“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*
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18. Gender: Quality Education for Girls and Women

“We will ensure commitment to gender equality and prioritize improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts, while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.”

*G7 Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries*

### Assessment

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### Background

In recent years, gender equality has been a growing topic within the G7. In 1979, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was conceived, a groundbreaking moment for the fight for gender equality within global governance. The Convention provides the framework of “equality between women and men through ensuring women’s equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life — including the right to vote and to stand for election -- as well as education, health, and employment.”

In the following years, major advances towards the overall goal for gender equality were made. On 15 September 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was created with an unprecedented 17,000 participants and 30,000 activists for the Fourth World Conference on Women. This conference created the most progressive blueprint of its time for advancing women’s rights, and for connecting women’s rights movements and activism with a global platform. The Platform of Action imagined a world where “woman and girls can exercise [their] freedoms and choices and realize all [their] rights … [and] to go to school.”

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reflects a turning point in global governance, namely one that turns its attention to girls and women. All 193 United Nations member states committed to the goal of ending gender inequality by 2030. This demonstrates global will to tackle the issue

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from its root causes. Sustainable Development Goal 5 specifically targets the “end of all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (5.1),” and to “ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life (5.5).”

Moreover, the global call to action by the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel (HLP) for Women’s Economic Empowerment was an important step for gender equality. On 22 September 2016, HLP for Women’s Economic Empowerment released its first findings at the UN General Assembly. This report strived to show the challenges faced by disadvantaged and vulnerable women.

On 26 June 2010, at the Muskoka Summit, the host nation Canada set a precedent for Maternal, Newborn and Under-Five Child Health under the G8 Muskoka Initiative. In this initiative, the G8 emphasized the necessity of improving education for women and girls as action is required on all factors that affect the health of women and children.

On 27 May 2016 at the Ise-Shima Summit, the leaders committed to empowering women and girls through capacity building, which included education and training, alongside science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This goal was set in the hopes that women and girls would realize their full potential, which is why the G7 leaders endorsed the G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace.

On 16 November 2017, along with the representatives from the G7 members, the Gender Equality Ministers met in Taormina, Italy. This meeting was the last of 13 ministerial meetings that took place during the Italian G7 presidency. The discussions focused on how women’s economic empowerment could be a driver for global growth and development. Namely, the ministers reaffirmed commitments from previous summits, especially the commitments made by previous G7 and G20 presidencies and declarations. They committed to taking the full effort to “meet the respective qualitative and quantitative targets and deadlines set out in the G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment.” The declaration also noted the importance to invest in social

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Leading up to the 2018 G7 summit in Charlevoix, Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau promised an unprecedented emphasis on women and girls over the course of the group’s deliberations. All G7 members expressed support for Canada’s theme of gender equality and female empowerment. Uniquely to the Charlevoix Summit, Prime Minister Trudeau created the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, which signifies a significant step as a host nation championing and mainstreaming gender equality. The advisory council is composed of prominent feminist leaders, in an attempt to bring forth insightful commitments that spark real change. A core commitment was to girls’ education.

On 9 June 2018, G7 leaders agreed upon a summit declaration entitled Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries. The declaration recognized the necessity for the full participation of everyone in order to promote social development and sustainable economic growth. The leaders emphasized support for “education, through our development and humanitarian assistance, that aspires to achieve gender equality.” Specifically, the emphasis was placed on the importance of safe transportation and investment in secure school facilities, in order to make education a rewarding and welcoming environment for girls around the world.

### Commitment Features

The G7 member “will ensure commitment to gender equality and prioritize improved access to quality education for girls in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts, while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.” The word “will” is understood to mean a commitment which entails a pledge that “ensures” direct action for gender equality. “Ensure” is considered to make something certain to happen. Gender equality in the context of the G7 is understood as binary (men/boys and women/girls) and does not refer to the larger spectrum of gender and sexual identities.

This commitment will ensure gender equality between men/boys and women/girls by prioritizing improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts, while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

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2602 Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 27 September 2017. Access Date: 30 August 2018.

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In the first part of the commitment, “prioritize” is defined as to “give high priority to” the need to improve access to quality education for girls and women. “Women” refers to all female persons of working age whereas “girls” is defined a female under aged 18, or a persons’ child. “Access” should be interpreted to mean the right to obtain or make use of the entity in reference. As understood by the United Nations, a girl child can be defined as a socially constructed category around female persons between 0 and 18 years.

