

Open letter to the G8 calling for a Global Fund for Education

The letter below will be sent to the leaders of the G8 countries ahead of the summit in L'Aquila, which runs from the 8th to the 10th of July this year. Moral leaders headed by Desmond Tutu have called on the G8 to revitalise their commitment to Education for All by creating a fully resourced Global Fund for Education. It is crucial that we show support for this move in the UK through the media in order to put further pressure on the Prime Minister to respond to the demand.

To the Leaders of the G8:

We, the undersigned, are writing to implore the leaders of the world's richest countries to renew their commitment to the children of the world by revitalizing the global compact on Education for All. At this year's G8, we urge those same leaders to announce an agreement to launch a fully resourced **Global Fund for Education**.

We are heartened by the commitment of the United States President, Barack Obama, to provide a contribution of at least \$2 billion dollars to a Global Fund for Education which would help to eliminate the global education deficit by 2015. Such a bold and ambitious plan should be endorsed by other members of the G8 through a public commitment to such an initiative, which must be launched before the end of the year with full funding. A Global Fund for Education would ensure that the funding shortfall is no longer the main impediment to progress on basic education, and moreover that those investments have the greatest impact on access to and quality of education.

At this time of fiscal crises, it is even more imperative that we provide the safety net of knowledge to the world's poorest children and save them from paying with their lives for our financial mistakes. Education must be an integral part of the global response to the economic crisis. Without skills such as literacy, numeracy and problem-solving, millions of children and adults are trapped in poverty. Education is the key to unlocking inter-generational deprivation, as it offers the knowledge people need to live healthy, happy lives.

By investing in education, the G8 can leverage huge returns in women and children's health, nation and peace-building, and global economic development now and in the future. At this critical time, millions of children are dropping out of school to join the labor market, governments are being forced to cut their education budgets and total aid commitments to basic education are dropping at an alarming rate.

We are making an urgent and personal appeal for the G8 to achieve Education for All by committing to launch a Global Fund for Education by the end of the year.

Current signatories:

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Queen Rania of Jordan
Mohammed Yunus

At RESULTS we are working with our partners to secure further signatures for the letter.