

## Cosponsor the Education for All Act of 2011

**The EFA Act of 2011 was introduced by Reps. Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Dave Reichert (R-WA).**

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### What does the Education for All Act Do?

The EFA bill seeks to ensure the U.S. policy contributes to a successful international effort to provide all children with a quality basic education.

To achieve the goal of universal quality basic education, the EFA Act lays out U.S. policy that includes working with other countries, international organizations, and civil society to:

- assist developing countries and strengthen their educational systems;
- assist NGOs and multilateral organizations; and
- promote education as the foundation for community development.

### The EFA Act Also Supports the Following:

**Increase Access:** The U.S. strategy to achieve Education for All seeks to increase access for all children, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups, including girls, children affected by conflict or humanitarian crises, disabled children, children in remote or rural areas, religious or ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, orphans and children impacted by HIV/AIDS, child laborers and victims of trafficking.

**Improve Quality:** To ensure efforts to improve the quality of education, the bill directs improved monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness and quality of basic education programs and directs the US to develop specific indicators to measure learning outcomes.

**Build Country Capacity and Country Ownership:** The bill US support to help developing countries create and implement national education plans to achieve quality universal basic education. It also requires the U.S. to align assistance to support these plans; coordinate and integrate bilateral and multilateral assistance so that aid is directly responsive to country needs, capacity, and commitment; as well as promote sustainable development.

**Multilateral Assistance:** The bill calls on the U.S. to support a multilateral education initiative, like the Fast Track Initiative. that adheres to strong principles of aid effectiveness. In difficult economic times, coordinating aid with other countries provides a cost-effective way to deliver aid to education without having to expand bilateral aid. It reduces overhead, relying on donor agencies with the lowest unit cost and the greatest comparative advantage to deliver its support in each country – ensuring that donor aid has the most impact.

**Support Communities of Learning:** Recognizing the importance of holistic development of communities, the U.S. should utilize schools as the foundations for community development and build them as centers of integrated development assistance programs, such as health, nutrition, adult literacy, business training, democracy education, and housing programs.

**Children in Conflict:** Considering that over half of children out of school live in countries in conflict, the EFA Act focuses on assisting children affected by conflict or humanitarian crises

### **How Will the Policy Be Implemented?**

In order to implement the policy, the following activities and concepts may be used to expand access and improve the quality of basic education:

- monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes;
- train quality teachers and build adequate infrastructure;
- eliminate fees;
- build systems to ensure oversight of education services and financing;
- ensure that schools are not incubators for violent extremism and are safe places for learning;
- promote programs that teach civic education and life skills; and
- support interventions to increase access for the most disadvantaged populations.

### **Does It Address Children Affected by Conflict and Crises?**

Considering that over half of children out of school live in countries in conflict, the EFA Act focuses on assisting children affected by conflict or humanitarian crises and would support efforts to:

- ensure a continuity of educational activities;
- reestablish formal education services and/or provide safe places for learning;
- promote out-of-school programs and flexible-hour schooling;
- provide infrastructure — even temporary — for education services;
- provide necessary materials to train and support teachers; and
- promote efforts to reintegrate teachers and students of conflict.

### **The Bill Also Directs:**

- The President to create a comprehensive strategy on Education for All to achieve the targets and goals of Education for All as prioritized in this bill.
- The U.S. to improve coordination and reduce duplication within the U.S. and with foreign donor governments and international organizations at the global and country levels.
- The creation of the position of the Education for All Coordinator, which would oversee and carry out Education for All policies, ensure coordination within the U.S. Government and with NGOs and international partners, and convene an annual meeting to evaluate progress in the U.S. strategy for Education for All.
- The President to submit an annual report to Congress that will include efforts to achieve the goals and implement the strategy.