“Improve” refers to taking concrete actions for the betterment of something. Examples of improvements include enhancing and updating old initiatives or implementing new ones to reach an old goal. When talking about improved access to quality education, the member is expected to partner with key humanitarian and development organization and host government to promote coordination when providing education in early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding. These efforts will be made in order to ensure gender equality, and thus, girls and women must be the subject and target of members’ initiatives. It is particularly important that such efforts are of “quality” which is understood as an initiative that adequately and sufficiently addresses women’s needs in the school environment. Examples of quality education include teachers, supplies and basic infrastructure needed such as women/girl’s bathrooms.

The “early stages” is understood as the “stabilization when immediate emergency needs have been addressed and return/recovery, when those who are displaced are returning home and/or the focus is on rebuilding systems and structures and transitioning to development.” It is important to note, that “early stages” is not limited to this time period but requires a fulsome approach to the emergency, looking at a wholesome response that includes prevention, pre-crisis, and the crisis in order to promote humanitarian responses and peacebuilding efforts. According to the United Nations Population Fund, these are the four stages of humanitarian response: emergency preparation & contingency planning, acute emergency response, chronic humanitarian situations, transition, and recovery. Peacebuilding would entail specifically “chronic situations & transition/recovery.”

“We share a responsibility” to build a more peaceful and secure world, recognizing that respect for human rights, the rule of law and equality of opportunity are necessary for lasting security and to

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enable economic growth that works for everyone.”

Humanitarian response is the material and logistical assistance to people in need with the intention of alleviating human suffering. Peacebuilding efforts is a broad term that has “diverse actors in government and civil society at the community, national, and international levels to address the immediate impacts and root causes of conflict before, during, and after a violent conflict occurs.”

Examples of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts include both government and non-government projects.

To fulfill the first aspect of the commitment, the G7 member must prioritize improved access to quality education: 1) for girls, 2) for women, 3) in early stages of humanitarian response and 4) in early stages of peacebuilding effort.

The second part of the commitment reflects the importance of the work environment for women and girls as they receive an education. “Supporting” refers to the act of providing aid, assistance, or public affirmation to an initiative or entity. In the context of this commitment, G7 members must aid, assist, or affirm their schools to be safe spaces for children. Therefore, examples of supporting “safety” in schools include implementing precautionary measures and outlining safety concerns for both male and female students attending their schools. “Supporting safe spaces,” in the context of this commitment refers to any actions taken to improve accessibility and security for children in school. Examples of actions taken towards supporting schools as safe spaces for children include but are not limited to: Supporting developing country partners in their efforts to provide equal opportunities for girls and women to complete at least 12 years of quality education from their early years through to secondary school or Supporting actions to make schools and education institutions safe and welcoming for girls and women, including through investments in secure schools.

To fulfill the second aspect of the commitment, the G7 member must take initiatives to support a safe school environment for children, both male and female, in addition to the four options of providing access.

To achieve full compliance a G7 member must successfully prioritize improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children. For further context on the concept of gender equality, please refer to the document published by the Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada’s G7 Presidency entitled Make Gender Inequality History.

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Partial compliance is a score of 0 when the G7 member has fulfilled one of the four components of prioritized access to education while supported schools as safe spaces for children. This means that the G7 member has, for example, successfully prioritized improved access to quality education for girls while supporting schools as a safe place. The G7 member will receive a score of $-1$ for non-compliance if they have not successfully prioritized improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts nor supported schools as safe spaces for children.

### Scoring Guidelines

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<td>$-1$</td>
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</tr>
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<td>$0$</td>
<td>G7 member has EITHER prioritized improved access to quality education 1) for girls, 2) for women, 3) in early stages of humanitarian response and 4) in early stages of peacebuilding efforts WHILE 2) supported schools as safe spaces for children</td>
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<td>$+1$</td>
<td>G7 member has prioritized improved access to quality education 1) for girls, 2) for women, 3) in early stages of humanitarian response and 4) in early stages of peacebuilding efforts WHILE 2) supported schools as safe spaces for children</td>
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</tbody>
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**Author:** Julia Tops  
**Lead Analyst:** Nicholas Ferreira  
**Compliance Director:** Georgina Merhom

