

# An Open Letter on behalf of the 175 Million under fives excluded from early childhood education who can't attend meetings.

**To: António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General**  
**Member States of the United Nations**  
**Gordon Brown, United Nations Secretary-General's**  
**Special Envoy for Global Education**  
**Mr. Leonardo Garnier, Special Advisor to the Secretary-**  
**General for the Transforming Education Summit**

Early childhood is a critical window of development. Ninety percent of a child's brain develops before the age of five, yet 175 million children around the world are not enrolled in pre-primary education.

This is why we - the organisations and individuals supporting children of pre-primary age - are calling on Summit participants - domestic governments and donors alike - to commit to **guaranteeing a minimum of two years of high-quality child-centered pre-primary education for all children.**

The Transforming Education Summit is the moment to get things on track. The summit has correctly identified the importance of prioritising investment in pre-primary as a key driver of equity and inclusion in education, but real outcomes, targets and action are required - especially to promote gender equality.

**We - the organisations and individuals supporting children under 5 - are calling governments to:**

**1. Invest 10% of all education funding to early childhood education:** Every government should ensure that early childhood education is included in education sector planning and allocate a minimum of 10% of their education budgets into pre-primary (early childhood) education. Donor governments should equally invest 10% of education aid into pre-primary (early childhood) education. This would secure two years of free early childhood education.

**2. Support early years education and care in emergency and fragile contexts:** Direct funds to support children and their families, including those who are displaced, who are struggling to keep their children safe and to meet their children's basic needs including access to psychosocial support services for improved wellbeing and resilience.

**3. Invest in Early Childhood Development interventions that support learning:** To ensure quality learning, urgently expand multi-sectoral investments in the core components of nurturing care (good health, play, adequate protection, nutrition, opportunities for learning, safety and security, and responsive care) as an essential part of development assistance, emergency response, and humanitarian action.

We are now just eight years away from 2030. Every subsequent year of delay raises the cost of inaction, putting the SDG 4 target - for all girls and boys to have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education - further out of reach. With a firm commitment aligned to broader objectives around mobilising more resources for education, we can secure young children's futures.

Signed:



Plan International



Sesame Workshop

The LEGO Foundation

The Lego Foundation



Arab Network for  
Early Childhood



International Rescue  
Committee



BRAC



Theirworld



Joan Lombardi,  
Early Opportunities  
Initiative



The Education  
Commission



Porticus Amsterdam  
CV



ISSA - International Step  
by Step Association



Global Business  
Coalition for  
Education



iACT



ARNEC  
Asia-Pacific Regional Network  
for Early Childhood



Amna



Early Childhood  
Development Action  
Network

The Asia-Pacific  
Regional Network  
for Early Childhood  
(ARNEC)