

Photo credit: Samantha Robison / aptART / War Child UK

Worth more than an apple?

The cost of a lost generation of children growing up in war zones.

1. Children are the worst affected by conflict, and the situation is getting worse

2015 looks likely to have been the worst year on record for children in conflict. Today, one child in every 10 lives in a country affected by war. We must no longer accept the unacceptable – the needs of children must be recognised and their rights respected.

2. Education is essential

The future of a generation depends on education. Half of all children out of school worldwide live in conflict zones. Providing education in conflict is crucial; increasing health and wellbeing, improving future earnings and even decreasing the likelihood of future conflict. In short, education builds resilience, recovery and futures.

3. Lack of funding is failing an entire generation

Education is the most underfunded sector in humanitarian response. An average of just 38 pence is spent providing education for each child in need in conflict, per month. In contrast, the monthly spend for each primary school child in England is at least £240. This is unjust but not inevitable.

2015 was a tragedy for children in conflict. 2016 offers an opportunity to rectify this; to get children into classrooms. To rebuild communities. To prevent a lost generation.

The World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 represents a once-in-a-generation moment; it must recognise, for the first time, that children are at the centre of conflict and reflect this, through commensurate commitments that prioritise children's protection and education.

We call on Justine Greening, as Secretary of State for International Development, to work through the UK government, and with the international community, to commit to the following:

1) Secure access to education; commit to provide every child affected by conflict with free access to high-quality education.

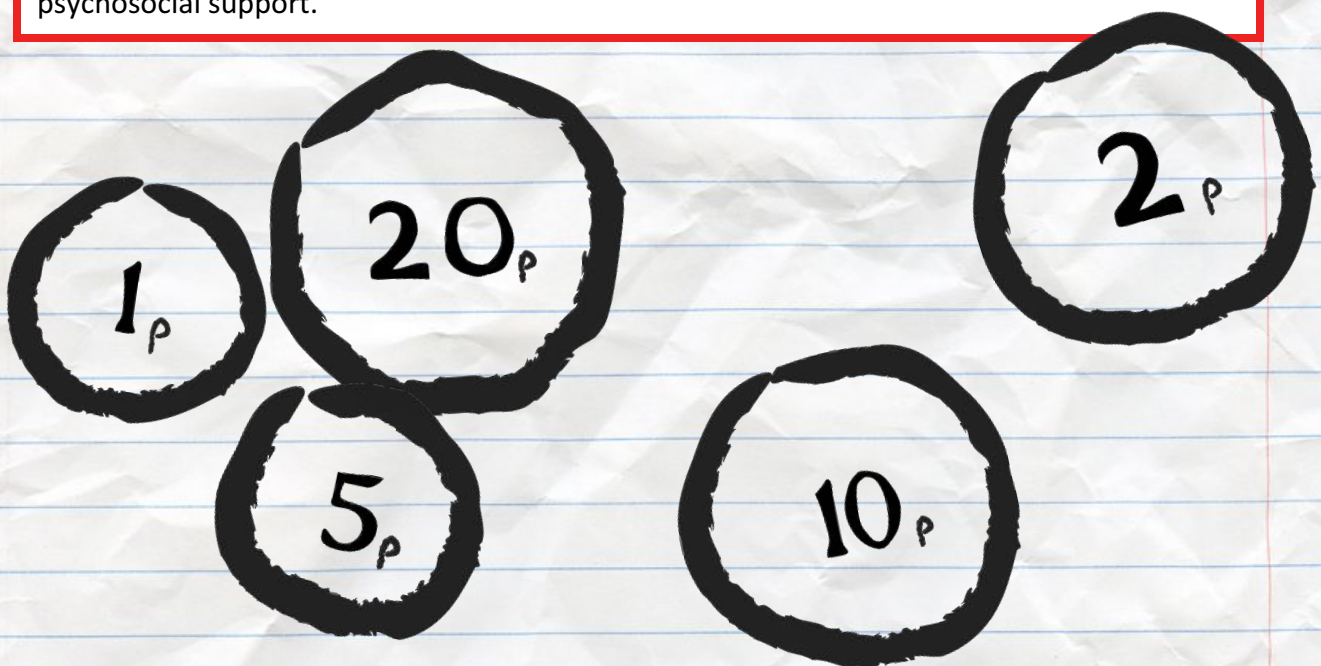
- Every school age child, and their families, should feel safe in the knowledge that their right to education is being respected. No child should be denied the opportunity to learn.

