

# Missing Piece Campaign Key Questions



## **1. Why is education important?**

**Education is a vital human right**, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Every child has the right to a quality education so that they can have more chances in life, including employment opportunities, better health and also to participate in the political process.

Education is powerful and transformative. Not just for individual children and their families but whole communities, countries and the world. **The benefits are endless** - education can provide stability to children who are displaced, open up paths out of poverty, reduce the likelihood of war and conflict, contribute to a healthy planet, is vital for long-term growth and critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **2. What has the world promised in regards to education and how are we doing?**

In September 2015, world leaders agreed to a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. These goals are called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and they built upon a previous set of goals that were known as the Millennium Development Goals.

**In the SDGs there is a specific goal on education:** ensure inclusive and quality education for all by 2030. However, we are massively off track – by current projections we won't achieve this promise to the world's children until 2084 – over 50 years late. **There are 263 million children currently missing out on an education, and many of those in school are not learning.** Children are only children once - we are at risk of leaving a whole generation behind.

## **3. How can we ensure all children get a quality education?**

What works best in improving learning is better understood than ever, and world leaders have made a clear promise to ensure every child in the world gets a quality education by 2030 - but a key piece of the puzzle is not in place – the money to pay for this education. There is currently an \$39 billion gap in financing for education every year.

We need to see a transformative step-change in education financing to ensure that the 263 million children who are not currently in school can get an education.

## **4. Where does the money to pay for education come from?**

The responsibility for financing quality, inclusive education for all is with national governments. However, in the world's poorest countries they cannot do this alone. The majority of funding should and does come from these governments themselves through the taxes they collect – in fact this funding is increasing. Yet it is still not enough, meaning 263 million children are missing out on school and many of those in school aren't learning. The ramifications of this are global. Developed countries like the UK need to come good on their promise and increase their investment in education. But in reality just at the time it is needed the most, global aid to education is declining.

## **5. What is the Global Partnership for Education?**

The Global Partnership for Education is the only global fund solely dedicated to education in developing countries. It brings together developing country governments and developed country governments in commitments to get every child a quality education. The UK has been a leading donor to the Global Partnership for Education - in the last period the UK gave £300 million.

The Global Partnership for Education brings together all the relevant stakeholders together in country and supports developing country governments to develop good quality education sector plans led by the Ministry of Education in that country.

2017 is a key year as this year the Global Partnership for Education will be calling on donor governments to replenish its funds. It is the first big test to see if world leaders meant what they said when they promised every child a quality education by 2030. We need to see a step change in education financing - it is essential that the UK government increases its pledge to the Global Partnership For Education this year.

## **6. What can the UK government do this year to help children across the world get a quality education?**

The UK is well respected globally for its work on education, and has played a leading role in the funding of the Global Partnership for Education. It is essential that this year the UK government's Department for International Development - led by Secretary of State for International Development Priti Patel - continues this leadership and increases its investment in the Global Partnership for Education.

## **7. Why should the UK give money to help overseas when we have problems in our own country?**

Education is a key solution to many of the world's problems. Education can provide stability to children who are displaced, open up paths out of poverty, reduce the likelihood of war and conflict, contribute to a healthy planet, is vital for long-term growth and critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These benefits are global.

We are all global citizens with a responsibility to support one another. The UK's government has committed to - and enshrined in law - spending 0.7% of our national income on overseas aid. The money we are calling for to be spent on the Global Partnership for Education would come out of this 0.7% already allocated to overseas aid. It would not involve diverting money that could have been spent in the UK.

## **8. What is the Send My Friend to School campaign?**

Send My Friend to School is a UK campaign bringing together young people, politicians, teachers, civil society and the media to demand a quality education for all children. Each year around 5000 UK schools and 500,000 young people take part.

It is organised by the Global Campaign For Education UK - a civil society coalition of international development NGOs, teacher unions and charities. This UK coalition is part of a worldwide Global Campaign For Education movement which is present in over 100 countries around the world.

## **9. Why are you making jigsaw pieces and what are you going to do with them?**

Together, young people will be taking a creative campaign action to gain the attention of the UK government. They will each create a paper jigsaw piece school representing the elements they think are most important for a quality education. On their jigsaw piece school they will write a message to their MP calling on the UK government to increase their invest in education. These jigsaw pieces will be presented or sent to the local MP for them to pass on the message to Priti Patel, Secretary of State for International Development.

If thousands and thousands of us come together across the country and send these paper jigsaw pieces to our MPs we will show them the strength of our support for education and they will pass on our call to the government and make sure the UK invests in the future of the world.