### Canada: $+1$

Canada has fully complied with prioritizing improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 9 June 2018, Canada, along with the European Union, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the World Bank invested CAD 3.8 billion to improving access and reducing barriers to quality education around the world.\(^{2618}\) This is an investment in education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations.\(^{2619}\)

On 23 September 2018, Canada and Spain publicly reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality.\(^{2620}\) This included the principles of the Charlevoix commitment to support developing

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countries in their efforts to provide improved access to education for girls and women and support of investments to make schools safe spaces.\textsuperscript{2621}

On 24 September 2018, Canada pledged support for the International Finance Facility for Education at a session at the United Nations General Assembly.\textsuperscript{2622} The Facility proposes an innovative model to address gaps in financing for lower and middle-income countries seeking to invest in their education systems.\textsuperscript{2623}

On 27 September 2018, Prime Minister Trudeau delivered opening remarks at 12 Years to Break Barriers and Leave No Girls Behind, co-hosts of which included the UK, France Jordan, Kenya, and Niger.\textsuperscript{2624} More than 500 stakeholders reaffirmed and issued their commitment to undertake concrete policy action to address barriers in order to provide 12 years of free, safe and quality education for all girls.\textsuperscript{2625}

On 10 October 2018, Member of Parliament for Hull-Aylmer, on behalf of the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada, and Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada, announced the Canadian government is opening its training centres in Gatineau to students of Ecole secondaire Mont-Bleu for the remainder of the school year after the school was damaged by lightning during the September 21 storm.\textsuperscript{2626} Space will be made available in the Asticou Centre to ensure that students have an adequate and safe learning environment.

On 10 October 2018, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health announced more than CAD 4.1 million in funding under Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program prior to the Cannabis Act coming into force.\textsuperscript{2627} As part of this funding package, the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association will receive CAD 653,000 for a program that equips school educators with the necessary tools to address cannabis use and safety risks in schools.\textsuperscript{2628}


On 12 October 2018, Canada’s Minister of International Development announced the provision of up to CAD 50 million over two years for Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.\(^{2629}\) Up to CAD 40 million will assist in the provision of basic services, including helping over 500,000 Palestinian children receive a basic quality education.\(^{2630}\) However, this assistance is not limited to women and girls specifically.

Included in the 12 October 2018 announcement is Canada’s commitment to providing up to CAD 12.5 million over five years for Right to Play International.\(^{2631}\) Right to Play International will collaborate with UNRWA to create safe, inclusive and gender-responsive classrooms for Palestinian refugee children in the West Bank and Gaza.\(^{2632}\)

Between 23 and 31 October 2018, the Governor General of Canada visited three West African nations, including Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, and Nigeria, to deepen Canada’s relations with these states and reaffirm partnerships committed to promoting access to quality education.\(^{2633}\) As part of the visit, the Governor General visited a school in Burkina Faso to emphasize the importance of equitable and quality education for the country’s youth.\(^{2634}\)

On 6 November 2018, the Minister of International Development announced an additional CAD 50 million in funding, taken out of the CAD 400 million budget pledged at the Charlevoix G7 summit, for the Global Financing Facility through 2020.\(^{2635}\) It is an innovative financing mechanism that helps developing countries transform investment models in the health sector to benefit women and children and reduce barriers to accessing care, services, and education in order to ultimately reduce poverty.\(^{2636}\)

On 13 November 2018, the Canadian government announced CAD 19.5 million through 2023 for gender-responsive education through Right to Play in Ghana, Mozambique, and Rwanda.\(^{2637}\)

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project will address challenges in the education sector, including barriers to education for young girls.\textsuperscript{2638}

On 16 November 2018, the Minister of Indigenous Services announced an investment of CAD 248 million in partnership with First Nations communities for new school infrastructure in four First Nation reserves, as well as major renovations to an existing school in northern Manitoba.\textsuperscript{2639} The new and upgraded facilities will ensure the delivery of quality education and reduce the need for students to move off-reserve in order to complete their education.\textsuperscript{2640}

On 16 November 2018, the Minister of International Development announced CAD 23 million in funding for two initiatives that will help advance gender equality for women and girls in Ethiopia.\textsuperscript{2641} One of the initiatives is Women’s Voice and Leadership, which supports local women’s organizations across Ethiopia to strengthen their capacity to promote gender equality and empower women and girls in their communities.\textsuperscript{2642}

