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Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations



INVITATION/SAVE THE DATE

HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT

SCALING INNOVATION IN EMERGENCY EDUCATION

UN HEADQUARTERS, 24 SEPTEMBER, 11:00-13:00

CONFERENCE ROOM 11

The Permanent Missions of Portugal and Jordan, the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI), Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action and the Global Platform for Syrian Students (GP4SYS) invite you to a **high-level side event to discuss strategies for investing in and accelerating the scale of innovations in emergency education.**

Confirmed speakers include:

- The Hon. **Christos Stylianides**, Commissioner, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, European Union
- H.E. Dr. **Bandar H.M. Hajjar**, President, Islamic Development Bank
- H.E. Ambassador **Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean
- The Hon. **Augusto Santos Silva**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Portugal
- The Hon. **Mary Kamel Kawar**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan
- Mr. **Svein Osttveit**, Director, Executive Office, Education Sector, UNESCO
- Ms. **Yasmine Sherif**, Executive Director, Education Cannot Wait

This Session includes a segment for the “voices from the ground” with three special testimonials by Ms. **Danielle Engel**, coordinator of the Youth Global Compact (United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA); Dr. **Sondus Alkadri**, Syrian alumni of the Porto University/ Global Platform for Syrian Students; Dr. **Marian Sedlak**, Vice-President for External Affairs Elect and current Liaison Officer for Human Rights and Peace Issues in the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA).

Background information and contacts are below.



República Portuguesa



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Challenge

There is widespread recognition that the world must do more to ensure that children and youth who flee conflict and violence can receive an education and skills training. The long-term economic benefits of education are clear; the costs to peace and security and human dignity of being excluded from education are equally clear.

Women and girls represent the first frontier in delivering better emergency education. Girls in emergency situations remain two-and-a-half times more likely to be out of school than boys. This is recognised by world leaders: Prime Minister Trudeau and Canada announced historic global and Canadian commitments in Charlevoix in June. Similarly, Commissioner Stylianides has put the weight of Europe behind this, and the EU Commission decided to allocate 10% of its humanitarian budget, which represents a ten-fold increase to education from 2015 to 2019. Many refugee-hosting countries are making tremendous contributions: the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which is host to 1.3 million refugees, has pledged not to allow any child to miss school. Yet, a lot remains to be done to make a quantum leap.

The last mile: Innovation for education

The world has committed, through SDG 4 on Education, to achieve inclusive and equitable quality education for all by 2030. The New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees and the Global Compact on Refugees seek to ensure that this commitment on education extends to migrants and refugees. But how will results materialize? A change in gear is necessary now. That change must involve not just individual agency or company efforts, but collectively action to leverage the best new ideas and innovations in education, matched with political support and investment needed to reach scale – so that no girl, and no child can be kept from their right to learn.

Increased spending is critical part of this equation. But innovations – new ways of connecting people, families, teachers, the academia and technology – are necessary to achieve the SDG, and to meet our human obligation in emergencies. The potential is clear: new learning tools exist to reach people with disabilities; they can connect families, teachers, and students around learning



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Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action



platforms; they are finding creative ways to support national schooling systems and alternatives outside of national structures.

The gap in tertiary education is particularly alarming. Less than 1% of refugees have access to higher education. Again, here, we see a particular impact on women and girls. For long-term stability and prosperity, young people in emergency situations need quality education, job-relevant training and vocational skills. There is a critical need for innovation and partnerships, to raise the level of access to tertiary education – at least by an order of magnitude in the next 5 years – and to ensure that at least half of those gaining access are women. Some projects as the Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies (RRM) supported by Portugal targeting the 18-24 age bracket should be scaled up and further developed.

Yet, in spite of a variety of pilot projects that have begun to address these challenges, most of these efforts provide impact numbers in the thousands whereas the need is much larger. 75 million children between the ages of 3-18 have their education disrupted in 35 countries; an estimated 89.2 million of youth aged 15-24 years old live in countries affected by emergencies and protracted crises.

This Session

The aim of this action-oriented session is to highlight investments, political commitments, and innovative projects that will enable scaling of the best new ideas in emergency education. Participants will emphasize the importance of innovation, collective action, increased investment, and concrete impact in achieving global goals for people affected by crises. In addition to the SDG targets, the Global Compact on Migration and the forthcoming Global Refugee Compact outcomes provide a frame to drive further action. Panelists are global leaders in emergency education who are committing their resources and institutional capacities to address these goals.

This Session will bring together a high level panel of speakers made up of representatives of governments, international and regional organizations, UN agencies, humanitarian and development organizations, academia, and youth engaged and committed to promoting higher education among populations affected by conflicts and facing emergency situations.



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Compact for Young People
in Humanitarian Action



H.E. Dr. Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, **H.E. Dr. Bandar M.H. Hajjar** President of the Islamic Development Bank, H.E. Ambassador **Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, **H.E. Dr Augusto Santos Silva**, Minister for Foreign Affairs from Portugal, **H.E. Mary Kamel Kawar**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, **Mr. Svein Osttveit**, Director, Executive Office, Education Sector, UNESCO and **Ms. Yasmine Sherif**, Executive Director, Education Cannot Wait are among the confirmed panelists.

Furthermore, **Danielle Engel**, **Sondus Alkadri** and **Marian Sedlak** will bring perspectives from the ground.

This session will be moderated by **Rahul Chandran**, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI).

For additional information and RSVP – please contact:

At the Portuguese Mission: Ruth Gonçalves, emergency.education2018@gmail.com

At the GAHI: Lesley Bourns, l.bourns@thegahi.org.

At the GP4SYS: Helena Barroco, helenabarroco@casadoregalo.pt

Please send an-email with your expression of interest to attend the event. In your email you should mention: your first and last name (as in your ID document), your phone number, email address, the name of your organization and position, and whether or not you are a holder of a UN pass.

Expressions of interest should be sent by 21 September for UN ground pass holders and by 19 September (12h00 New York time) for non UN ground pass holders.