

} EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES & RAPID EDUCATION ACTION INITIATIVE (REACT)

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

The number of displaced persons worldwide has reached its highest count since the end of World War II, with an estimated 75 million children and adolescents having had their education disrupted or ended due to natural disasters, conflicts, and other emergencies.

For a child or young person caught up in crisis, education can be a lifesaver – providing a safe space, normalcy, and hope for the future. But education is one of the first things to stop at the onset of an emergency, as it has traditionally remained low on the priority list with many children losing out on years of schooling before its restored. These children remain vulnerable to trafficking, child labor, early forced marriage, or recruitment into armed groups. In the absence of action, they will become part of a growing “lost generation” of children and adolescents with untapped potential.

WHAT IS REACT?

The [Global Business Coalition for Education](#) (GBC-Education) [Rapid Education Action Initiative \(REACT\)](#) tackles the challenges of education in emergencies by bringing the know-how and resources from the business community to support partners on the frontlines working to restore education. The goal is to provide young people with a pathway to rebuild their communities and societies, and become active participants in social and economic development.

REACT is a hub to channel corporate contributions in support of education in emergencies by building results-oriented partnerships between businesses, UN agencies, NGOs, national governments, and actors.

At its core, REACT is a digital platform (www.now-react.org) developed with the generous support of LexisNexis Risk Solutions – the data and analytics business unit of UK-based RELX Group – which streamlines the partnership-building process by:

- Mapping offers of tangible support from the business community
- Tracking educational challenges in need of solutions in real time
- Matching business resources and assets with partners on the ground to create, accelerate, and disseminate new solutions at scale



PILOT PROJECTS

The REACT initiative has successfully created a number of pilot projects which showcase its potential to harness the collective power of these stakeholders into innovative and effective partnerships. Some pilots include:

- Sumitomo Chemical and Oando Foundation established three solar-powered ICT centers in Nigeria, benefiting 2,400 displaced children
- A US-based language instruction company worked with an NGO to provide coding lessons to refugees and help them generate income as distance Arabic language instructors
- Silicon-valley software company CEREGO partnered with the Thaki charity, which collects and recycles electronic devices from corporations, to deliver education to refugees in Lebanon.

In addition to these pilot projects, more than 60 prominent multinational companies – including HP, Salesforce, and BCG – have joined REACT to pledge contributions in the form of financial assets, in-kind goods and service, technical expertise, and employee volunteers. These contributions reflect the diversity of the business community, ranging from innovative technological solutions such as cloud technologies and broadband connectivity to traditional goods and services such as textbooks or expertise in procurement and logistics.



REACT & EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT (ECW)

The Education Cannot Wait fund was established during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. ECW is the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and prolonged crises and serves as GBC-Education's main platform and entry point into countries facing crisis and emergencies around the world.

As part of GBC-Education's commitment to mobilize \$100 million in corporate resources to support the ECW initiative over time, REACT provides a clear and innovative entry point for the business community to engage in genuinely collaborative and meaningful partnerships.

Sign up now: www.now-react.org.
For more information, please contact:
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LOOKING FORWARD

The launch of the REACT digital platform sets the foundation as a go-to source for business engagement in education in emergencies.

Priorities over the next year include:

- Building more partnerships and scaling successes
- Expanding REACT's reach to local small and medium-sized enterprises and startups, as well as local grassroots organizations at the forefront of implementing programs in emergencies
- Harnessing the power of our integrated data analytics system to gather and analyze live data on public-private partnerships in education in emergencies, including identifying hotspots, urgently needed resources, and locations of current discrepancies and unmet resource needs