

Dear Colleagues

Save the Children and UNICEF have been leading the coordination efforts of the global Education Cluster for the past four years following a unique UN-INGO co-leadership arrangement put in place in 2007 at the request of the IASC. Since its establishment, the Education Cluster has been active in most major emergencies including responding to large scale emergencies in Haiti, Myanmar, the occupied Palestinian territories, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

Despite the continuing commitment of our two organisations and recognised successes in ensuring that children and young people caught up in humanitarian crises receive a quality education, the arrangement has not been without challenges. An independent management review of the cluster co-leadership arrangement, stressed that there is a need to improve the speed and the effectiveness of the response to education in emergencies.

In order to address this challenge, as recommended by the review, we have agreed to:

1. Leverage the partnership and cluster leadership to achieve more and better results for children.
2. More clearly define co-leadership and clarify procedures for joint management, decision-making and accountability.
3. Monitor and report on the effectiveness of the cluster and our partnership and the results it helps achieve.
4. Strengthen buy-in and commitment of other agencies in the Education Cluster to extend a sense of collective responsibility beyond the co-leads.
5. Continue to mobilise increased funding for education in emergency situations and diversify funding for the cluster.

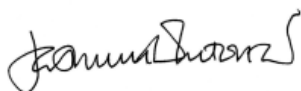
The continued success of our partnership requires that we make the best possible use of scarce resources to achieve maximum results for children and young people.

It will also require mainstreaming Education Cluster work into our organisations and that senior leadership, including country representatives and directors, advocate for education as an important priority during the early stages of an emergency.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment from both organisations to continuing the co-leadership of the Education Cluster and to working together to ensure that we deliver fully on our shared accountabilities.

Thank you once again for all the tremendous efforts you are making to ensure that all children enjoy their rights to a decent education and a safe place to be a child.

With very best wishes,



Jasmine Whitbread
CEO, Save the Children



Anthony Lake
Executive Director, UNICEF