

## PlanBørnefonden response to Organisation Strategy for Denmark's Engagement with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) 2023-2026

PlanBørnefonden works to address priorities regarding Education in Emergencies through its Danish Alliance funded by ECW (co-led with Save the Children) and via our Plan International country offices where ECW provides key support for our humanitarian interventions in settings of conflict, crisis, and climate disasters. We appreciate the support by DK MFA given to ECW while recognizing the increasing humanitarian needs in countries addressed in the development strategy 'the world we share'. Our main response is regarding the identified Danish priorities with a note of appreciation of the intent to promote the complementarity between ECW and GPE and ensure synergies where possible.

### **Advancing commitment to gender equality:**

We appreciate the strong focus on gender equality and recommend emphasizing that a commitment to gender equality in EiECP is also a commitment to address barriers to education and boost progress towards important social shifts, such as the reduction of gender-based violence and early marriage. Similarly, a commitment to gender equality when aiming to secure education as an integral part of humanitarian response is also about strengthening women's and girls' inclusion and leadership in decision-making roles and as role models. And that this needs to start right from early childhood when ideas about gender identity and expression start forming and continue into young adulthood. This is crucial in both emergencies as well as in protracted crises where inequitable gender norms and existing socioeconomic gender disparities are often aggravated and reinforced by discriminatory practices, and socio-cultural norms that undermine women's rights, and educational prospects.

We suggest highlighting that a commitment to gender equality in education is a commitment to inclusive and equitable quality education and essential to improve holistic learning outcomes for all children in all their diversity around the world. And that this - in its essence - means a commitment to gender transformative education.

### **Strengthening the hum-dev nexus:**

We suggest drawing on the current CSO recommendation paper being developed for the upcoming DK MFA and BHA/USAID co-hosted event on localization in the humanitarian, development, peace, and climate nexus, recognizing that Danish NGOs and their partners have successfully piloted flexible and innovative funding mechanisms for local actors across a range of contexts. This, among others, should lead to a recommendation for continued funding and growth of community-led initiatives that cut across the humanitarian, development, and climate sectors.

Likewise, the hum-dev is also where overlaps with GPE mandate and areas of strength should be further honed, in particular in contexts of protracted crisis. Here the MYRP, Education Response Plans/Crisis-sensitive educational planning and (gender-sensitive) Education Sector Plans present an area of intersecting expertise, encouraging sector-wide mechanisms for monitoring of education outcomes for all. Further coordination, through e.g. a roadmap for increased collaboration with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and other major education funds, should be pursued.