Learning at the heart of education
Every child has the right to go to school and learn, regardless of who they are, where they live or how much money their family has.

UNICEF remains steadfast in its commitment to realize the rights of all children, everywhere, and to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a world in which no child is left behind.
Progress has been made to provide access to education for children around the world...

Worldwide in the early 1950s, about 50 per cent of primary school age children were out of school. As late as 1970, the figure stood at 28 per cent. Today, in one of the most remarkable development achievements of the past halfcentury, that figure has come down to 9 per cent.

...but millions of children, even those who are in school, are not learning. The breadth and depth of this learning crisis provides the greatest global challenge to preparing children and adolescents for life, work and active citizenship.
More children and adolescents today are enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary education than ever before. Yet, for many of them, schooling does not lead to learning.

At current rates, by 2030, of the 1.4 billion school-age children in low- and middle-income countries, 420 million will not be on track to learn the most basic skills in childhood, and 825 million will not be on track to acquire the basic secondary-level skills they need to succeed in life, school and work.

The lesson of the learning crisis is clear: the conventional assembly of education inputs is not improving learning outcomes. A new, more radical approach that focusses on enhancing learning outcomes is long overdue.
53% of children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple story by the end of primary school. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number is 87%.

Source: The World Bank
who is left behind?

Snapshot of learning in different regions

% of children who cannot read and understand a simple text by age 10

- Sub-Saharan Africa: 87%
- Middle East and North Africa: 63%
- South Asia: 58%
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 51%
- East Asia and the Pacific: 21%
- Europe and Central Asia: 13%

Source: The World Bank
only 22% of children in low-income countries are enrolled in pre-primary, compared to 83% in high-income countries.

only 50% of refugee children have access to primary education, compared to a global level of more than 90%.

adolescents of lower secondary school age living in a low-income country have an almost 1 in 3 chance of being out of school.

In a high-income country, it is only 1 in 50.

more than 12 million girls are married in childhood each year, with little chance of completing their education.
the strategic shift
learning at the heart of education
Strategic framework to address the learning crisis

Enablers:
- Partnerships
- Resources

Approaches:
- Data and evidence
- Innovation
- Systems strengthening
- Service delivery
- Communication and advocacy
- Community engagement

Learning crisis
UNICEF Education Strategy 2019–2030

Every Child Learns

every child learns

goals

- equitable access to learning opportunities
- improved learning and skills for all
- improved learning in emergencies

vision

equitable access to learning opportunities
improved learning and skills for all
improved learning in emergencies
UNICEF calls upon partners to join forces and step up action to fulfill the promise that every child learns.
UNICEF and partners…

LEARNING
… work to create a learning revolution for every child

EQUITY AND INCLUSION
… increase efforts to reach the most vulnerable children and to eliminate gender inequality in education

EDUCATION IN Emergencies AND FRAGILE CONTEXTS
… ensure children in humanitarian and fragile contexts have access to quality education opportunities

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
… invest early in quality early childhood education and build strong learning foundations

QUALITY ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PATHWAYS FOR ADOLESCENTS
… encourage a rapid expansion of opportunities in and outside the education system for all children

PRIMARY AGE EDUCATION
… build on the existing priority of addressing inequitable access to quality education
spotlight on solutions

Through blended in-person and online learning opportunities in Mexico, learning outcomes are improving among adolescents in violence-affected areas.

In Venezuela, the most vulnerable are given access to multilingual education and recreational activities.

Through a technology platform, municipalities in Brazil can identify out-of-school children and take the necessary steps to ensure their enrollment.

To ensure inclusive education, children with disabilities are integrated in regular classrooms in Serbia.

Plastic waste is recycled into building bricks to construct cost-effective classrooms and to provide access to education and better learning environments in Cote d’Ivoire.
In Lebanon, marginalized young people are supported through training in design thinking, social entrepreneurship and digital skills.

Portable ger (tent) kindergartens ensure that children of nomadic families in Mongolia can access quality ECE.

More than 2000 learning centers have been established for children in the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh.

In Cambodia, innovative financing supports the acceleration of education reforms.

Life skills and social cohesion education is advanced through game-based sports in Jordan.

In Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, the accessible digital textbook project makes digital learning materials accessible for children with disabilities.

The most marginalized children in Sudan are reached through applied gaming and personalized pupil engagement.

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Education has huge returns on investment
420 million people would be lifted out of poverty with completion of primary and secondary school.

An extra year of schooling, on average, increases a person’s income by 10 per cent.

Education is linked to empowerment, particularly for girls. Girls and women with higher education are much more likely to make their own choices in life.

Children of educated parents tend to be healthier, more empowered regarding their own lives and their society, and socially more tolerant and resolution-seeking.

Source: The investment case for education and equity, UNICEF
local presence, global reach
UNICEF is active in 190 countries and territories – more than any other children’s organization. More than 790 UNICEF education staff work with partners to provide learning opportunities that prepare children and adolescents with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

saving more lives for less money
UNICEF is funded entirely by voluntary contributions – and we are committed to making every dollar go further to ensure that every child learns.

emergency response and readiness
UNICEF is on the ground before, during and after humanitarian emergencies.

an influential voice for children
UNICEF is the world’s leading voice for – and with – children.
new solutions
Innovation is at the heart of UNICEF’s ability to drive change and to address the learning crisis.

powerful partnerships
Strong partnerships with governments, NGOs, civil society and the private sector make UNICEF’s work for children possible. In turn, our credibility, impartiality and record of achieving results make us a partner of choice.

multisectoral approach
Education is critical to deliver outcomes in health, nutrition and other sectors; other sectors are critical to delivering education outcomes. UNICEF is uniquely positioned to apply a multisectoral approach to accelerate results for children.
Special note of thanks to UNICEF’s top 20 resource partners in 2018

Germany
Norway
European Commission
United Kingdom
Global Partnership for Education
Netherlands
UNICEF Qatar
United States of America
Education Cannot Wait Fund
Canada
Denmark
Republic of Korea
German Committee for UNICEF
U.S. Fund for UNICEF
UNDP
Spanish Committee for UNICEF
Swedish Committee for UNICEF
Dutch Committee for UNICEF
Japan
Japan Committee for UNICEF
for every child, education

For every child
Whoever she is.
Wherever he lives.
Every child deserves a childhood.
A future.
A fair chance.
That’s why UNICEF is there.
For each and every child.
Working day in and day out.
In 190 countries and territories.
Reaching the hardest to reach.
The furthest from help.
The most left behind.
The most excluded.
It’s why we stay to the end.
And never give up.

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for every child
for every child, education

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