



Department
for International
Development



Harriett Baldwin MP
Minister of State

Supporters of the IFFEd campaign

Our ref: 186376

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Thank you for contacting the Department for International Development (DFID) about the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) campaign. I am responding as the Minister who leads on education for DFID.

It is always great to hear from people who are passionate about the work of the DFID and in this case in ensuring every child has access to a quality education. The UK Government believes that all children and young people should be able to go to school and learn. This is at the heart of DFID's Education Policy, which reaffirms our focus on improving the quality of education, raising the bar on teaching quality and ensuring that poor and marginalised children are not left behind. The [policy](#) was published in February of this year.

Between 2015 and 2018, DFID has supported 11.4 million children to gain a decent education. Since its launch in 2012, DFID's flagship Girls Education Challenge has reached 2.2 million marginalised girls, including 50,000 with a disability, with a focus on improving their learning outcomes. Our investment in the Global Partnership for Education, to which the UK is the largest bilateral donor, will contribute to 14.1 million additional children completing primary school and the training of 1.3 million teachers between 2018 and 2020. The UK was at the forefront of establishing Education Cannot Wait – a global fund for education in emergencies – and is the largest contributor. We are proud of this figure, but realise there is still much more to be done. More than 90 percent of primary-age children in low-income countries and 75 percent of children in lower-middle income countries – some 330 million children - are not expected to read or do basic maths by the end of primary school.

On Monday 24 September, the UK's Secretary of State for International Development offered principled support for IFFEd. We welcome initiatives that look to address gaps in access to quality education. Our Education Policy is clear however that it is not just more money that is needed to address this, but also a better use of existing resources.

Thank you again for writing. I hope that my letter reassures you that the UK Government is doing all it can to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 which

calls for all children – regardless of gender, race, background and disability – to receive an inclusive, quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.

HARRIETT BALDWIN