2) Recognise education as a priority humanitarian intervention; increase funding for education commensurate with need.

- Conflict affected communities prioritise education. Donor governments do not. Effective humanitarian action must recognise and respond to the need for education, working towards a minimum 4% allocation of global humanitarian spend.

3) Embed access and secure standards; embed education in emergency response from the first stage to recovery – ensuring predictable funding throughout the conflict cycle.

- Ensure education provision meets international INEE minimum standards, including vital psychosocial support.



WAR CHILD – SOME WORDS SHOULD NEVER GO TOGETHER

Children's lives are devastated by war. They are used as soldiers, scouts and shields. They are raped. They are killed and injured. They are kidnapped. Their schools and hospitals are attacked. They are denied what is needed to save and change their lives.

2015 looks likely to have been the worst year on record for children in conflict. Branded the 'year of fear', it lived up to this title: ^{1,2}

- Boko Haram, which translates as 'Western Education is Forbidden', forced nearly 1.2 million children from their homes in northern Nigeria. More than 1,100 schools were attacked or destroyed, about 600 teachers murdered and another 19,000 teachers fled.
- As a result of the Syrian crisis 4.4 million people, including 2.2 million children, were forced to flee to neighbouring countries. At the same time nearly a million people, a third of whom are children, have made the journey to Europe. Some 500 children have drowned.
- War in Yemen has left 21.1 million people, including 9.9 million children, in need of help. Fighting and insecurity forced 1.8 million children out of classrooms.
- More than 16 million babies were born in war zones – 1 in 8 of all births worldwide.



Photo credit: War Child UK

¹ UNICEF USA, 2015. *2015 Was the Worst and Best Year for Kids. Here Are the Reasons Why.*

<https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/2015-was-worst-and-best-year-kids-here-are-reasons-why/29696>, 29 December 2015.

² IRIN, 2015. *Is education Boko Haram's biggest victim?* <http://www.irinnews.org/report/102274/is-education-boko-haram-s-biggest-victim>, 07 December 2015.

