Statement by the United States of America  
UNICEF Executive Board Second Regular Session  
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Item 9 – Evaluation of the UNICEF contribution to education in humanitarian situations

as delivered

The U.S. Government is proud to be the largest donor to UNICEF education programs.

We appreciate that the report highlighted that WASH and child protection activities were generally well integrated in education activities. We continue to stress the importance of joint programming between Education and Child Protection, recognizing that education must be safe and that marginalized out-of-school children should be supported to return to school.

We applaud UNICEF’s important achievements, recognized in this report, in elevating the importance of education in emergencies. While this evaluation corresponds to the period prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that the pandemic has further exacerbated the challenges of promoting access to equal learning opportunities, particularly for children in fragile and humanitarian settings.

What constrains UNICEF’s ability to increase the percent of humanitarian funding for education in emergencies programs?

We didn’t see an analysis of budgetary allocations compared with results. Especially with significant increases in funding to certain regions of the world compared with others, we would expect to see whether these increases are resulting in significantly improved education outcomes.

The report highlights that weak data collection, disaggregation, reporting and information management functions limit UNICEF’s ability to appropriately target interventions and “undermines delivery as cluster lead agenda and provider of last resort.” We note that this is not new feedback to UNICEF. What systems and financial resources will be mobilized to address these challenges?

We appreciate that UNICEF Management concurs and is working towards addressing the conclusions and recommendations. However, we would appreciate more details from the management response on key challenges highlighted in the full report, including:

- Lack of guidance, tools and staff capacity to ensure programs lead to improved learning outcomes, particularly in emergency contexts.
- Accountability to affected populations is not being upheld in education in emergencies programs.

We’re curious to know the proportion of UNICEF’s overall emergency education activities that were implemented through local partners and supported local organizational capacity building? How does UNICEF intend to support a transition of technical capacity to local NGOs in emergency education?