



# Be the Light

## 2018 Synod-Wide Hunger Mission Send Kids to School

### Fact Sheet

A **Global Crisis** exists when 263 million children and youth are out of school. The total includes:

- \* 61 million children of primary school age
- \* 60 million of lower secondary school age, and
- \* 142 million of upper secondary school age (UNESCO, UIS)

#### Who are these children and youth?

Of all the regions, subSaharan Africa has the highest rates of those out of school:

- 20% are between 6-11 years
- 33% are between 12-14 years
- 60% are between 15-17 years

#### What are the barriers to education?

- \* The poorest children face vast challenges
- \* Girls are still more likely than boys to never go to school
- \* Armed conflict poses another major barrier (UNESCO)

#### What are the facts about refugee children?

- \* 6.4 million refugee children and adolescents are primary and secondary school-going age, between 5-17 years of age.
- \* The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) states that more than **half** of the 6 million school-aged children have **NO** school to go to.
- \* This too, is a **crisis** for millions of refugee children.

#### Why is education so important?

#### **EDUCATION IS A RIGHT**

The words of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights remain as relevant as ever. ....Education shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups, and further the maintenance of peace.

## **EDUCATION PROTECTS**

This is especially important for refugee children who find sanctuary, friendship and routine in a classroom. Classrooms can protect them from trafficking, illegal adoption, child labor, sexual exploitation and child marriage.

## **EDUCATION EMPOWERS**

It gives refugees the knowledge and skills to live productive lives, fulfilling and independent lives. Economically, e.g. in Uganda. For every extra year a refugee child spends in school, their income increases by 3%.

## **EDUCATION ENLIGHTENS**

As with children everywhere, the classroom is a place where refugees learn about themselves and the world around them. Refugees have an unquenchable thirst for learning, and the sheer desire of those who have lost everything to go out and rebuild their lives.

## **WHAT CAN I DO?**

**GIVE GENEROUSLY to provide the opportunity for children and youth to be educated. Just think, if you support a child, you will be a light in the world and that will affect following generations of that child!**

**Sources of information:** UNHCR, UNICEF. UNESCO