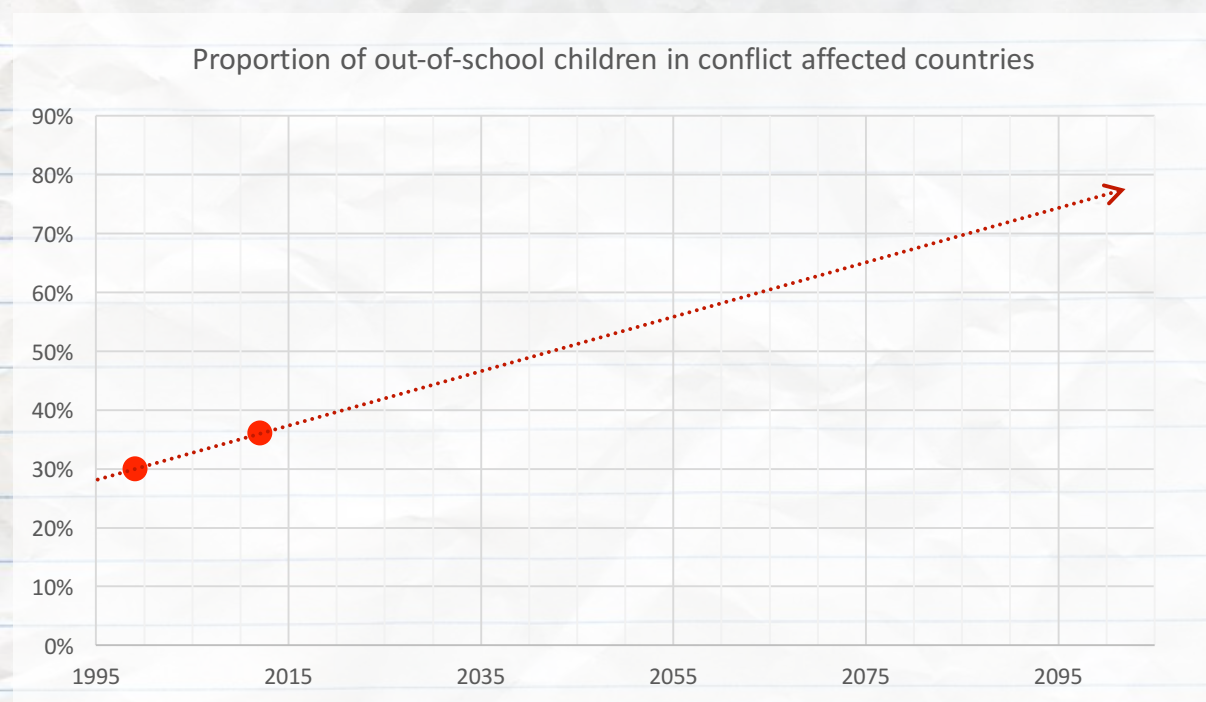
EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN WAR ZONES

Education is key to protecting children and breaking the continuous cycle of war. Yet it is neglected and underfunded by the UN humanitarian system.

In 2000, world leaders made a commitment to provide all children with basic primary education by 2015. They, along with the international community, failed. Through the Sustainable Development Goals, launched this month, this commitment was significantly scaled up; to ensure all children receive a quality primary and secondary education by 2030. Crucially, world leaders have also pledged to a new approach to development; one which 'leaves no one behind'. This represents an imperative, a promise, to prioritise the needs of the most marginalised, including children in conflict, for the very first time.

Without this step-change, the next 15 years will do little to improve life-chances for children in conflict. Instead, if 'business as usual' trends continue, out-of-school children will be heavily concentrated in conflict affected countries.

In 1999, 61 million of the 204 million out-of-school children and adolescents were in conflict affected countries – 30% of the global total. In 2012, despite the overall number of out-of-school children and adolescents dropping to 121 million – 44 million were in conflict affected states, or 36% of the global total.³ Without action to address this, three of every four children who are out of school will be living in or fleeing war by the end of the century.



³ UNESCO, 2015. Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002322/232205e.pdf>

PREVENTING A 'LOST GENERATION'

Children caught in conflict know the importance of the education they are denied; they understand that education is essential for a sustainable future, a prerequisite for peace.

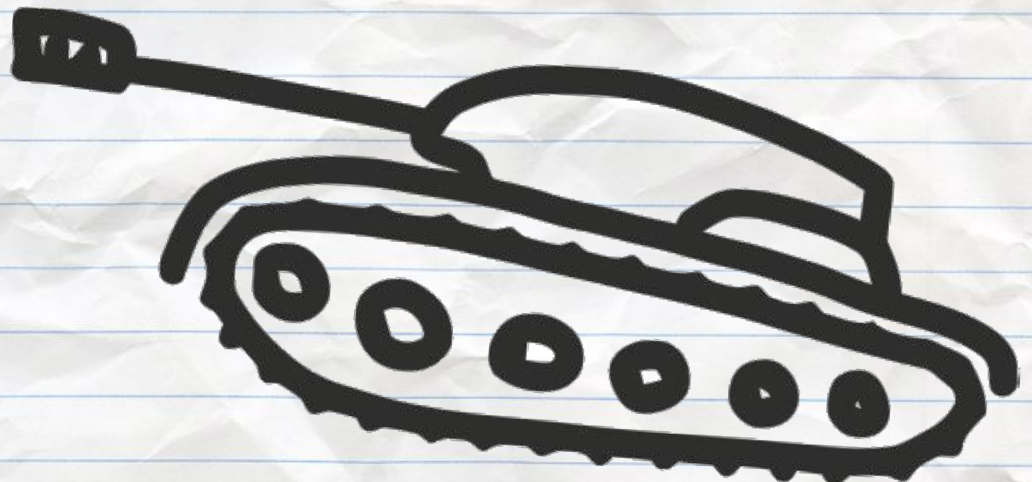
For children and families who have had to leave everything due to conflict, building a future requires knowledge and skills – not just food, water and tents. Education and learning is essential for the medium and long-term, but despite the average duration of displacement during war being 20 years, the humanitarian system focuses on the short-term needs of those that have fled war.

