



The Rt. Hon Andrew Mitchell MP  
Minister of State for Development  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

CC:

The Rt. Hon James Cleverly MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Helen Grant MP, Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Girls Education

13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### **UK Investment in Education Cannot Wait**

Dear Rt. Hon Andrew Mitchell MP,

As representatives of member organisations of the Send My Friend to School Coalition we are writing to urge the UK Government to pledge at least £170 million to Education Cannot Wait (ECW) over the 2023 - 2026 period.

This pledge would directly provide 2.6 million children in an emergency or protracted crisis with quality education, of whom 60% would be girls.

By working directly through partners on the ground, including several of our organisations and local partners, ECW is able to act swiftly, strengthen accountability, and cut through red tape to deliver faster, better results in complex crisis situations - wherever, whenever they occur.

Since its establishment in 2016, ECW has reached 7 million children and adolescents with quality education in some of the toughest crises globally including Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Sahel, Syria, Yemen, and Ukraine. UK funding has supported an estimated 1.5 million of these children.

The UK's leadership and technical expertise across all levels of ECW's operations has been central to ECW's impact, and has elevated the funding, coordination and quality of education in emergencies globally. Earlier this year the Independent Committee for Aid Impact reported that "FCDO has helped to promote a recent shift among donors towards focusing more on education in emergencies, including through its influential role in establishing and promoting ECW". ECW has also achieved an overall output score of A in its last two annual FCDO reviews. ECW's work directly supports the UK Government to drive action on two key priorities outlined in the International Development Strategy: women and girls, and humanitarian assistance.

ECW requires at least \$1.5 billion to deliver its ambitious 2023-2026 Strategic Plan and reach 20 million children and adolescents affected by crises, including 12 million girls and 2 million



children with disabilities. Previously the UK contributed 20% of total funds received by ECW for its first strategic period from 2016-2022. In ECW's new strategic period, a pledge of £170m would equate to 13% of the overall funding target and enable ECW to deliver its work and meet the FCDO's aims to reach the most marginalised children in countries with the greatest educational needs.

Yours sincerely,

**James Shaw-Hamilton**

CEO, Educate a Child International

**George Graham**

CEO, Humanity & Inclusion UK

**Joseph Nhan-O'Reilly**

Executive Director, IPNEd

**Kevin Courtney and Mary Bousted**

Joint General Secretaries, National Education Union

**Dr Patrick Roach**

General Secretary, NASUWT – The Teachers' Union

**Rose Caldwell**

CEO, Plan International

**Othman Moqbel**

Action For Humanity

**Kirsty McNeill**

Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, Save the Children UK

**Ann Beaty**

Chief Executive, The Steve Sinnott Foundation

**Caroline Harper**

Chief Executive, Sightsavers,

**Girish Menon**

CEO, StiR Education

**Tom Dannatt**

CEO and Founder, Street Child

**Kitty Arie**

CEO, RESULTS UK

**Mark Sheard**

CEO of World Vision