



C20 GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Recommendations and proposals:

Investing in education as the main lever to affect inequalities and restore equality of opportunity:

Education has been the hidden victim of Covid-19 pandemic with far reaching consequences for all nations and for all generations to come. Governments play an important role in getting all students back into school as well as ensure learning programs for youth and adults. However, the budgets are being hollowed out by a recession and the diversion of public spending to health care and economic recovery. Significant support is needed from international donors to support low-income countries to respond to the scale of the education crisis, now greatly exacerbated by the pandemic. Therefore, we urge G20 governments to re-prioritize education in their recovery plans to overcome the Covid-19 crisis, with particular focus on lower income countries, thus promoting a strong commitment towards the achievement of the SDG4. To achieve these results, it is necessary to focus on:

- Close the education financing gap
- Lifelong learning to build a democratic culture: protection of common goods and human rights
- Education 4.0: Global citizenship as the main transversal competence to be citizens of the future
- Increase transformative education at the service of sustainable development: care of planet and earth's inhabitants in the pandemic era
- Promoting gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment in and through education

And so the C20 EWG recommends to:

1. Close the education financing gap with a particular focus on investing resources to support countries in responding to and recovering from the crisis. This will mean:

- Fulfilling the 0.7% global commitment on ODA with the progressive commitment to 15% of ODA going to education
- Increase education financing through increased bilateral aid commitments for basic education and multilateral commitments related to a supplementary IDA budget (supplementing World Bank IDA19 balance or contributing to an early replenishment for IDA20 - 25 million USD in the next two years)
- Extending the extension of the DSSI at least until the end of 2022 and the expansion of the Common Framework on Debt Treatments to middle income countries (linking with the C20 finance WG messages).
- Enforce stricter global tax measures to end illicit funding flows, eradicate tax havens, and curb tax avoidance and evasion, and promote progressive taxation systems in order to increase the tax base and mobilize the necessary resources for strengthening education and other public services
- Provide a more urgent and substantial debt relief package that includes debt cancellation for low-income, least developed, and heavily indebted countries
- Improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities and non-pharmaceutical interventions in schools, particularly ventilation to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools and in the community and to ensure sustainable school re-openings

2. Adopt Lifelong learning to build a democratic culture: protection of common goods and human rights

It is necessary to support grassroots education, taking into consideration that:

- Children, youth, and non-literate adults must receive more attention if there is the intention of funding the change and development with due recognition of their contexts and their own cultures
- The system of sending aid to African Nations and other LICs through governments has blocked the gains of the action because often these helps do not reach the grassroots
- Inclusive education: it's important to support indigenous education including indigenous languages, cultural and environment-generated knowledge, and diverse worldviews of education. No hesitation to use democracy and human rights as it is to set a clear intention of the NGOs on this point, support and fund for local research initiatives.
- Highlighting rights to education, academic freedom, democracy and human rights in the formal and informal education institution

3. Promote Education 4.0: Global citizenship as the main transversal competence to be citizens of the future

It is necessary to:

- Foster the dissemination of the concept of global citizenship education at the level of formal, non-formal and informal education, as a pre-requisite for the acquisition of each SDGs and to introduce this concept to all children, youth, and adults in every level of education and communication.
- Promote peaceful relations between nations and people, foster multilateralism and prevent social, economic and armed conflict. Furthermore, we should consider the complex country situations in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and other regions in global citizenship education to create a local curriculum of education that must consider culture, environment, sustainable economy.
- Address the widening digital divide and increasing corporate capture of digital learning platforms by deploying distance learning solutions and community-based learning programs that are free, inclusive, and equitable with the aiming of reaching the most marginalized learners
- Invest in flexible and inclusive distance learning programs using a range of modalities including digital learning, interactive radio instruction and printed learning materials, psycho-social mentoring, with a focus on reaching the most marginalized student to ensure quality learning. These programs should support early learning, mental health and psychosocial support, child protection and public health objectives, and address harmful gender norms
- Use cash transfer to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on households incomes and livelihoods in countries all over the world, especially the poorer ones and support learners to go back to school or participate in community learning programs
- Catch-up classes to support students re-enter their education, prepare them for blended - online and offline learning as well as provide that is necessary
- Ensure teachers are adequately supported and trained to support distance learning programming with the right resources and guidance.
- Invest in community learning centers and other community-based education that are able to reach out to marginalized learners and support their capacities to provide blended learning.

4. Increase transformative education at the service of sustainable development: care of planet and earth's inhabitants in the pandemic era

- Promote a culture of sustainability that fosters care for the environment, respectful and balanced relations between living beings, policies that are consistent with a lower expenditure and consumption of energy and that promote the use of sustainable behavior in the public and private sphere
- Institute a transformative education that promotes learning to combine social, environmental, and economic sustainability
- Support Sustainable Development Education and Global Citizenship Education and as drivers, fundamental cultural background to affirm and promote social and sustainable economy, using a transitional approach from school to work.
- Ensure accessibility and inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in schools and universities
- Ensure the right to education is respected also in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings and respect the Safe Schools Declaration

5. Promoting gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in and through education

- Close the gender gap in education and invest in girls and remove structural barriers to their education
- Dismantle gender stereotypes to ensure gender equality in the public and private sphere also through school programs
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education so that students can make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health
- Ensure schools and universities are safe spaces for women, girls and LGBTQI+ population, that they are not at risk of GBV in schools or on the way to school
 - Include girls' education to prevent early and unwanted pregnancies and early marriage.
 - Educate boys concerning female equality and the male responsibility to respect physical/sexual boundaries.
 - Ensure boys' education to prevent them from being recruited as child soldiers
- Invest in nursery schools also as tool to promote women's rights and their access to the labor market