Communities – children especially – prioritise education during emergencies.⁴ A recent survey of people receiving humanitarian aid found that the majority ranked education above other basic services like health, water, food and shelter.⁵

War Child's experience over 20 years of delivering programmes has demonstrated that a lack of education forces a family to keep moving, in search of this basic right for their children. Seeking access to education is a key concern amongst refugees entering Europe.⁶ Crucially, a study of over 6,000 children and young people highlighted that:

- Safety is their key priority during conflict, followed by education.
- Education is their highest priority in post-conflict or safe environments.⁷

Education improves lives, economies and global security. Every additional year of education adds around 10% to a person's salary in low-income countries.⁸ Universal primary school enrolment halves the likelihood of civil war, while enrolling 80% of adolescent males in secondary education reduces the probability of civil war by two-thirds.⁹



⁴ Nicolai and Hine 2015 ODI Report. Investment for Education in Emergencies, Key messages.

⁵ Save the Children, and Norwegian Refugee Council, 2014. Hear it from the children: why education in emergencies is critical. http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Hear_it_from_the_children.pdf.

⁶ War Child UK, 2015. What do refugees really want? https://youtu.be/A_7IDV2OdsU. 01 October 2015

⁷ World Humanitarian Summit Advisory Group on Children, 2015. Putting Children at the Heart of the World Humanitarian Summit. <https://plan-international.org/file/4296/download?token=7wZWl5qG>

⁸ UNESCO, 2011. The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001907/190743e.pdf>

⁹ UNESCO, 2011. *ibid*.



38p: CHEAPENING CHILDREN'S LIFE CHANCES

Education is invaluable.

Yet, new War Child research demonstrates that calculating the cost spent on providing education for each child in conflict is possible and the results are extremely concerning.

In 2014, just 38 pence per month was available to educate each child in need in a war zone.¹⁰ As a point of reference, the UK government allocates a least £240 a month to primary school children in England. More than 600 times the amount available for children living in the worst wars around the globe.¹¹

38 pence buys very little. It certainly doesn't buy an education. But that is all that those delivering education in war zones have available. In 2014, the United Nations, responsible for the global humanitarian system, launched appeals which requested £280 million to deliver education programmes across 13 of the worst conflicts for children in the world. Just one third – £98 million – was made available for education in 2014.¹²

¹⁰ 38 pence was calculated by the author using details presented by the UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service and in UN Appeal documents for 2014. Full details, including sources, can be found in Annex One available from War Child UK. <http://warchild.org.uk/about/publications>.

¹¹ Department for Education, 2014. *Fairer schools funding: Arrangements for 2015 to 2016*.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/332652/Fairer_schools_funding_arrangements_for_2015_to_2016.pdf.

¹² The 13 conflicts mentioned here is a subset of 16 conflicts which have been consistently listed in the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict's (SRSG CAAC) annual report for the past three years as being on the agenda of UN Security Council. The UN did not launch an appeal for three of the conflicts.



