



Statement from the Government of Canada

Delivered by Christine Reissmann, Director of Global Initiatives Directorate at Canadian International Development Agency

Basic education, particularly for girls, remains a central feature of Canadian official development assistance, and is an essential goal of CIDA's Child and Youth Strategy. Through access to quality education, Canada is ensuring that girls and young women have the opportunity to realize their full potential and contribute to transforming their societies. Over the past six years, basic education has represented an average of 10% CIDA's total aid budget.

Preliminary 2010/11 data indicate that. Canada provided approximately \$347 million in funding for basic education, which takes in the first 10 years of formal education and includes life skills training, and literacy for women and youth. This includes an annual \$12 million grant to the Global Partnership for Education. Total funding for education, including secondary, college programs and teacher training, brings Canada's investments to \$416 million for 2010-2011.

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Canada's current commitment to the GPE extends until 2013. We share a keen interest in supporting the GPE in the achievement of their policy objectives with girls' education, learning outcomes, and fragile states. Canada is pleased to contribute today to this international effort, with a commitment of \$45M to the GPE for this replenishment period, of which \$21M represents additional contributions to what we have previously committed.