

UKFIET event: Education for Children Affected by Emergencies

3rd October 2018, 9:00-17:30

Venue: Cambridge Education, 22 Station Rd, Cambridge CB1 2JD

Aims and audience:

Children affected by conflict and crisis, especially girls, are among those most likely to miss out on education. There has been an increasing awareness of the need to invest in education in emergencies, with humanitarian agencies acknowledging the need for longer-term solutions, and development actors increasing their focus on conflict-affected countries. This one-day conference aims to showcase UK knowledge and expertise in this area, promote dialogue and build partnerships for the generation and use of evidence in education in emergencies and protracted crises. The audience will be a productive mix of academics, researchers, practitioners, donors and policy makers. The conference will focus on three salient themes within education in emergencies, and will provide interactive workshops, presentations and keynote speeches in order to promote fruitful dialogue and partnerships for each.

Themes:

1) Gender and inclusion in emergency contexts:

As a result of conflict and disaster, countless groups of children experience significant constraint on their capability to learn. These include children who have been displaced, children from ethnic or religious minorities, children with disabilities, children without parental care and children living in extreme poverty. Whilst both boys and girls make up these excluded groups, the constraints that are experienced – be it due to displacement, disability or poverty – *are compounded and multiplied when they are experienced by girls*. Both boys' and girls' education suffers when the insecurity of displacement forces them to bring income to the family, but girls have the added constraints of vulnerability to sexual abuse, extra domestic duties, menstruation and the prospect of early marriage. This stream will explore the complex challenges surrounding gender and inclusion in emergency contexts. It will examine how conflict and disaster compounds constraints on vulnerable groups, particularly girls and children with disability. It will discuss promising protection and inclusion interventions and also explore how evidence on 'what works' for girls and children with disability can be applied to emergency contexts.

2) Forced displacement:

With over 30 million children living in forced displacement, and with the average length of displacement of approximately 20 years, the need for long term solutions to providing education for refugees and internally displaced people is clear, but the challenges, and politics are complex. Since 2012 the UNHCR's strategy has promoted integration of refugee learners into national education systems, rather than in segregated camp schools. Through presentations and workshops this stream will explore the dilemmas around refugee education: which curriculum? which medium of instruction? who teachers refugees? who pays the teachers? It will also explore innovative approaches to providing education for forcibly displaced people.

3) Political economy of aid, policy and practice to education in crises

There is a growing recognition that an equitable approach to providing education in conflict-affected contexts is not just a technical issue but also a problem of political economy, power and geopolitics. In terms of external development assistance, both the volume, geography and focus of aid to education in conflict and crisis affected contexts has been highly skewed towards certain countries and certain types of education, which often undermines its humanitarian objectives. Similarly, within conflict and crisis affected countries, equitable education funding and provision is often undermined by national vested political interests, ideologies and actors that can often exacerbate inequalities and fuel drivers of conflict in and through education. Through presentations and workshops this stream will explore key challenges of power and inequality in the field of education in emergencies and explore possible approaches and strategies to support more equitable and peace promoting global and national educating policy approaches.

Programme for the day

Coffee and registration/Marketplace stalls 8.30-9			
<p>Welcome and introduction 9:00 – 10:30</p>	<p>Welcome from the UKFIET Executive Committee and introduction to the aims and structure of the event from Sharon Tao (Cambridge Education)</p> <p>Keynote speakers to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department for International Development policy and programming: Emily Todd (DFID) ○ European Union policy and programming: Stijn De Lameillieure (EU) ○ Political Economy: Mario Novelli (University of Sussex) ○ Gender and Inclusion: Dana Burde (New York University/JEiE) ○ Forced Displacement: Benoit D’Ansembourg (UNHCR) <p>Chair: Tejendra Pherali (IoE-UCL)</p>		
Break/Marketplace 10:30 – 11:00			
<p>Thematic workshops 11:00 – 12.30</p>	<p>Political Economy - National Actors & Issues: Kelsey Shanks (University of Ulster/Global Challenge Research Fund), Tejendra Pherali (IoE-UCL)</p>	<p>Gender and Inclusion - Exploring challenges and promising approaches for girls: Dana Burde (NYU/JEiE), Elaine Unterhalter (IoE-UCL), Kate Jeffries (DFID)</p>	<p>Forced Displacement - Dilemmas and challenges: Hiba Salem (REAL Centre), Ruth Naylor (Education Development Trust), Stephanie Bengtsson (IIEP-UNESCO), Mai Abu Moghli (UCL)</p>
Lunch/Marketplace 12:30-1:30			
<p>Thematic workshops 1:30 – 3:00</p>	<p>Political Economy - Political Economy Analysis: Alan Smith (University of Ulster,) Simone Datzeberger (IoE-UCL)</p>	<p>Gender and Inclusion - Exploring challenges and promising approaches for children with disability: Maria Kett (UCL/Leonard Cheshire), Julia McGeown (Humanity International), Emma Sarton (Enable-Ed)</p>	<p>Forced Displacement - Innovative and promising approaches: Charlotte Bergin (Save the Children), Kate Radford (War Child), Benoit D’Ansembourg (UNHCR), Catherine Gladwell and David Hollow (Refugee Support Network)</p>
Break/Marketplace 3.00-3:30			
<p>Plenary debate 3.30-4.45</p>	<p>Aid to Education in Emergencies and protracted crises: Key Challenges and Emerging Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic perspective – Alan Smith (University of Ulster) ● Practitioner perspective – John Shotton, Girls’ Education in South Sudan (GESS) programme ● INGO perspective – Benoit D’Ansembourg (UNHCR) ● Donor/Policy Maker perspective – Emily Todd (DFID) ● Donor/Policy Maker perspective – Stijn De Lameillieure (EU) <p>Chair: Ruth Naylor (Education Development Trust)</p>		
<p>Presentation 4.45 – 5:15</p>	<p>Taking the research agenda forward – opportunities for future research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Journal of Education in Emergencies – Dana Burde ● Global Challenge Research Fund – Kelsey Shanks <p>Chair: Freda Wolfenden (Open University)</p>		
<p>5:15-5:30</p>	<p>UKFIET Executive Committee summary and closing remarks – Mario Novelli and Freda Wolfenden</p>		
<p>5.30-7.00</p>	<p>Drinks reception</p>		