On 2 December 2018, Canada pledged CAD 50 million over three years to Education Cannot Wait as part of its initial Charlevoix G7 Summit commitment of CAD 400 million to reduce barriers to quality education for women and girls in conflict zones.\textsuperscript{2643} Education Cannot Wait addresses gaps in financing, capacity, and coordination in crisis situations to provide quality education for children.\textsuperscript{2644}

Canada has fully complied on providing access for women, girls and in early stages of humanitarian response while supporting a safe space for children in schools, through inclusive and equitable education, which increases the accessibility and security for children. By investing in safe and quality education for Palestinian refugee children in the West Bank and Gaza, Canada has specifically targeted early stages of peacebuilding efforts in a conflict area. Domestically, Canada invested in improved education infrastructure for First Nations communities as well as a program for educators to address the safety risks of cannabis use in schools and arranged alternative school facilities for Gatineau students whose school had been structurally damaged by a recent storm.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: Emily Burton-Brown}


France: 0

France has partially complied to prioritizing improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 10 July 2018, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France’s public development bank, allocated EUR323,248 to SIPAR, a Cambodian non-profit organization promoting reading and education access for all, which is the first half of the global EUR646,497 budget allocated for the SIPAR project. This project is a reading and education program that gives access to libraries and education to factory workers, including women and children, in urban and rural areas.

On 10 July 2018, the AFD announced the creation of the Education League to develop a network of young ambassadors “strongly committed to engaging young people locally and internationally, with the implementation of civic service programs and international volunteering.” This will have territorial relays of the league, educators, and supervisors working with trainers to promote a cohesive environment.

On 30 July 2018, the French government passed a law banning the use of smartphones and smart devices for children aged 3 to 15 years of age in a move to create safer school environments and protect children from cyberbullying and violence.

On 30 August 2018, the AFD issued its strategic plan for 2018-2022 and announced that France would increase grant assistance to EUR1.3 billion in 2019 to reach 19 priority countries in Africa, of which investment in education and gender equality is a priority. Moreover, gender equality is set to be a central theme in the AFD’s new strategy, with one of its five foundational commitments being “increasing access to education and promoting gender equality.”

On 13 September 2018, President Emmanuel Macron announced plans to open more daycare centres in disadvantaged areas in order to make education more equitable for all children. Moreover, funding will be given to schools to provide heavily subsidized meals in a push to make education accessible for all.

On 17 September 2018, the French government announced its intention to scrap 2,650 jobs in education, including teaching posts, in an attempt to reduce the number of public service workers.

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This proposal is intended only for secondary schools and colleges.\textsuperscript{2654} Approximately 1,800 secondary school teaching positions are expected to be cut.\textsuperscript{2655} For primary school, the government intends to create 1,800 jobs.\textsuperscript{2656}

On 25 September 2018, France was one of the leaders of #LeaveNoGirlBehind meeting at the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, along with G7 members Canada and the United Kingdom.\textsuperscript{2657} In a joint statement, the three world leaders called for countries to improve girls’ access to education internationally, as well as ensure 12 years of free, safe, and quality education. The statement, which emphasizes this action in “developing contexts and countries struggling with conflict,” outlines 11 resolutions to do so, including ensuring schools are safe places for learning, and increasing international, regional, national, and South-South cooperation to ensure gender equality in education.\textsuperscript{2658}

As of 27 September 2018, France has pledged to increase its grants to less developed countries from USD10 billion to USD15 billion in 2020 to 2030, a considerable portion of which, President Macron said, would focus on the education of girls, particularly in African countries.\textsuperscript{2659}

On 11 October 2018 at the 17th Summit of La Francophonie Yerevan, Armenia, France adopted a strategy for the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) to promote gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and children. This strategy will be included in “all international solidarity and development policies of the OIF and its agencies.”\textsuperscript{2660}

On 19 November 2018, the French Minister of State for Gender Equality Marlène Schiappa re-affirmed France’s commitment to gender equality at the World Forum for Democracy, and has highlighted that France has already announced measures regarding “emotional and sexual education in schools.”\textsuperscript{2661}

On 4 December 2018, the Government of Togo, in partnership with the AFD, inaugurated drinking water wells and sanitation facilities for at least 69 cantons in the Savannah region, as part of the Project for the Improvement of Health Conditions in Schools and Rural Areas.\textsuperscript{2662} The project


includes hundreds of new boreholes and latrines built for schools. The AFD was responsible for subsiding the infrastructure.

