



Department
for International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Andrew Stephenson MP
Minister of State

To supporters of the 2019 Unlock Education
for Everyone.

Our ref:
Your ref:

October 2019

Thank you for your recent correspondence about the Unlock Education for Everyone campaign. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on what the UK Government is doing in this area.

The UK is supporting education in over 70 countries to improve the quality of learning, as part of our commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4. The UK supports 12 years of quality education for all children, starting with the basics of literacy and numeracy. To achieve this our 2018 Education Policy 'Get Children Learning' drives improvements in teaching, supports ambitious system reform, and provides targeted support to marginalised children. We are proud that between 2015 and 2019 DFID supported 14.3 million children to gain a decent education, of which at least 5.8 million were girls.

At the 2019 UN General Assembly the Prime Minister announced £515 million to help get over 12 million children – half of them girls – into school. This will support boosting economic growth and improving women's rights in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Earlier this year, with the World Bank and the Norwegian Government, we launched the 'Inclusive Education Initiative' to help even more children with disabilities go to school. As well as trying to make a difference ourselves, we are also working with and encouraging other governments around the world to help disadvantaged children access education. For example, our partnership with the Government of Rwanda has helped the country to adopt a new disability-friendly approach where every school will have inclusive education actions. UK aid to Rwanda benefits all 2,500 government and government-aided primary schools. Successful partnerships like this between the UK and developing country governments demonstrate how it is possible to accelerate progress on inclusion and learning.

I am proud that at the G7 Leaders' Summit in Biarritz in July, the Prime Minister announced an unprecedented £90 million UK commitment for education in emergencies and protracted crises, which will support 600,000 children. With this pledge, the UK is now the largest donor to Education Cannot Wait, the global fund for education in emergencies. We hope other countries will follow the UK's lead to prioritise funding for the world's most marginalised children.

The new Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning Programme, sponsored by the British Council and DFID, supports schools internationally to learn about and collaborate on the big issues that shape our world. For further information you can visit: <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/about-programmes/connecting-classrooms>.

ANDREW STEPHENSON