

## INEE Meet-Up Talking Points for the Secretary General's Education First Campaign

### Introduction:

Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has recognized the importance of quality education in the context of crises, as stated in the Education First vision document. Furthermore, the UN General Assembly resolution on '*the right to education in emergency situations*' emphasizes the obligation to secure education for all children regardless of context. INEE stands in solidarity with the theme *Education Cannot Wait* and centers its focus on the Education in Emergencies piece within the Education First campaign.

### Overall Theme:

Education First aims to rally together a broad spectrum of actors for the final push to 2015 and ensure we deliver on the promise of universal access to primary education; Spur a global movement to put quality, relevant and transformative education right at the heart of the social, political and development agendas; and Generate additional and sufficient funding for education through sustained global advocacy efforts. Within this framework is a commitment to quality education for children in crises contexts. INEE is committed to protecting children and youth's right to a quality education in humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations

### Three Priority Areas of the Education First Campaign:

#### 1. *Put Every Child in School:*

Education is the great driver of social, economic and political progress. As people learn to read, count and reason critically, their prospects for health and prosperity expand exponentially. But our advances in education have not benefited everyone equally—and primary school enrollment rates tell only part of the regrettable story. Millions of children who start primary school are unable to finish, and still more miss out on high school. Today, some 71 million young people—including half of all adolescents in low-income countries—are receiving no post-primary education. We can no longer afford the cost of excluding them.

#### 2. *Improve the Quality of Learning*

School attendance should open pathways of learning and discovery, but too often it doesn't. Millions of children go through school and come out without basic literacy and numeracy. Education is ultimately judged by what people learn. Many students around the world are banking their futures on poorly trained, weakly motivated teachers without enough books and other basics to facilitate their learning. This is grave disservice not only to the students themselves but to the parents who sacrifice to support them and the countries whose futures depend on them. While we strive to boost school attendance, we must ensure that our schools are engines of opportunity and not just idle warehouses.

### **3. Foster Global Citizenship**

The world faces global challenges, which require global solutions. These interconnected global challenges call for far-reaching changes in how we think and act for the dignity of fellow human beings. It is not enough for education to produce individuals who can read, write and count. Education must be transformative bring shared values to life. It must cultivate an active care for the world and for those with whom we share it. Education must also be relevant in answering the big questions of the day. Technological solutions, political regulation or financial instruments alone cannot achieve sustainable development. It requires transforming the way people think and act. Education must fully assume its central role in helping people to forge more just, peaceful, tolerant and inclusive societies. It must give people the understanding, skills and values they need to cooperate in resolving the interconnected challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

#### **Starter Statements to Aid Discussion:**

- 42% of the world's out-of-school children live in crises contexts. Children affected by crises have a right to quality education.
- Education in emergencies is under-financed. Only 2% of all humanitarian aid goes toward education.
- Education can be a tool for conflict mitigation.
- The use of INEE Minimum Standards ensures quality education in the context of crises.
- Promoting global citizenship through education directly affects peace-building and conflict resolution.

#### **Ideas for Action:**

INEE Meet-Up participants have a chance to take part in a global campaign that will affect the lives of millions of children across the globe. Below is a list of potential ideas for action surrounding the Education First campaign:

- Develop a national or regional campaign that furthers the reach of Education First, with special emphasis on Education in Emergencies.
- Draft an INEE blog on potential solutions and outcomes to barriers stated in the Education First vision document.
- Discuss methods to ensure Education First, particularly Education in Emergencies, is mainstreamed through participants' organizations.

#### **Sample Tweets/Media Shouts and Social Media guidelines:**

Below is a list of sample tweets. These tweets are specific to INEE's role in the Education First campaign and its commitment to education in emergencies. These will be disseminated via INEE's Twitter account (INEEtweets). Feel free to use these on your personal or organizational Twitter accounts to expand INEE's reach in the Education First campaign. Please remember to use the tags #EducationFirst,

@UNedufirst, and @INEEtweets if you decide to create your own tweets. You can link your Twitter account to your Facebook page to have your tweets appear as a status update on both networks. To do this, click on the settings key at the top right corner of your Twitter account. Scroll down and click *Settings*. You will see a box on the left of the screen with various topics. Click *Profile*. On the right side, scroll down to the topic box entitled *Facebook* and click *Post your Tweets to Facebook*. You will then be asked to enter your Facebook information and that's it!

- @INEEtweets joins @UNedufirst in launching the @UN Secretary-General's 5-year Global Initiative on Education! #EducationFirst
- @UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and @INEEtweets acknowledges education in emergencies as a priority in @UNedufirst #EducationFirst
- 42% of the world's out-of-school children are affected by conflict. @UNedufirst provides promise to these marginalized youth #EducationFirst
- Through war and disaster @INEEtweets supports the right to education for all children living in crises contexts #EducationFirst @UNedufirst
- Education gives stability & hope to youth affected by crises. Let's build their resilience by putting #EducationFirst! @UNedufirst
- Join @UNedufirst and @INEEtweets in empowering everyday people to make a difference through education. #EducationFirst
- Only 2% of humanitarian aid goes toward education. @UNedufirst and @INEEtweets are committed to increasing this number. Put #EducationFirst!
- @UNedufirst and @INEEtweets are committed to ensuring quality education for marginalized groups in conflict and disaster. #EducationFirst
- Putting #EducationFirst reduces poverty & hunger, creating stronger & better societies for all. @UNedufirst
- Everyone has the right to education. Join @UNedufirst and @INEEtweets in making to education for all a reality by putting #EducationFirst
- We need swift action to lessen educational disparities within and between countries. Help @INEEtweets and @UNedufirst put #EducationFirst!
- Help @UNedufirst put every child in school, improve the quality of learning & foster global citizenship by supporting #EducationFirst!

- @UNedufirst knows we all have roles to play in putting #EducationFirst. Find an INEE MeetUp near you to discover yours.  
<http://www.globaleducationfirst.org/190.htm>
- Let's work together to close the gender gap in access to quality education by supporting @UNedufirst's efforts to put #EducationFirst
- Minimum standards ensure access and healthy learning environments to youth in crises. @INEEtweets and @UNedufirst put #EducationFirst
- Millions of children have their education disrupted by natural disasters. We need to put #EducationFirst. <http://bit.ly/edfirst> @UNedufirst
- Education cannot wait for the 25m of the world's 61m out-of-school children living in conflict areas. #EducationFirst <http://bit.ly/edfirst> @UNedufirst