

# GLOBAL EDUCATION FIRST INITIATIVE

*The United Nations Secretary-General's initiative:*



Put every child in school



Improve the quality of learning



Foster global citizenship



**250 MILLION CHILDREN CANNOT READ, WRITE OR COUNT WELL,**

even those with at least four years in school. Children have a fundamental right to free primary schooling of good quality. Parents want their children in school, and children yearn for the opportunity to fulfill their dreams. Educated nations are more likely to enjoy vibrant economies, better health, political stability and a respect for human rights.

***“When we put education first, we can reduce poverty and hunger, end wasted potential—and look forward to stronger and better societies for all.”*** —Ban Ki-moon #EducationFirst

# PUT EVERY CHILD IN SCHOOL

58 million primary-aged  
children are out of school.



**49% will never enter school,**  
----- *and* -----

**25% will leave early before  
finishing primary school.**

**Most are shut out because of  
poverty, but others lack a  
classroom or go to school  
hungry.**

*“When you ask parents what they want for  
their children—even in war zones and  
disaster areas—they seek the same thing:  
education. Parents want their children in  
school.”* —Ban Ki-moon #EducationFirst

## WE MUST:



Eliminate cost barriers  
to attending and  
completing school.



Identify and help children  
who need nutritional,  
health and social support.



Close the gender gap at  
all education levels.



Build  
**4 MILLION**  
more classrooms,  
especially in rural and  
conflict-affected areas.



**DOUBLE** or more  
education's percentage of  
humanitarian aid.



## IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LEARNING

Millions of children finish school without basic literacy and numeracy skills.

# 250 MILLION

children cannot read, write or count well, even those with at least four years in school.

### WE NEED:



## 2 MILLION

more well-trained teachers with effective student performance measures.



A better match between schooling and needed workforce skills, and more adult learning.



Improved traditional and digital learning materials in students' home language.



A **45%** increase in early-childhood education programs to prepare children for primary school.

*“Education lifts people out of poverty. If all students in low-income countries acquire basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, equivalent to a 12 percent cut in world poverty.”* — Ban Ki-moon #EducationFirst



## FOSTER GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

*The world faces global challenges that require global solutions. Education must cultivate an active care for the world and for those with whom we share it.*



### IT IS IMPORTANT TO:



Promote peace, tolerance and respect for diversity across cultures through education.



Cultivate a sense of community, active participation and environmental stewardship.



Train teachers to use innovative, participatory and non-formal teaching and learning methods.

*“Education gives us a profound understanding that we are tied together as citizens of the global community, and that our challenges are interconnected.”* —Ban Ki-moon #EducationFirst

## CLOSE THE FINANCIAL GAP

*Investments in education are inadequate to maintain the gains made in the past decade or meet the ambitious goals of Education First.*

### WE MUST:



Generate additional and sufficient funding for education through sustained global advocacy efforts.



Increase global investment in poor countries' school systems by **\$24 BILLION PER YEAR.**



Invest at least 5 to 6 % of countries' national GDP in education.

***“Education is the single best investment countries can make towards building prosperous, healthy and equitable societies.”***

—Ban Ki-moon #EducationFirst



Ensure effective and accountable use of resources aligned with national education plans.