France has made it clear that it prioritizes education for girls and women both at home and in developing countries but has not clarified on whether it will prioritize it in either the early stages of humanitarian response or peacebuilding. It has, also, confirmed its commitment to ensuring that schools are safe places for children.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

**Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied to prioritizing improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 9 June 2018, Germany along with the European Union, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the World Bank invested CAD3.8 billion to improving access and reducing barriers to quality education around the world. Germany will invest EUR75 million itself. This is an investment in education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations.

On 18 September 2018, Germany reiterated its commitment towards assisting the Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The federal government had pledged to increase their financial assistance to EUR100 million, in order to ensure that the UNRWA would continue to provide children with an adequate education through schools.

On 4 October 2018, through the “German-Israeli Program on Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training,” both governments had verbally committed to providing more nourishing and

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nutrient-based food at local Israeli schools, in an attempt to improve the overall quality of life of young girls.\textsuperscript{2670}

On 26 October 2018, the German government had strengthened its commitment towards reducing the tragedies amongst women and children in Yemen, by collaborating with a non-profit organization known as the Berghof Foundation.\textsuperscript{2671} This was instigated in order to resume failed peace negotiations between the parties causing hardship upon the entirety of Yemen.\textsuperscript{2672}

On 27 November 2018, during the Women Wage Peace International Congress, the Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel prioritized women, security, and peace within Israel after Germany becomes a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in 2019.\textsuperscript{2673} The following speech was made to support women during peace negotiations, as the Middle East had failed to include women during peacebuilding efforts.

Germany has continued to increase its commitments towards humanitarian responses and is attempting to establish access to quality education for girls and women in crisis situations. However, no significant contribution has been made towards the promotion of schools as safe spaces for children and advocating for women’s and children’s rights.

Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of 0.

\textit{Analyst: Saranngan Vaithianathan}

\textbf{Italy: 0}

Italy has partially complied to prioritizing gender equality and improving access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 1 August 2018, the governing Italian coalition introduced Bill 735 to enforce “perfect co-parenting,” whereby children of divorced parents will spend exactly the same amount of time with each parent.\textsuperscript{2674} Bill 735 further mandates that couples with children who seek a divorce must first attend couples’ mediation, which must be paid for out of pocket.\textsuperscript{2675} This stipulation reduces the ability of Italian women, particularly women economically dependent on their husbands, from obtaining a divorce.

On 3 September 2018, the Italian Minister for the Interior, Matteo Salvini, announced the allocation of EUR2.5 million to 15 beneficiary cities under the “#ScuoleSicure” program.2676 The program aims to promote safety in schools through improved video surveillance, information campaigns, and increased access to police resources.2677

On 3 September 2018, the Government of Italy participated in the High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad region in Berlin, where it affirmed a USD17 million allocation for crisis response and development initiatives across four countries.2678 The conference emphasized the need for enhanced protection against gender-based violence for women and girls.2679

On 10 September 2018, the Italian Minister for Education, University and Research, Marco Bussetti, announced the commencement of a joint initiative between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Italian Space Agency, and the National Research Council for the satellite mapping of 40,000 school buildings across Italy.2680

On 11 September 2018, the Government of Italy made a EUR500,000 contribution to the World Food Program for the provision of daily meals to schoolchildren in Mali.2681

On 21 September 2018, the Italian Minister for Education, University and Research, Marco Bussetti, allocated EUR 3.6 million for the reconstruction of three school buildings affected by the August earthquake in Molise.2682

On 25 September 2018, the Italian Minister for Education, University and Research, Marco Bussetti, pledged EUR7 billion for the construction and redevelopment of school buildings in the upcoming budget, and established frameworks to ensure a faster allocation of this funding to local authorities.2683

On 28 September 2018, the Government of Italy implemented a EUR3.5 million joint initiative with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the economic participation of women in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.\(^{2684}\)

On 1 October 2018, the Government of Italy made a EUR1 million contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, with the purpose of providing Palestinian refugee children in Syria with access to education and psychosocial support.\(^{2685}\) This contribution also provides training to teachers and parents on gender-based violence.\(^{2686}\)

On 22 November 2018, Italy’s Presidency of the Council of Ministers Department for Equal Opportunities signed a memorandum of understanding with the Bank of Italy and the Italian Companies and Exchange Commission, establishing an inter-institutional program for data collection and research concerning women’s participation in the administration and control of Italian companies, effective 1 January 2019.\(^{2687}\)

