

# RAPID EDUCATION ACTION INITIATIVE (REACT)

## EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

The number of displaced persons worldwide has reached its highest count since the end of World War II, with an estimated 75 million children and adolescents having had their education disrupted or ended due to natural disasters, conflicts, and other emergencies.

In fact, education is one of the first things to stop at the onset of an emergency and has traditionally remained low on the priority list despite what we know – that for a child or young person caught up in crisis, education can be lifesaving, providing them with a safe space, normalcy and hope for the future. Many children lose out on years of education before it is restarted, and youth remain vulnerable to trafficking, child labor, early forced marriage, or recruitment into armed groups. This is a global crisis – a lost generation of adolescents with untapped potential.

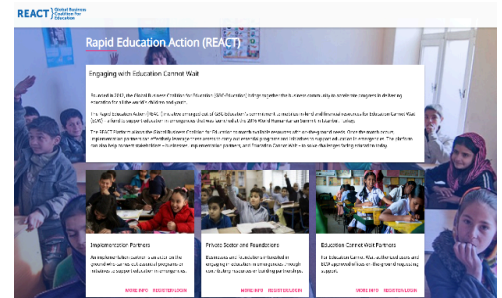
## THE SOLUTION: REACT

The Global Business Coalition for Education (GBC-Education) tackles the challenges of education in emergencies by bringing the know-how and resources from the business community to support partners on the front lines. Our goal is to restore education and to provide avenues for young people to rebuild their communities and societies so they may become active participants in social and economic development.

GBC-Education launched Rapid Education Action Initiative (REACT), a result-oriented education resource hub that channels corporate contributions to match their business contributions with NGOs, UN Agencies, national governments, and other actors.

At its core, REACT is a digital platform ([www.now-react.org](http://www.now-react.org)) developed with the generous support of LexisNexis Risk Solutions and RELX Group which streamlines the partnership-building process by:

- Mapping offers of tangible support from the business community
- Tracking educational challenges in need of solutions that arise around the world in real-time
- Matching business resources and assets with on-the-ground partners to create, accelerate and propagate new solutions



## PILOT PROJECTS

The REACT initiative has successfully created a number of pilot projects which showcase its potential to harness the collective power of these stakeholders into innovative and effective partnerships. Pilots include:

- Sumitomo Chemical and Oando Foundation established three solar-powered ICT centers in Nigeria, benefiting 2,400 displaced children
- A US-based language instruction company worked with an NGO to provide coding lessons to refugees and help them generate income as distance Arabic language instructors
- Silicon-valley software company CEREGO partnered with the Thaki charity, which collects and recycles electronic devices from corporations, to deliver education to refugees in Lebanon.

In addition to these pilot projects, more than 60 prominent multinational companies – including HP, Salesforce, and BCG – have joined REACT to pledge contributions in the form of financial assets, in-kind goods and service, technical expertise, and employee volunteers. The types of contributions reflect the diversity of the business community, ranging from innovative technological solutions such as cloud technologies and broadband connectivity to traditional goods and services such as textbooks or expertise in procurement and logistics.



### REACT & EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT (ECW)

As part of GBC-Education's commitment to mobilize \$100 million in corporate resources to support the ECW initiative over time, REACT provides a clear and innovative entry point for the business community to engage in genuinely collaborative and meaningful partnerships with implementing parties.

The "Education Cannot Wait" fund was established during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. ECW is the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and prolonged crises and serves as GBC-Education's main platform and entry point into countries facing crisis and emergency around the world.

➔ Please visit [www.now-react.org](http://www.now-react.org) to sign-up. If you have any questions about REACT, please contact Jake Cho at [jake@gbc-education.org](mailto:jake@gbc-education.org).

## LOOKING FORWARD

The REACT digital platform, the go-to source for business engagement in education in emergencies, sets the foundation for GBC-Education to:

- Build more partnerships and taking what works to scale
- Expand REACT's reach to local small and medium-sized enterprises and startups, as well as local grassroots organizations at the forefront of implementing programs in emergencies
- Harness the power of our integrated data analytics system to gather and analyze live data on public-private partnerships in education in emergencies, including identifying hotspots, urgently needed resources, and locations of current discrepancies and unmet resource needs