

education in emergencies



the facts

- In the last decade, more than 2 million children have died as a direct result of armed conflict, and more than three times that number have been permanently disabled or seriously injured.
- An estimated 20 million children have been forced to flee their homes, and over 1 million have been orphaned or separated from their families.
- An estimated 300,000 child soldiers – boys and girls under the age of 18 – are involved in over 30 conflicts worldwide.
- Approximately one-half of the almost 80 million children still not attending primary school come from countries in conflict and fragility. Chronic conflict seriously damages or destroys education systems.



CARE's Response

Education can be a lifesaving resource that reestablishes a vulnerable child's sense of normalcy and builds self-esteem and hope for the future. Many experts consider education an essential humanitarian response to complex emergencies, closely following

food, water and shelter. CARE's program approaches in emergencies seek to:

Support community and government efforts to build and sustain schools and link schools to formal education structures. Community ownership and

participation in governing schools are a high priority, as is integrating vulnerable students – particularly girls – into formal education systems.

Intervene with learning about appropriate topics. In times of crisis, programs that promote survival skills, such as landmine awareness and prevention of HIV, are critical. School-based trauma healing and counseling services, programs that support peace building, and training in health and hygiene help people rebuild their lives – and their world.

Improve the quality of learning environments. In emergency settings, teachers and education professionals need training and support, schools must be rehabilitated

and constructed, and there are opportunities to provide and enrich instructional materials. In addition to immediately improving learning access and quality, these activities lay the foundation for strengthening educational systems over the long term.

Strengthen local organizations to better address the educational needs of their communities. In the past, education was considered the sole province of governments, while the role of communities was to build schools, provide uniforms and support teachers. Today local organizations are urged to build capacity so they can take ownership of learning, and sustain gains made by emergency response initiatives.

Education in Emergencies Highlights

The following are the highlights of CARE's current work in education in emergencies:

In South Sudan, CARE helps vulnerable children access quality education by training teachers and school officials, strengthening institutions and encouraging communities to take ownership of schools. CARE has improved teacher education programs and helped create a national curriculum and learning materials. Specific strategies have also been developed to boost girls' participation in primary and secondary schools.

In Kosovo, a CARE peace-building program promotes reconciliation, democracy and sustainable development by encouraging primary school children in ethnically-mixed schools to learn about and practice democratic citizenship. The project has been integrated into the school curriculum and classroom practices, introducing students to democracy's core values in a child-friendly environment.

In Yemen, CARE focuses on adult literacy and life skills to help marginalized youth and women in the Amran governorate.

In Afghanistan, CARE leads a consortium of nongovernmental organizations to expand quality learning and life opportunities for marginalized children and their communities, with a particular focus on vulnerable girls.

Contact

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Where We Support Education in Emergencies

CARE currently supports projects focused on education in emergencies in the following countries

Sub-Saharan Africa

Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan

Asia

Afghanistan, East Timor, India, Pakistan

Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti

Middle East and Eastern Europe

Kosovo, Yemen

