



Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
Réseau Inter-Agences pour l'Éducation en Situations d'Urgence
La Red Interagencial para la Educación en Situaciones de Emergencia
Rede Inter-Institucional para a Educação em Situação de Emergência
الشبكة المشتركة لوكالات التعليم في حالات الطوارئ

NEWS: United Nations General Assembly adopts Resolution on Education in Emergencies

Sent to the Main INEE Listserv 21 July 2010

Dear INEE Members,

On 9 July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a first-of-its-kind resolution on education in emergencies entitled "[The right to education in emergency situations.](#)" (A/64/L.58). This resolution is a major advocacy achievement for the field of education in emergencies, and has been brought about by the hard work of many INEE members, member agencies and supportive national governments.

The resolution reaffirms that everyone shall enjoy the human right to education. The resolution urges Member States to ensure access to education in emergency situations for all affected populations, while implementing strategies and policies to ensure and support the realization of this right as an integral element of humanitarian assistance and response. The resolution twice mentions the [INEE Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response, Recovery](#), emphasizing the importance of its use by education coordination bodies, such as the Education Cluster, as a coordination tool and urging the use of the Standards in all phases of the planning, design, construction and reconstruction of educational facilities.

The resolution also urges Member States to criminalize attacks on educational buildings under their domestic law, and further urges them to implement gender-sensitive policies and programme interventions to ensure equal access to safe, quality and relevant education. States and other relevant actors are called upon to ensure the facilitation of early access to education and training for children and adults in secure, friendly environments in the aftermath of emergencies. The resolution also calls upon Member States and the private sector to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels and to consider increasing their contributions to education programmes defined in humanitarian appeals.

The resolution was co-sponsored by Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Norway and Qatar. Speaking at the adoption of the resolution, the Ambassador of Qatar to the United Nations said that the resolution illustrates the level of international dedication to ensure the protection of the fundamental right to education. He praised the resolution, describing it as integrated and holistic that addresses the legal, political, humanitarian, and funding dimensions of the issue. The Ambassador of Belgium to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the European Union, thanked the governments that forged a cross-regional partnership to build on the March 2009 [General Assembly debate on Education in Emergencies](#), and stated that "the message of the resolution is clear: education in emergencies deserves full attention, at the same level as other equally important, life-saving needs which humanitarian assistance aims to address during an emergency."

The INEE Secretariat applauds the adoption of the General Assembly resolution and urges Member States and other partners working on education in emergencies to translate the commitments in the resolution into tangible improvements in the quality and access to safe education for girls, women, boys and men in emergency settings. Some ways INEE members can leverage this resolution in future work might include lobbying national governments affected by crisis as well as donor governments to:

- Ensure that all people affected by crisis and instability have access to quality, relevant and safe education opportunities;
- Work to integrate education services into all emergency interventions as an essential life-saving and life-sustaining component of humanitarian response;
- Provide sustainable funding and develop holistic policies to ensure education preparedness, crisis prevention, mitigation, response and recovery;
- Promote and apply the INEE Minimum Standards, ensuring that all education programmes preparing for and responding to crisis are consistent with the Standards and accountable for quality and results.

Advocacy for more specific topics mentioned in the resolution could also be undertaken, including the issue of protecting education from attack, work on disaster risk reduction, and support to the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the IASC Education Cluster.

We would also welcome hearing from INEE members if and how they use the General Assembly resolution in advocacy efforts, and will share further ideas back with the network in future listserv communications. Please email network@ineesite.org to share your ideas.

Sincerely,

INEE Secretariat