On 24 November 2018, Italian Undersecretary for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with responsibility for Equal Opportunities and Young People, Vincenzo Spadafora, announced the launch of the “#lapartitaditutti” initiative.\(^{2688}\) It is a media campaign for the prevention and tackling of violence against women and domestic abuse.\(^{2689}\) The initiative seeks to challenge stereotypes and encourage women and girls to speak out in difficult or isolated situations, emphasizing the importance of educating young persons in combating violence against women.\(^{2690}\)

On 24 November 2018, Italian Undersecretary for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with responsibility for Equal Opportunities and Young People, Vincenzo Spadafora, pledged EUR33


million to combat gender-based violence against women and girls. Further, Spadafora established a victim’s fund for female victims of gender-based violence.

On 5 December 2018, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation announced, in unison with UNICEF and the Tunisian Ministries of Health and Education, a program to improve sanitary conditions and practices of children and adolescents in Tunisian primary schools.

While Italy has improved access to quality education for children in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts, in addition supporting schools as safe spaces for children, Italy has not consistently prioritized women and girls in its initiatives both at home and abroad.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Spenser Borrie

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied to prioritizing gender equality and improving access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 9 June 2018, Japan, along with the European Union, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the World Bank invested CAD3.8 billion to improve access and reduce barriers to quality education around the world. This is an investment in education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations.

On 9 June 2018, Japan allocated USD200 million for girls’ and women’s quality education, including in conflict-ridden regions.

On 24 July 2018, government spokesman Yoshihide Suga announced that the Japanese Government would ensure that all schools are equipped with air conditioners by the following summer to protect

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the lives of schoolchildren.\textsuperscript{2697} This commitment is in response to the unprecedented heat wave that swept across Japan in July 2018, highlighting the inadequate climate control in Japanese schools.\textsuperscript{2698}

On 4 August 2018, the Japanese Education Minister, Yoshimasa Hayashi, ordered Tokyo Medical University to disclose the results of the university’s investigation of administrators, who allegedly lowered exam scores of female applicants, so as to investigate gender discrimination in Japanese medical schools.\textsuperscript{2699}

On 10 August 2018, the Japanese Education Ministry requested all private and public medical schools to assess their admission procedures for possible discrimination against female applicants.\textsuperscript{2700} The ministry also evaluated the gender ratio of successful applicants from the previous six months to identify recent cases of gender discrimination in medical schools.\textsuperscript{2701}

On 10 August 2018, the Japanese Education Ministry reported that a quarter of Japan’s schools have dangerous external walls.\textsuperscript{2702} The ministry plans to use state subsidies from the 2019 budget to repair or remove dangerous walls to ensure the safety of school children.\textsuperscript{2703}

On 2 October 2018, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, reduced the number of women in his cabinet to one.\textsuperscript{2704} This cabinet reshuffle comes only a few months after the Japanese Legislator passed a bill to increase women’s participation in government.\textsuperscript{2705}

On 12 October 2018, Japan announced funding of buses exclusively for women and children in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region of Pakistan.\textsuperscript{2706} These buses are called “sakura buses,” and provide safe transportation for women who are vulnerable to sexual assault and harassment on public transport in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region of Pakistan.

transportation. The sakura buses aim to help women feel safe to commute to school or work, so as to increase the mobility and participation of women in Pakistani society.

Japan has fully complied with prioritizing gender equality and improving access to quality education for women and girls in crisis situations. Japan has taken action to intervene in early stages of humanitarian response and in peacebuilding efforts while ensuring spaces for girls in schools.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Collin Xia*

**United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied to prioritizing gender equality and improving access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 1 July 2018, the United Kingdom’s Department for Education announced a new GBP6.5 million program aimed at supporting children with special educational needs and children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are at risk of falling behind in reading, writing, and language skills.

On 10 August 2018, UK’s International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced that Tanzania’s education program will receive GBP41.6 million to improve “quality of education in every primary and lower secondary school in Tanzania.” Young women will be empowered to take advantage of their educational opportunities to contribute to the economic growth of their communities.

