



GERMUN 2019

Economic and Social Council Background Guide Update

I. Education in Post Conflict Situations

Recent Developments

In 2017, the former teacher and current United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated education is a basic human right, a transformational force for poverty eradication, an engine for sustainability, and a force for peace. He further points out four key areas to focus on: First - funding and financing. Investing in education is the most cost-effective way to drive economic development, improve skills and opportunities for youth, to unlock progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to prevent conflict and sustain peace. Second - focus on girls. Girls face a range of barriers from gender-based violence to schools that lack separate toilet facilities to the social and cultural norms that prevent girls from even attending school in some parts of the world. Just 1% of poor rural young women in low-income countries complete secondary school. Third - lifelong learning. Fourth - a focus on children and youth affected by conflict. Half of all refugee children are not in primary school, and only 75% of adolescents are in secondary school.¹ There is an immediate need and a challenge that is crucial to building a more peaceful, equal world. All of this highlights the importance of the Education Cannot Wait Fund.² In May 2018, UN Special Envoy for Education Gordon Brown said over 260 million children are not attending school today, and if current trends continue 400 million won't be educated beyond age 11 by 2030, the target to meet the UN goal of ensuring a primary and secondary education for all children. Therefore, youth activists delivered a petition to the UN Secretary-General with 1,5 million signatures from Pakistan and Bangladesh, adding to the 10 million signatures already collected from around the world. It calls on world leaders to launch a new International Finance Facility for Education that can provide an additional US\$10 billion to help send millions of marginalized boys and girls to school. The campaign received support from the UN Secretary General, global and regional banks.³ At least 750 million adults worldwide have no basic literacy skills. Two-thirds of them are women and 102 million young people aged between 15 and 24 years. As a result, the situation has barely improved compared to 2017. Many of the world's 192 million unemployed find no job because they lack basic skills.⁴ Only 44% of countries have made full legal commitments through international treaties to the cause of gender parity in education, according to the 2018 UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report Gender Review. The Review reports that 34% of countries have not achieved parity in primary, 55% in lower secondary, and 75% in upper secondary school.⁵

Funding

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) is the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crisis. In 2016, ECW was established during the World Humanitarian Summit by international humanitarian and development aid actors, along with public and private donors, to help reposition education as a priority on the humanitarian agenda, usher in a more collaborative approach among actors on the ground and foster additional funding to ensure that every crisis-affected child and young person is in school and learning. ECW has reached more than 765,000 children and youth with quality education – of which 364,000 are girls – in 19 crisis-affected countries since its start.⁶ The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Financing Conference took place in Dakar, Senegal, co-hosted by the French and Senegalese Presidents. The conference gathers heads of states and representatives from developing and donor countries, international organizations, private businesses and foundations, civil society organizations, all re-committing to place education at the top of their development priorities. The

¹ UN Statements, *Secretary-General's remarks on Financing the Future: Education For All*, 2017.

² Ibid.

³ AP NEWS, *\$10 billion campaign launched to educate every child by 2030*, 2018.

⁴ German UNESCO-Commission, *Press Statement*, 2018.

⁵ UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report Gender Review 2018: Meeting our Commitments to Gender Equality in Education*, 2018.

⁶ ECW, *About Us*, 2016.

conference aim was to achieve the goals of the GPE replenishment for 2018-2020 and make GPE a US\$2 billion a year organization by 2020.⁷

Conflict Areas

Today, more countries are involved in conflict than at any other time in the past three decades. One in three children and young people is out of school in countries affected by war or natural disasters. Adolescents in emergency countries face grim future with two in five 15 - 17 year old never completing primary school.⁸ A closer examination shows grave human rights abuses in countries at war; including using children as human shields, and recruiting them to fight – two of the six grave violations identified and condemned by the Security Council in 2005.⁹ 5,000 children in Afghanistan were either killed or maimed within the first three-quarters of 2018. Children there make up 89% of civilian casualties from explosive remnants of war, such as unexploded shells, mortars or grenades.¹⁰ Violent uprisings last year in Cameroon's north-west and south-west areas, have often targeted schools, students and teachers. 80 people were abducted from one school alone in November, and 93 villages to date have been destroyed due to conflict.¹¹ Two out of three children in the Central African Republic need humanitarian assistance, many have been displaced, separated from their parents, and live in a state of chronic malnutrition.¹² The war in Yemen is still ongoing and an entire generation of children in Yemen faces bleak future because of limited or no access to education. The total number of out-of-school children now stands at 2 million, and almost three quarters of public-school teachers have not been paid their salaries in over a year, putting the education of an additional 4,5 million children at grave risk. More than 2,500 schools are out of use, with two thirds damaged by attacks, 27% closed and 7% used for military purposes or as shelters for displaced people.¹³ Rohingya refugees in Myanmar – including many children - face widespread restrictions to their movement, hampering access to health and education services in central Rakhine State.¹⁴ In Somalia, more than 1,800 children were recruited by parties to the conflict within the first 9 months of the year. The number abducted were 1,278.¹⁵ A crumbling education system in Eastern Ukraine has forced 700,000 boys and girls to learn in dangerous and fragile conditions; sitting in classrooms pock-marked with bullet holes and playing in schoolyards with unexploded ordnance.¹⁶ In an effort to make children aware of the dangers, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and partners have been conducting mine risk education programmes since 2015, reaching over 500,000 children across eastern Ukraine. The UN agency has also provided psychosocial support to 270,000 children affected by the ongoing conflict.¹⁷ Half of Syria's children, that's 4 million, have grown up only knowing a life of violence, as the war-battered country enters its 8 year of conflict. In March 2018, the UN declared 2017 the deadliest year for Syrian children, when a reported 910 died from the ongoing conflict. Verification of additional numbers continues, and this data may be only the tip of the iceberg. UNICEF said that first-grade students can vary in age from 6 to 17 years old, and close to a third of students are dropping out of school nationwide. Establishing quality education to motivate children to go to school is needed. With access improving, UNICEF is scaling up its health, nutrition, and child protection support services.¹⁸

Conferences

From 3-5 December 2018, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) convened a high-level Global Education Meeting to review progress towards global education targets and commitments, in Brussels, Belgium. SDG 4 (quality education) is one of the goals up for in-depth review at the July 2019 session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and the meeting focused on this and related international commitments. In the resulting Brussels Declaration, participants committed to: including migrants and refugees in education systems and facilitating recognition of their qualifications; providing quality gender-responsive education; and strengthening education for global citizenship and sustainable development.¹⁹ From 10-11 December 2018, the Global

⁷ GPE Events, *GPE Financing Conference, an Investment in the Future*, Dakar, 2018.

⁸ UNICEF, Press Release, 2018.

⁹ UN News, *Children suffering 'atrocities' as number of countries in conflict hits new peak: UNICEF*, 2018.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ UN News, *Children's education latest victim of Yemen conflict: UNICEF*, 2018.

¹⁴ UN News, *Children suffering 'atrocities' as number of countries in conflict hits new peak: UNICEF*, 2018.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ UN News, *Deadly war weapons endanger lives of over 220,000 children in eastern Ukraine*, 2017.

¹⁸ UN News, *Four million Syrian children have only known war since birth: UNICEF*, 2018.

¹⁹ SDG Knowledge Hub, *Global Education Meeting Reviews Progress on SDG 4*, 2018.

Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was declared in Marrakech, Morocco. To set up a global guideline for migration including educational standard.²⁰

Further Knowledge

The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), launched by the UN in 2000 at the World Education Forum in Dakar, is committed to accelerating action on girls' education to realize a world where all girls and boys are empowered through quality education to realize their full potential and contribute to transforming societies where gender equality becomes a reality. By 2030, the UNGEI partnership aims to support: countries to achieve measurable change in girls' education and gender equality; and global and national development agendas to reflect emerging concerns on girls' education and gender equality, especially for the most marginalized. UNGEI is committed to responding to the urgency of action needed to tackle issues for today's generation of girls.²¹

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²⁰ UN, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, 2018.

²¹ UNGEI, *Vision & Mission*, 2016.

United Nations, News, *Four million Syrian children have only known war since birth: UNICEF*, 13 December 2018. Retrieved 08 January 2019 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028461>

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II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

Recent Developments

Recent progress for ensuring access to affordable, reliable and modern energy was made in the fields of electrification, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), and improvements in industrial energy efficiency. However, national priorities and policy ambitions still need to be strengthened to put the world on track to meet the energy targets for 2030.

From 2000 to 2016, proportion of the global population with access to electricity increased by almost ten percentage points, reaching 87%²². However, worldwide, about 1 billion people still remain without access to electricity. This forces people to rely on expensive and environmentally hazardous diesel or oil for energy.²³ In the LDCs, the proportion of the people with access to electricity more than doubled between 2000 and 2016²⁴, however the largest deficits in electricity remains in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Sustainable gains in access rates were achieved in rural areas. This is partly due to slower population growth but also aided by an upswing in off-grid solar electricity. Nonetheless, the access rate to electricity in rural areas (76%) still remains significantly lower than in urban areas (97%). Some 40 countries have met the target since 2010²⁵.

Energy efficiency continues to improve, which is offsetting carbon dioxide emissions, reducing energy demand and making energy more affordable. Renewable energy in the electricity sector has advanced rapidly, but progress is needed as well in the areas of transport, heating and cooking²⁶. The share of renewables in meeting global energy demand is expected to grow by one-fifth in the next five years to reach 12.4% in 2023.²⁷ The top 20 energy consuming economies globally –high- impact countries – accounted for more than 75 percent of global total primary energy supply. Industry has contributed much to declining global energy intensity, with an annual reduction of 2.2 percent in 2012–14 while the residential sector saw a small increase in energy intensity.²⁸

Faster uptake of modern forms of renewable energy is needed to meet the ambitious SDG target²⁹. Although the share of renewables in final energy consumption increased modestly, only 55% of the renewable share was derived from modern forms of renewable energy. Still frequently used are traditional forms of biomass (fuelwood, charcoal amongst other). It is projected that the share of renewable energy in total energy consumption is to reach 21% by 2030³⁰. The renewable energy industry is evolving rapidly and opportunities exist to significantly scale this up and encourage a true, global energy transformation³¹.

Global energy intensity decreased by 2.8% from 2014 to 2015³². Low- and middle-income countries are seeing the fastest declines in energy intensity, outpacing richer countries. High-income countries showed consistent declines but a slower pace than low and middle-income countries. Emerging economies in Asia and the Pacific and in Africa have now surpassed the global rate of improvement in energy intensity but their intensity levels are higher than the world average³³.

In 2016, 3 billion people, which account for 41% of the world's population. were still cooking with polluting fuel and stove combinations³⁴. Only an 10% increase was recorded in the access to clean cooking fuels and technologies since 2000. Using polluting fuel and stove combinations has an adverse impact on

²² Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, *Sustainable Development Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*, 2018.

²³ United Nations Development Programme, *Climate and Disaster Resilience: Sustainable Energy*, n.d.

²⁴ SDG Knowledge Platform, *SDG 7*, 2018.

²⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018*, 2018.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ International Energy Agency, *Renewables 2018: Market Analysis and Forecast from 2018 to 2023*, 2018.

²⁸ Sustainable Energy for All, *Energy Efficiency Potential by Sector, Data and Evidence*, n.d.

²⁹ SDG Knowledge Platform, *SDG 7*, 2018.

³⁰ UNDESA, *The SDGs Report 2018*, 2018.

³¹ UNDP, *Climate and Disaster Resilience*, n.d.

³² SDG Knowledge Platform, *SDG 7*, 2018.

³³ UNDESA, *The SDGs Report 2018*, 2018.

³⁴ SDG Knowledge Platform, *SDG 7*, 2018.

health and well-being, especially women and children suffer as they are typically the main procurers and users of household energy. Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and many parts of Asia have the largest populations using polluting fuels. A solution would be the transitioning to cleaner fuels and technologies as gas and electricity, as well as improvement in stove efficiency.³⁵

Overall, progress on SDG7 remains too slow to be on track to meet the global energy targets for 2030.

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³⁵ UNDESA, *The SDGs Report 2018*, 2018.

III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Recent Developments

The promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples remains a vital topic for the United Nations (UN), declaring 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019). It is aiming to protect and promote the various indigenous languages spoken as well as improve the life of the affected indigenous groups, thereby foster the fulfilling of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and protecting the cultural rights of indigenous peoples, as language is a key part of these unique cultures. It will officially be kicked-off at the Global Launch Event of IYIL2019 taking place in Paris, France at January 28, 2019.³⁶

Nevertheless, the rights of indigenous peoples are still endangered, especially in the case of migration. In his message for the annual International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, August 9, Secretary-General António Guterres stated 2018 that "Some are subject to displacement or relocation without their free, prior and informed consent. Others are escaping violence and conflict or the ravages of climate change and environmental degradation."³⁷ Furthermore, he stressed the importance of the Global compact for migration which will for the first time establish an international framework for cooperation, maximize the positive effects of migration and support vulnerable migrant groups like indigenous peoples and support the essential protection of their rights and identities. Concluding, Guterres calls for the realization of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly for the right of self-determination.³⁸ Still, the living conditions of indigenous peoples are inadequate, particularly in urban areas the conditions are unsafe and unsanitary. In Latin America for example, 40% of the indigenous groups are living in urban areas, in some countries of the region even up to 80% and are facing severe discrimination and a lack to public service.³⁹

Estimated 370 million Indigenous peoples are living across 90 countries, whereby they make up less than 5% of the world population, but still account for 15% of the world poorest.⁴⁰ This unevenness in the distribution of poverty among regions and social groups was a major issue at the 56th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) in New York from 29 January to 7 February 2018. The priority theme, eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all, set a focus of the CSocD to "the persistently high levels of poverty and deprivation among women and children, indigenous groups, older persons and persons with disabilities".⁴¹ At this session the CSocD drafted four draft resolutions, which the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted at its 17th plenary session in April 2018. In ECOSOC resolution 2018/5 the council calls for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcome poverty and for structural transformation that supports sustainable industrialization and agriculture investments. Further on, it urges states to respect and ensure the unrestricted access to social inclusion, education, decent work and inclusive labor markets, universal health coverage and infrastructure for vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples.⁴² Thereby, it strives to foster political and socioeconomic rights of this groups. The ECOSOC also approved the priority subject for the 57th CSocD session in 2019, February 11-29, which will be addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies, keeping the focus of the commission on the socioeconomic situation of vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples.⁴³

Despite the continued positive efforts on the national and international level, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, expressed in her statement to the 39th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), her concerns that the attacks, threats and criminalization of indigenous peoples defending their rights to protect their lands, territories and resources have been

³⁶ International Year of Indigenous Languages, *About IYIL2019: Background*, 2018.

³⁷ UN annual International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, *Messages: Secretary-General's Message*, 2018.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ UN News, *UN urges protection of indigenous peoples' rights during migration: Human rights*, 2018.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ UN Commission for Social Development, *Report on the fifty-sixth session: Economic and Social Council*, 2018.

⁴² UN Economic and Social Council, *Resolution E/RES/2018/5*, 2018.

⁴³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Resolution E/RES/2018/3*, 2018.

escalated. At worst, some indigenous peoples were not only seen as acting against national interests and development when trying to advocate their land-rights but became targets of armed groups, sometimes even police and army under acts of national security and natural resources demands. Further on, she described the lack of access to fair criminal and jurisdictional proceedings and legal counsel in case of (often nebulous) criminal charges.

Since her annual report to the HRC in 2017, her office sent 40 allegation letters to 19 countries, the EU and several private companies related to reports of violations of civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights.⁴⁴

A matter accentuated in her statement and the related Report to the HRC, is the new and expanding dimension of land encroachment by large scale projects.⁴⁵ The situation of land encroachment related incidents due to large-scale projects, extractive industry and supportive governments seems to worsen. New findings suggest that 2017 67% of 312 murdered people in 27 countries engaged in the defense of land, environmental and indigenous peoples' rights and that 80% of those killings happened in just four countries (Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the Philippines).⁴⁶

The situation on the rights of indigenous people was also a topic presented at the 73rd General Assembly (GA) Plenary session in September 2018 in New York. In her Statement to the GA Plenary, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, draw attention to the fact that indigenous people are occupying 22% of the earth landmass but 80% of the world's biodiversity can be found in their territories.⁴⁷ This underlines the essential role indigenous people play in environmental protection as well as mitigating and adaptation to climate change.⁴⁸ Additionally she highlighted "the importance of protecting and promoting the role of indigenous peoples' own institutions and ways of governing themselves. At the core of this are the rights to self-determination, self-governance and autonomy".⁴⁹

The GA on this occasion adopted without a vote resolution 73/156, stressing the need of cooperation with indigenous peoples through their own representative institutions, urges to contribute to related funds such as the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues, the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership. Furthermore, it reaffirmed its plea to comply with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁵⁰

Concluding, the outlined topic remains to be a severe issue, particularly referring to land encroachment and related violence against indigenous peoples, demonstrating the critical need to continue and strengthen efforts to promote – and in that end protect – the political, socioeconomic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples.

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⁴⁴ UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, *Statement of Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to the Human Rights Council 39th Session*, 2018.

⁴⁵ UN General Assembly, *Human Rights Council 39th session: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (A/HRC/39/17)*, 2018.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, *Statement of Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to the General Assembly 73rd Session*, 2018.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Rights of indigenous peoples, resolution 73/156 (A/C.3/73/L.24/Rev.1)*, 2018.

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