The 16 conflicts listed in the 2014 UN SRSG CAAC annual report. UN Appeals were launched for all but three – Cote d'Ivoire, Libya and Lebanon.

Notably, not all the people that desperately need an education are targeted by the UN system. Of the 21 million people in war zones that were identified as needing education support, fewer than half, 10.4 million, were targeted for education programmes. For half of those fleeing conflict there is 77 pence a month available for their education, for the other half there is nothing.

Delivering any service to those fleeing war is difficult and expensive, and education is no different. The international community is stretched, but to give children, communities and countries the chance to rebuild their futures, education must be seen as a strategic and central humanitarian investment.

CALL TO ACTION: CHILDREN MUST BE IN CLASSROOMS NOT WAR ZONES

Today there are less than five months until the World Humanitarian Summit. World leaders will gather at this once-in-a-lifetime event to make key decisions about the amount of support offered to children living in war zones. This meeting could profoundly change the lives of a whole generation of children affected by war; and the UK government has a key role to play.

At the World Humanitarian Summit, War Child and supporters would like to see the UK lead by example and increase its commitment to educating children in conflict emergencies. A commitment that includes:

1) Secure access to education; commit to provide every child affected by conflict with free access to high-quality education.

- Every school age child, and their families, should feel safe in the knowledge that their right to education is being respected. No child should be denied the opportunity to learn.

2) Recognise education as a priority humanitarian intervention; increase funding for education commensurate with need.

- Conflict affected communities prioritise education. Donor governments do not. Effective humanitarian action must recognise and respond to the need for education, working towards a minimum 4% allocation of global humanitarian spend.

3) Embed access and secure standards; embed education in emergency response from the first stage to recovery - ensuring predictable funding throughout the conflict cycle.

- Ensure education provision meets international INEE minimum standards, including vital psychosocial support.

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Take action online at <http://action.warchild.org.uk/lobby/education>



Annex One

| UN Appeal or Strategic Response Plan ⁱ | Spend (USD millions) | | | | Education population (USD millions) | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| | [a] Total amount education cluster received | [b] Total amount education cluster required | [c] Total amount humanitarian response received | [d] Total amount humanitarian response required | [e] People targeted for education programmes | [f] People in need of education programmes |
| Afghanistan 2014 ⁱⁱ | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$311.5 | \$406.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Central African Republic 2014 ⁱⁱⁱ | \$8.9 | \$26.6 | \$378.5 | \$555.4 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Chad 2014 ^{iv} | \$0.4 | \$4.3 | \$226.5 | \$618.5 | 0.4 | 2.1 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo 2014 ^v | \$1.6 | \$57.8 | \$393.5 | \$832.1 | 1.4 | 4.5 |
| Iraq 2014 ^{vi} | \$22.8 | \$39.9 | \$800.4 | \$1,113.3 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Mali 2014 ^{vii} | \$2.6 | \$18.0 | \$238.7 | \$481.0 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Myanmar 2014 ^{viii} | \$5.4 | \$9.2 | \$129.0 | \$192.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| occupied Palestinian territory 2014 ^{ix} | \$11.3 | \$47.9 | \$576.6 | \$931.1 | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| Republic of South Sudan - Crisis Response Plan 2014 ^x | \$23.8 | \$29.3 | \$1,597.7 | \$1,801.8 | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| Somalia 2014 ^{xi} | \$14.5 | \$50.7 | \$453.9 | \$933.1 | 0.7 | 1.7 |
| Sudan Humanitarian Work Plan 2014 ^{xii} | \$25.5 | \$59.6 | \$547.0 | \$985.7 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2014 ^{xiii} | \$38.4 | \$103.2 | \$1,118.4 | \$2,256.2 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Yemen 2014 ^{xiv} | \$2.8 | \$15.2 | \$355.0 | \$596.0 | 0.6 | 1.3 |
| | UN OCHA FTS data, accessed 15DEC2015 ^{xv} | | | | | |
| Total | \$158.0 | \$461.8 | \$7,126.9 | \$11,702.5 | 10.4 | 21.0 |

