YOUR ORGANISATION CAN HELP
CONTRIBUTE NOW!

Contributions may be transferred directly to EI’s Solidarity Fund at

Account No 310-1006170-75
ING BELGIUM – 157 bd Anspach
1000 Brussels – Belgium

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us
nicolas.richards@ei-ie.org

EI’s solidarity is aimed at building quality conditions for:
• children to grow, students to learn and teachers to teach in a friendly and inclusive environment
• unions to organize and advocate for quality education and social justice
• And overall contribute to the building of healthy communities for people

“Thanks to the generosity of EI member organisations who responded to the appeal for humanitarian assistance children and young people at the amputees camps in Freetown received an education. The Solidarity Fund was also used to assist displaced teachers to return to their towns and villages. Their contribution was vital in the process of peace building, since schools are the heart of communities.”

In 2000, the Sierra Leone Teachers Union President Festus Minah asked EI to express his gratitude to its members for their vital solidarity with the people of Sierra Leone to build lasting peace.
Solidarity Fund

What is the EI Solidarity Fund?

The EI Solidarity Fund was established to assist member organisations in emergencies such as natural disasters, famine, war, persecution or other life threatening situations. The assistance provided by the EI Solidarity Fund is used mainly for short-term relief to help ensure the survival of organisations and their members.

The Fund, established with voluntary contributions from member organisations and administered by the EI Secretariat, represents a visible example of solidarity among teachers around the world. Natural and man-caused disasters that threaten the lives of teachers and their families call for our solidarity through the delivery of immediate and effective assistance.

At the EI World Congress in 1998 the role of the Solidarity Fund was extended to providing financial support for development cooperation activities with member organisations in developing countries. The decision of the EI Congress opened the way for the Fund to be not only reactive to emergency situations but also pro-active by cooperating with teacher organisations in developing countries and countries in transition.

The Congress also decided that EI itself and its member organisations should be invited to allocate 0.7% of their annual income to this work. The EI ‘0.7% of income’ contribution is lodged annually in the Solidarity Fund. Education is one of the most important tools to combat poverty and terrorism and to establish democratic political systems. As an international trade union organisation, EI has to ensure that colleagues in member organisations are able to carry out their professional role even in life-threatening situations.

How does it work

All member organisations are invited to contribute to the Fund on an annual basis according to their means. These contributions allow EI to react immediately to organize and coordinate in the most efficient and appropriate way the assistance that our colleagues need.

Education International has been active in building solidarity since its inception. This was formalised in 1998 when the 2nd World Congress in Washington adopted a resolution that mandated EI to allocate 0.7% of its regular budget and created the Solidarity Fund.

Specific appeals are also made to member organisations from time to time, in response to major disasters, requesting additional contributions to assist member organisations affected by the disaster. Some member organisations have decided to donate the budget which they would normally have spent on Christmas Cards to the EI Solidarity Fund.

The Fund is maintained in a special interest bearing account separate from other EI accounts. The Fund is subject to external audit, which is published separately in the financial report to the World Congress.

To obtain assistance from the Fund, member organisations must make a request for assistance outlining the purpose for which the assistance will be used. The EI General Secretary then decides to allocate funds on the basis of the information provided and in accordance with the principles under which the Fund was established. He reports on the Fund to the EI Finance Committee and World Executive Board.

The recipients must provide a report to EI head office on the use of the funds allocated. Reports on the use of the funds are provided in turn, on an annual basis, by EI to all member organisations.

What has it been used for

Since the Solidarity Fund was established, funds have been allocated to more than thirty support programmes.

One of the most crucial examples is the establishment of the Tsunami Solidarity Fund for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the education system in Aceh and Sri Lanka which have been hit hardest by the Tsunami in 2004.

In previous years, the EI Solidarity Fund was used:

- to assist teachers who had suffered material loss in earthquakes in Indonesia and Pakistan; in the war between Israel and Lebanon; in hurricanes in Grenada and the southern states of the USA;
- to provide scholarships for the education of the children of teachers killed in the Beslan tragedy on 3 September 2004;
- to rescue Colombian teachers belonging to the Colombian teachers’ union, when their life was under threat;
- to help Afghan and Liberian teachers organise schools in the refugee camps;
- to meet the education needs of children in Iraq;
- to provide institutional support to the Palestinian teacher union and to the new teacher union in East Timor;
- to support long term assistance projects in trouble zones like Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia.

The Fund is also used occasionally to support long-term solidarity projects, requiring ongoing financial support, such as the Beslan Trust Fund.