On 30 August 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom announced funding for the “Leave No Girl Behind” initiative that aims to help Kenyan girls to go back to school. This initiative will support up to 5,000 Kenyan girls in their educational endeavours. It will tackle common barriers to girls’ education and give access to those who are impoverished and lack access to education.
On 3 September 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom committed USD186 million for crisis response and development initiatives across four countries in Africa. The conference emphasized the need for enhanced protection against gender-based violence for women and girls.2715

On 4 September 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom announced an aid package for Palestinians through the UN Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) to help improve access to health care and education.2716 GBP7 million will be added to the United Kingdom’s contribution to UNRWA, which will now total GBP38.5 million for the establishment of “an essential humanitarian and stabilising force in the Middle East, educating hundreds of thousands of children every year.”2717

On 8 September 2018, the United Kingdom’s Department of Education and Government Equalities Office allocated GBP4.4 million for an online application which allows for children to report instances of bullying or cyber-bullying in schools.2718

On 26 September 2018, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Theresa May, announced 9 new projects to support access to quality education for up to 171,723 marginalized girls, including 13,146 girls with disabilities, in Ghana, Somalia, Nepal, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.2719 The projects constitute the second phase of the Department for International Development’s Girls Education “Challenge” program.2720

On 26 September 2018, the United Kingdom’s International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, announced a GBP7.8 million investment to improve education data and analysis, to help better understand the UK’s aid priorities and track its progress towards Sustainable Development Goals.2721

On 27 September 2018, the United Kingdom’s Minister for Human Rights and the United Nations, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, co-chaired an event under the UN General Assembly with Afghanistan and Norway and called for an increase in the participation of women in peace building and conflict resolution.2722

On 3 October 2018, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development allocated GBP10 million, in partnership with the United Nations’ Children’s Fund, to provide digital registration for up to 400,000 children in the Horn of Africa, to guard them against the risk of slavery, human trafficking, underage marriage, or military service.2723

On 3 October 2018, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development announced a GBP26 million initiative to combat child labour and child sex trafficking across six Asian countries, in partnership with the United Nations’ Children’s Fund, the International Labour Organization, and the Institute of Development Studies.2724

On 3 October 2018, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development announced a GBP12 million fund set to provide up to 400,000 vulnerable individuals in conflict-ridden parts of Africa with alternate income opportunities and skills training to recognize disguised risks of trafficking.2725

On 16 October 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom announced a three-year GBP96.5 million commitment to UNICEF to screen up to GBP2.2 million young children in Yemen for malnutrition, with urgent treatment provided for 70,000 of the most vulnerable.2726

On 20 October 2018, the United Kingdom’s Communities Secretary, James Brokenshire, announced a GBP5 million fund to promote early intervention practices among teachers, community workers, and childcare professionals for youth or families at risk of the gang and knife violence.2727

On 15 November 2018, the United Kingdom’s Minister for Women and Equalities, Penny Mordaunt, announced that the Government Equalities Office will join the United Kingdom’s Cabinet Office.2728 This change ensures that gender equality is at the forefront of all the government’s policymaking.

On 23 November 2018, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, launched a GBP50 million initiative to combat female genital mutilation in Africa, which includes support for “women’s organizations and girls’ clubs in schools where [women and girls] can discuss the issue in safe spaces.”2729

The United Kingdom has fully complied with prioritizing gender equality and improving access to quality education for women and girls, specifically in Bangladesh and Kenya, in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Spenser Borrie

United States: −1
The United States has failed to comply with prioritizing gender equality and improving access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 11 June 2018, the United States Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced an investigation of the University of Southern California’s “handling of reports of sexual harassment against former employee Dr. George Tyndall.” The OCR will assess the university’s response to sexual harassment complaints from the 1990s that were not fully investigated until 2016 and review the university’s handling of civil rights issues.

On 18 July 2018, the National Threat Assessment Center published an operational guide for preventing targeted school violence, which details threat assessment models to identify potential student shooters, so schools may “develop comprehensive targeted violence prevention plans for conducting threat assessments in schools.”

On 3 August 2018, the United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos awarded USD138,213 to Marshall County School District in Kentucky to support recovery efforts following the 23 January 2018 shooting at Marshall County High School. These funds will be used to hire and compensate staff.

