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**UNICEF Regional Director for
Europe & Central Asia, Afshan Khan
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Every child has a right to an education — and to building a better life with less poverty, improved health, and a chance at a peaceful, stable future.

But this is especially true for children affected by emergencies — and those who have been uprooted from their homes due to conflict.

They need education not only to provide a sense of normalcy in the short term — but to acquire the skills they need to rebuild their communities once the emergency subsides.

Children in conflict-affected countries are 30 per cent less likely to complete primary school — and 50 per cent less likely to complete lower-secondary school.

And emergencies are already rolling back education gains in many countries — including those in West and Central Africa, because of Ebola, and attacks of girls’ education in Afghanistan.

This matters for two reasons.

First — because the number of children uprooted from their homes is at its highest point in decades.

And second — because by 2030, we expect that more than 80 per cent of the world's poor will live in fragile and conflict affected contexts.

UNICEF is doing all we can to support these needs, and help all children — including those on the move — access quality education

In many countries affected by emergencies, UNICEF is the largest provider of education. Last year alone, we supported almost seven million children with education in emergencies services.

We have a number of comparative advantages — our longstanding presence in communities, our close partnerships with host governments, and the expertise and dedication of our staff members and our partners worldwide.

But we must do more. The needs are fast outstripping our ability to deliver on behalf of these children and young people.

Roughly half of all education programmes in humanitarian settings are unfunded. That means for every child that has access to a safe and secure learning environment, another child does not.

We must not accept this. UNICEF calls on all of our partners worldwide to make this a top funding priority, so we can reach even more children who need our support.

And we need to work together to develop new solutions that can support children's learning wherever they are — including using technology for remote learning.

Please join us as we seek to serve and support every child — especially those who are living through emergencies.

Like every child, they too deserve every opportunity at a future.

Thank you.
