 7 million people were in desperate need of assistance across Borno, Gombe, Yobe and Adamawa states. Nearly 55 per cent of them were children. UNICEF, Education Above All Foundation's (EAA) Educate A Child programme (EAC), and the government worked together to ensure that the out-of-school children and those who missed out on an education during times of conflict could access learning opportunities.

The EAA/UNICEF partnership was influential in ensuring that the government recognizes the importance of non-formal learning, and brought about the necessary systems change in terms of increased investment in the non-formal education, thereby creating additional learning opportunities for out-of-school-children.

Read more about the Educate A Child Programme in countries like Nigeria, by scanning this QR code.





EAC/UNICEF PROJECT 2018 BY SBMC

Social Skills

NUMERICAL REASON 24/11/2019

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Group A $4 + 8 =$ | $2 \times 1 = 2$ |
| Group B $4 + 6 =$ | $2 \times 2 = 4$ |
| Group C $1 + 0 =$ | $2 \times 3 = 6$ |
| Group D $0 + 0 = 0$ | $2 \times 4 = 8$ |
| | $2 \times 5 = 10$ |
| | $2 \times 6 = 12$ |



KENYA

Total enrolments: 379,649

Hope in the slums of Nairobi

Octavia, who is 10 years old, is studying together with his mother, Wambui, at their home, which is located in a Nairobi slum that is well known as the location of the city's main solid-waste dump site. Octavia is one of the 250,000 out-of-school children who are benefiting from phase two of the Operation Come to School project that aims to support children aged 6 to 13 in the 16 counties in Kenya where children are most at risk of dropping out of school.

The first phase of the programme enrolled nearly 350,000 children in 11 of those counties between 2015 and 2019. Over 1.1 million children aged 6-13 are out of school in Kenya. Issues such as early marriages and pregnancies, poverty, child labour and violence in schools drive many children to drop out.



Read more about the Operation Come to School project by scanning the QR code.





STATE OF PALESTINE

Refurbished schools, refurbished lives

Karmel, a 14-year-old student at Abu Tammam Basic School for Girls, in Gaza, is thinking about her dream classroom. "I wish there was a nice, new blackboard. The one we have now is scratched and cracked. It is hard to write on it," she said.

When many children in the Gaza Strip began their academic year in September 2014, they found that the appearance of their schools had changed forever. Many classrooms had been destroyed.

In order to make the schools as child-friendly as possible, Education Above All worked in conjunction with UNICEF to actively involve the children and adolescents in the design of these classrooms, through discussions and drawing sessions. The children's views were incorporated into the design of new schools and classrooms by a 'child-friendly' architect.

Child-friendly school elements incorporated into schools as part of this project included student-centric educational layouts, larger classrooms, play therapy rooms, thermal insulation, solar panels, and multipurpose halls.

The school rehabilitation project was supported by Education Above All Foundation's Al Fakhoora programme, with funding from Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD), with the aim of building back better, leading to the improved education and well-being of students throughout the Gaza Strip.

Read more by scanning this QR code.





EAA-UNICEF PARTNERSHIPS

Educate a Child (EAC):

EAC has worked with UNICEF to provide out-of-school children with **access to education**. The partnership has supported over **5 million out-of-school children** to enrol in quality primary education in **17 countries**. (Chad, Comoros, DRC, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Paraguay, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, The Gambia, Turkey, Yemen and Zanzibar).

Reach Out To Asia (ROTA):

ROTA, UNICEF and the Barcelona Foundation partnered to create **educational opportunities for marginalized children** in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal, reaching **143,888** direct beneficiaries and **120,000** indirect beneficiaries.

Al Fakhoora:

In 2015, Al Fakhoora partnered with UNICEF on the “Investing in Education and Building Resilience” **school reconstruction and rehabilitation project**. As a response to the 2014 **conflict in Gaza**, Al Fakhoora partnered with UNICEF to build back better and incorporate **child-friendly elements in schools across the Gaza Strip**. The project directly benefited over 114,000 students and educational staff, and **left a lasting impact on the education system**.

Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC):

As a co-founding member of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) formed in 2010, UNICEF works with PEIC, a member of the GCPEA Steering Group, to reinforce their respective mandates in **addressing the global epidemic of attacks on education and military use of schools in countries facing armed conflict or insecurity**.

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