On 14 August 2018, Secretary DeVos allocated USD359.8 million in new federal assistance to 20 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands under the Temporary Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students program. This program is used by the Department of Education to help fund the

education of students displaced by natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria or the 2017 California wildfires.\textsuperscript{2736}

On 21 August 2018, Secretary DeVos hosted a meeting with the Federal Commission on School Safety to address the issue of cyberbullying on social media, and how it may promote violence and endanger student safety.\textsuperscript{2737}

On 28 August 2018, Secretary DeVos announced USD63 million in new federal assistance for 47 institutions of higher education across America.\textsuperscript{2738} The funding will go to institutions and students in areas directly affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria or the 2017 California wildfires.\textsuperscript{2739}

On 28 September 2018, Secretary DeVos appointed five new members to the National Assessment Governing Board.\textsuperscript{2740} Three of the five new members are women leaders in education from across the United States.\textsuperscript{2741} These appointments increase female participation and leadership in the education system.\textsuperscript{2742}

On 2 October 2018, Secretary DeVos announced USD1,983,597 in funding for low-income North Carolinian students who were impacted by Hurricane Florence.\textsuperscript{2743} More than USD800,000 was specifically allocated to South Carolinian students for similar relief.\textsuperscript{2744}


The United States of America has not complied to prioritizing improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

Thus, the United States receives a score of −1.

Analyst: Collin Xia

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied to prioritizing improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts while supporting schools as safe spaces for children.

On 9 June 2018, European Union, along with Canada, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the World Bank invested CAD3.8 billion to improving access and reducing barriers to quality education around the world.\(^{2745}\) The European Union will invest EUR72 million over three years.\(^{2746}\) This is an investment in education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations.\(^{2747}\)

On 12 July 2018, the European Commission announced its Annual Action Programme for Myanmar and Burma for 2018.\(^{2748}\) The European Union will contribute EUR221 million to the programme.\(^{2749}\) The programme aimed to develop education in Myanmar through teacher training, education reform, and financial transparency.\(^{2750}\) The objective of this is to “equitably enhance the education and skills base among Myanmar/Burma youth.”\(^{2751}\)

On 3 September 2018, the European Commission announced a EUR138 million aid package for humanitarian and development assistance in the Lake Chad region.\(^{2752}\) A portion of the development


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On 19 November 2018, the European Commission released a statement in advance of the Universal Children’s Day to reiterate commitment to protecting and promoting children’s rights globally.\textsuperscript{2762} This commitment included the provision of access to safe and quality education for both boys and girls.

On 23 November 2018, the European Union allocated EUR36 million to education reform policies in Kyrgyzstan.\textsuperscript{2763} The funding will support Kyrgyzstan authorities in their efforts to promote equitable access to quality education, regardless of gender or ethnic background.\textsuperscript{2764}

On 26 November 2018, the European Commission announced an additional EUR5 million in funding to support projects of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates.\textsuperscript{2765} Of this funding package, EUR4 million will support the Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo that serves victims of sexual violence, which includes providing access to education for girl victims of sexual abuse and forced labour.\textsuperscript{2766}

On 26 November 2018, EU Member States endorsed the policy framework “Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises” through its “Council Conclusions,” which welcomes the European Commission’s to reach 10 percent of the EU’s humanitarian budget for education in emergencies in 2019.\textsuperscript{2767} The Council Conclusions specifically takes note of the fact that “girls are notably more disadvantaged, being 2.5 times more likely to be out-of-school in affected countries,” and recognises that “emergencies and protracted crises have a disproportionate effect on the education of women and girls. The conclusions identify improved access, inclusion and equity as a key point of action, in order to “support the gender-specific needs of children and young people, especially with regard to education and protection, with special focus on the education of girls and young women, in line with the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020.\textsuperscript{2768} Additionally, education services need to respond to the needs of girls and boys through measures such as prioritising sex-segregated toilets in the rehabilitation of schools, to address the safety concerns of students and parents.

On 27 November 2018, the European Union committed to a EUR30 million programme to support displaced communities in Yemen.\textsuperscript{2769} The support will contribute to the development of Yemen and will help provide basic services, including education, to internally displaced populations.

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On 6 December 2018, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development and Mali’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation announced an additional EUR50 million to support structural reforms in Mali. These reforms include the improvement of governance and access to basic services and will contribute to improving access to elementary education, particularly for young girls.

European Union has taken efforts to promote access for early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts in Myanmar/Burma, Yemen, Mali, and the Lake Chad region while promoting a safe space for youth.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Emily Burton-Brown*

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