| | Amount education cluster received per beneficiary | | Amount education cluster required per beneficiary | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | People targeted [a+e] | People in need [a+f] | People targeted [b+e] | People in need [b+f] |
| USD / annual | \$15.16 | \$7.52 | \$44.31 | \$21.98 |
| USD / monthly | \$1.26 | \$0.63 | \$3.69 | \$1.83 |
| GBP / annual ^{xvi} | £9.20 | £4.56 | £26.89 | £13.34 |
| GBP / monthly | £0.77 | £0.38 | £2.24 | £1.11 |

Annex One

We looked at the UNOCHA Financial Tracking Service database, accessed through their website and identified UN appeals, in countries listed as being on the agenda of the UN Security Council in the 2014 report from the SRSR CAAC^{xvii}, in response to conflict emergencies during the whole of 2014. The table above shows the total funds requested and received, and within that the funds requested and received for education. Not every person in need of education is included in the UN appeal. The table shows not just the number of people targeted by the appeal, but also the total number of people who are in need of education support from each appeal. By dividing the total amount of funding made available through the UN system by the number of people in need of education, we arrive at the amount of money made available by donors through the UN system to respond to education needs of people in conflict – 38 pence per month per person in need of education support.

Not all emergency funding goes through this UN system. It does however account for the vast majority of funds mobilised by the international community in response to the worst conflict emergencies for children in 2014.

ⁱ Population data has been drawn from individual response plan documents as referenced. Spend was drawn from data accessed through custom searches of FTS database as referenced.

ⁱⁱ UN OCHA, 2013. *2014 Strategic Response Plan: Afghanistan*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/SRP_2014_Afghanistan.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ UN OCHA, 2014. *2014 Strategic Response Plan: Central African Republic*. Revised. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/Revision_2014_CAR.pdf

^{iv} UN OCHA, 2014. *2014-2016 Strategic Response Plan: Republic of Chad*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/SRP_2014-2016_Chad.pdf

^v UN OCHA, 2013. *2014 Plan de Réponse Stratégique: République Démocratique du Congo*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/SRP_2014_DRC_FR.pdf

^{vi} UN OCHA, no date. *2014/2015 Iraq Strategic Response Plan*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/SRP_2014-2015_Iraq_Revision.pdf

^{vii} UN OCHA, 2014. *2014-2016 Plan de Réponse Stratégique: Mali*. Révision Août 2014. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/Revision_2014-2016_Mali_FR_Aout2014.pdf

^{viii} UN OCHA, 2013. *2014 Strategic Response Plan: Myanmar*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/SRP_2014_Myanmar.pdf

^{ix} UN OCHA, 2013. *2014 Strategic Response Plan: occupied Palestinian territory*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/SRP_2014_oPt.pdf

^x UN OCHA, 2014. *South Sudan: Crisis Response Plan 2014*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/Revision_2014_South_Sudan_CRP_June_2014.pdf

^{xi} UN OCHA, 2013. *2014 Strategic Response Plan: Somalia*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/SRP_2014_Somalia.pdf

^{xii} UN OCHA, 2014. *2014 Revised Strategic Response Plan: Sudan*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/Revision_2014_Sudan_SRP.pdf

^{xiii} UN OCHA, 2013. *2014 Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan (SHARP)*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/2014_Syria_SHARP.pdf

^{xiv} UN OCHA, 2014. *2014 Strategic Response Plan: Yemen*. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/HRP_2014_Yemen.pdf

^{xv} UN OCHA FTS data, accessed 15DEC2015, <https://ftsbeta.unocha.org/>

^{xvi} The 2014 GBP/USD foreign exchange rate average was 1.647701. <http://www.ukforex.co.uk/forex-tools/historical-rate-tools/yearly-average-rates>

^{xvii} SRSR CAAC is the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict.