



Education in Emergencies Toolkit

Framing Note



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

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As the number, scale and duration of crises increase around the globe, children and young people see their right to education increasingly jeopardised. Education in Emergencies (EiE) programming is a way to ensure the right to education even during crises.

Education in Emergencies emphasises the importance of access to and quality of education, addresses the diverse needs of learners across all age groups and offers crucial protection elements, both physical and psychosocial, that can be lifesaving in crisis situations. EiE equips children and young people with the tools for survival and lays the foundation for future prospects, resilience, and sustainable development. It plays a crucial role in reducing vulnerabilities, fostering self-reliance, and achieving durable solutions for children and young people affected by emergencies, and can contribute to peace and security.

This Education in Emergencies toolkit aims to support the SDC and partners in expanding and strengthening the SDC's contributions for children and young people affected by emergencies and protracted crises. It can be applied at strategic and programmatic levels, to inform country programmes and projects,

support implementing partners, guide policy dialogue and help with quality assurance.

Aligned with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, recommendations throughout the toolkit apply in fragile contexts and protracted crises and all types of humanitarian crisis contexts such as forced displacement, conflict, disasters associated with natural hazards and health crises.

The toolkit consists of different modules that describe sector standards and best practice approaches for various sub-themes in EiE. All modules include examples and concrete tools illustrating how EiE can be integrated into humanitarian responses and protracted crisis programmes. It is important to underline that all tools and approaches presented in this toolkit need to be contextualised to be relevant for the specific needs, risks and vulnerabilities of the children and young people they aim to support.

Additional tailored support from the SDC head office or Regional Education/Protection/EiE specialists and the SDC education backstopping team is available if required. You can contact us at education@eda.admin.ch

Education in Emergencies definition

The Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), defines EiE as “quality learning opportunities for all ages in situations of crisis, including early childhood development, primary, secondary, non-formal, technical, vocational, higher and adult education.

EiE provides physical, psychosocial, and cognitive protection that can sustain and save lives. Common situations of crisis in which EiE is essential include conflicts, situations of violence, forced displacement, disasters, and public health emergencies.”

Switzerland's engagement in Education in Emergencies

Education in Emergencies is a strategic focus area for Switzerland and is considered a key element in protecting the most vulnerable people. This commitment is highlighted in Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy, in which EiE is recognised as a priority area of humanitarian aid.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's (SDC) Thematic Guidance on Basic Education and Vocational Skills Development states that the “SDC strengthens its engagement in education in emergencies and protracted crises to ensure children's protection and basic education needs are addressed, including those of both the displaced and affected host communities, as well as to ensure that the national education systems' capacity is strengthened to cope with the crisis.” ‘Basic education’ is understood to cover all stages of education, in line with INEE's definition (see above). The SDC's Operational Concept on Protection 2021-24¹ embraces EiE as an integral part of protection and promotes integrated EiE/child protection (CP) programming to respond to child-specific needs,

vulnerabilities and protection risks girls and boys face in emergencies. Beyond acute humanitarian crisis situations, the SDC is engaged in education and vocational skills development as part of its bilateral cooperation. Education systems are increasingly challenged by fragility, climate change, health pandemics and protracted crises. Making education systems more crisis-resilient, and adapting education provision to the needs of crisis-affected populations, have become important imperatives in many partner countries of bilateral cooperation.

Switzerland further reinforces its commitment to EiE through multilateral cooperation, including its contribution to Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the United Nations' global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises. Switzerland also plays an important role in international policy dialogue and coordination around EiE through its partnerships with key actors such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE).

1. You need to be logged into the E+E Education Shareweb in order to access this document.

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