

reimagine education

unicef 
for every child



The world is facing a learning crisis.

Millions of children and young people are not developing the skills they need to break out of poverty. The growth of technology and the increasingly broad range of actors providing online learning means we can deliver learning opportunities anywhere, at any time. But more than half of the world's children and young people are on the wrong side of the digital divide, limiting access to the same opportunities as their connected peers.

The cost of inaction will be high. The World Bank estimates a loss of US\$10 trillion in earnings over the lifetime of this generation of children and young people

if urgent action is not taken to address the learning crisis.

We urgently need to reimagine education. A modern education should build and accredit basic skills – reading, writing and math – as well as skills in problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking that young people need for work, to start a business and to engage productively in their communities.

The availability and potential of technology means that **digital learning should be part of a basic basket of essential services** for every child and young person.

This means connecting every child and young person – some **3.5 billion by 2030** – to world-class digital solutions that offer personalized learning to leapfrog to a brighter future.

Fostering partnerships across public and private sectors – and with young people themselves – is the only way to do this. That is why the **Reimagine Education** initiative is asking partners to come together in a global movement. We are calling for:

- 1 Every corporate provider of digital learning to work with us to increase access to their content and platforms.** This means personalizing learning based on what children and young people want and need to learn – in languages they understand. Using modern technologies to build and accredit skills and track learning progress will be critical for students, families, teachers, governments and businesses.
- 2 An initial US\$3 billion in public financing for the Giga initiative** (connecting all schools to the internet) that will catalyze US\$428 billion of private and institutional finance over the next decade for connectivity. In addition, we are inviting expertise from industry partners to help map school connectivity status in real time and provide digital learning solutions.
- 3 The international community – particularly the private sector – to radically lower the cost of digital devices** so they are available to every child and young person, no matter what their circumstances.
- 4 All Mobile Network Operators to develop solutions that allow digital learning content to be accessed anywhere and to be affordable,** including through zero-rating of content.
- 5 Every government to create opportunities for young people to play a part in re-imagining education,** including volunteering initiatives, mentorship and peer education.

The cost of digital learning for every child and young person is approximately **\$474.5 billion** by 2030 and with lower costs if implementation is at scale. This includes approximately **\$7.1 billion** for digital learning; **\$428 billion** for connecting every school to the internet; \$38 billion for devices and **\$1.4 billion** for engagement of young people. With a committed, global coalition of partners, this is achievable.

Reimagine Education is supported by Generation Unlimited, a global initiative to ensure that largest generation of young people in history is prepared for the transition to work and engaged citizenship. It requires multi-sector partnerships to expand education, training and employment opportunities for young people on an unprecedented scale. Convened by the UN Secretary-General, GenU calls for a movement of world leaders, business partners and civil society to rally investment and put connectivity and digital learning in the hands of every child and young person.