LEARNING THE LESSONS
From Promises to Progress

Young people’s call for action on the Sustainable Development Goal for Education
For the first time ever, actors all over the world, from every country and every sector, have come together to create new development goals.

Except they’re not just goals. They’re commitments. Governments aren’t just laying out a vision. They’re making a promise.

Since 2000, more children and youth have had an education than ever before. But recently, progress on MDG 2 stalled. And over the last three years, global education has actually been regressing.

The out of school population continues to rise. The most marginalized children are being left behind. Conflict and health epidemics are disrupting the schooling of millions. Aid spending on education remains at hugely insufficient levels. Terrorism is excluding terrified students from the place they should feel safest.

The SDGs call for us to finish what we started, and then go even further. But we’re making commitments that we cannot fulfil without redoubling our efforts—without clear strategies for implementation and sufficient, targeted investment.

We have a choice. A choice between a more prosperous, more educated and more equal world, or more of the same. The right choice is clear, and we need action from day one.

For three years, young people have been at the forefront of conversations about the new development agenda. We helped build it. We will help implement it. And we will hold governments accountable to it.

#EducationFirst

We are the largest generation of young people the world has ever seen.

We are the beneficiaries and the custodians of the SDGs.

The world is united on the promise of a better world. Now it’s time for progress.
The international community must take action from day one. Learn the lessons of the last fifteen years. Implement and evaluate a thorough strategy at country level with the SDG commitment at its heart, recognizing education as a gateway to achieving all of the other goals.

Learn from the successes and failures of the Millennium Development Goals: implementation needs to be more consistent, response to stalled progress needs to be better co-ordinated, monitoring and measuring strategies need to be thorough, data needs to be disaggregated, and investment needs to be sufficient and targeted.

World leaders must be completely transparent in their obligation to fulfil the SDGs. They must always strive to do better.

Ensure the promises are truly universal, not exclusive, and that the benefits are passed on to all children and young people equally. Recognise and respond to the specific needs and circumstances of the hardest-to-reach young people by making sure school is accessible, safe and inclusive for all.

Afford special attention to the attendance, achievement and completion rates of the most marginalized, staging proper intervention and allocating funding to ensure they progress at the same rate as their peers.

Provide inclusive platforms and structured opportunities for young people to support governments in implementing the SDGs. Empower them to be genuine partners in holding the international community accountable for its commitments.

Work in partnership with a wide spectrum of IGOs, NGOs, private sector, academia, and other education actors to scale up successes, collaborate across borders, share best practices and monitor global progress.

Focus on the most marginalized
We have no time to waste. We all must help the world meet its target.

Years of consultation have brought us to this moment. But this is not the end. It's just the beginning.

Upload a short video on Vine, Twitter, Instagram or YouTube.

Say who you are and where you’re from. Make your pledge to help the world achieve the SDG on Education. Tell us how you’ll be holding your government accountable.

Tag your video with #EduPledge