

# 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 it is 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.

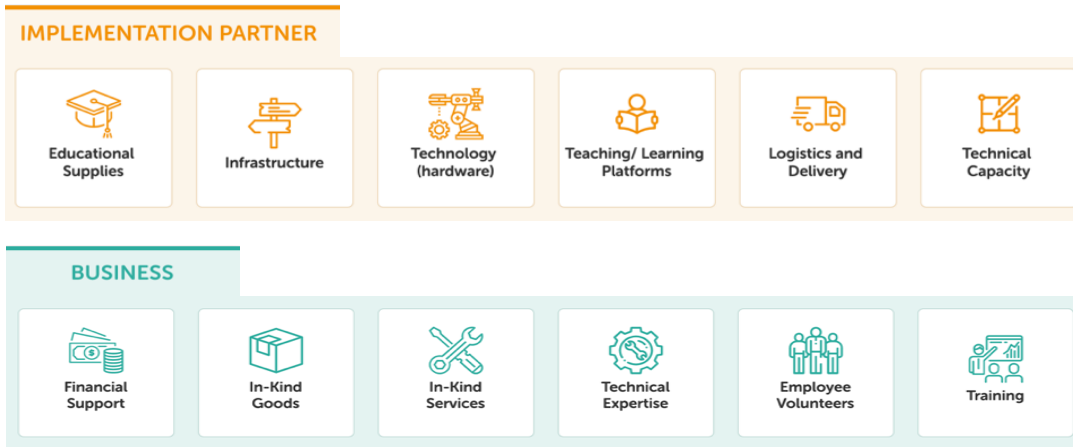
The goal is to provide young people with a pathway to rebuild their communities and societies, and become active participants in social and economic development. REACT is a **hub to channel corporate contributions in support of education in emergencies** by building partnerships between businesses, UN agencies, NGOs, national governments, and actors.



REACT digital platform ([www.now-react.org](http://www.now-react.org)) was developed with the generous support of LexisNexis Risk Solutions – the data and analytics business unit of the RELX Group.

## HOW IT WORKS

The REACT digital platform matches businesses and implementation partners based on overlaps in resource needs and other key criteria, such as:



- **Mapping** educational challenges and needs
- **Matching** business resources to local needs
- **Directing** business resources and facilitating partnerships

## REACT IN ACTION

The REACT initiative has successfully created a number of partnerships – reaching more than 15,000 children and youth – showcasing its potential to harness the collective power of these stakeholders into innovative and effective partnerships.

- **Sumitomo Chemical and Oando Foundation** established three solar-powered ICT centers in Nigeria, benefiting 2,400 displaced children
- REACT connected **HP** with **ECW** and **Learning Equality** to deliver HP’s School Cloud technology to refugee and host communities in Uganda, allowing more than 11,500 students to access digital educational content in areas without internet connectivity.
- **Avanti Communications** partnered with the Uganda-based non-profit **Social Innovation Academy (SINA)** to provide free, stable, high-speed internet – enabling SINA to seamlessly deliver its online social-entrepreneurship curriculum to refugees, orphans, and street children in Mpigi and Bidi Bidi camp.
- **Discovery Learning Alliance** and the Dutch charity **Thaki** are exploring a partnership around providing interactive learning content to be uploaded on Thaki’s platform and deployed to schools in Lebanon.

### 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.

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