



Department
for International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Harriett Baldwin MP
Minister of State

Global Citizen Supporters

Our ref

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Thank you for your emails to the Department for International Development (DFID) regarding Education Cannot Wait (ECW). I am responding as the Minister who leads on education for DFID.

I would like to assure you that this issue is a key priority for me. As you know, across the world, the education of 75 million children and young people is disrupted by conflict and crises. Education can be the difference between a future of exploitation and squandered potential or one of hope, giving children the tools to rebuild their lives and eventually their countries. That is why we place so much emphasis on education in our work at DFID. For example, we recognised the crucial importance of education in emergencies in our 2018 DFID Education Policy - and committed to support children affected by crises to continue to learn through multi-year investments in quality, safe education, calling on others to join us.

The UK is proud to have been one of the largest founding donors to ECW, pledging £34.3 million including a recent increase in support of £4 million to reach children affected by Cyclone Idai. We are currently reviewing our 2016-2019 programme of support to ECW and are committed to renewing UK funding for education in emergencies and protracted crises.

I am proud that as well as being one of the largest contributors, the UK has been at the forefront of developing ECW and one of the most active donors. ECW-supported programmes span a wide spectrum of activities designed to meet education needs for crisis-affected young people. To date, ECW has reached more than 1.3 million children and youth with quality education – of which 668,000 are girls – in 19 crisis-affected countries.

I was delighted to attend the G7 meeting on education and development to discuss girls' education where the UK committed to £1.27m to the Gender at the Centre Initiative.

Thank you again for highlighting the plight of children caught up in crises and conflict. We must maintain the pressure on the international community to achieve SDG 4 and to ensure all children receive the education that they deserve.

HARRIETT BALDWIN