Basic education provides us with the ability to read and write. The education that that all nations’ people need provides knowledge about the world enabling not only survival, but with the ability to thrive. Governance is the establishment, as well as the implementation of policies that are set by a governing body. Governance and the quality of education go hand in hand. If there is a poor level of governance in a nation, then the quality of its education will be hindered. To improve the quality of education we must understand what causes poor governance. Governance and its effects on education affects the minimum of 124 million children and adolescents who are currently out of school. They will be the ones who will not be able to acquire a well-paying job and who will never be able to escape the cycle of poverty. This problem involves countries that are subject to corruption, like Somalia and Cambodia, and countries that are affected by conflict and political instability, such as Syria and Lebanon.

In an attempt to promote and implement anti-corruption, a legally binding measure called the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) was established. This document’s articles cover six areas: prevention, criminalization, law enforcement measures, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance & information exchange. The UNCAC was adopted on October 31st 2003, under Resolution 58/4 by the United Nations General Assembly. Many countries did not sign it, such as Bahamas, Congo, and Iraq. However, most of the countries then ratified the Convention. Even if the UNCAC was established, countries still require constant monitoring, guidance and technical assistance to ensure its implementation. A major non-governmental organization does work on corruption: Transparency International (TI). It aims to “bring people together in a powerful worldwide coalition to end the devastating impact of corruption on men, women and children around the world”. [[1]](#footnote-1)

Although education is not directly being improved in countries that are affected by conflict and political instability, there have been attempts to improve education in refugee camps. For example, the *right to equal and non-discriminatory education for migrants and refugees* was acknowledged in the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 8/4. The resolution urges members of state take “appropriate measures to eliminate obstacles limiting effective access to education [for] girls … refugee children, internally displaced children”.[[2]](#footnote-2) Other United Nations agencies were also called to action to collaborate and create measures to promote and protect the right to education.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is affected by corruption and political instability. The access to education in this country varies widely by region. Preschools are almost unattended, however, primary schools have an almost perfect attendance, on par with the other countries in the region. The low rate of preschool attendance causes low readiness for school, limited access to early childhood vaccinations and learning assessments, as well as delayed services for children with special needs. Things that have been done to improve this include: the Strategic Direction of Education Development 2008–2015 document, Framework Law on Preschool Education, Law on Agency for Preschool, Elementary School and High School Education, and in cooperation with UNICEF, “the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina began to address discrimination and division in the education system by promoting intercultural dialogue, peace education programs, life skills and key competencies approaches in education”.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to improve its education. It has already proven this by installing numerous measures and cooperating with organizations such as UNICEF. Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to increase the attending at primary schools, increase the number of students that complete secondary school and increase the attendance at tertiary school. There is an almost perfect attendance at middle school, so it is the least of their concern. Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to decrease the unemployment rate, which begins with increasing educated minds.

1. “Transparency International – The Global Anti-Corruption Coalition.” <https://www.transparency.org/about/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UN, HRC. “Resolution 8/4 The Right to Education (HRC).” Human Rights Council. April 15, 2005. <http://ap.ohchr.org/Documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_8_4.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNICEF. “Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina.” <https://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Bosnia_2010.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)