



## Statement from Microsoft

### Delivered by Mark East, Senior Director, Education Solutions Group

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Microsoft has a long history of investing in education in countries where we do business, through a wide range of initiatives that aim to increase access to ICT and educational opportunities, improve learning outcomes for all students and to increase the efficiency of education systems. This investment is done through working closely with governments and other educational stakeholders, primarily through cross-sector partnerships.

Today, I would like to share with you Microsoft's pledge towards supporting the GPE through established programmatic support:

- I. Increasing access and quality of education through Microsoft Partners in Learning:  
Microsoft will continue to work with governments in the GPE Eligible Countries towards the areas of increasing access, teacher development, school innovation and effective use of ICT to improve learning outcomes. The focus is on Helping Transform Education in partnership with the local government and education stakeholders. Included is a partnership with the British Council, which was developed in Haiti and will be deployed in at least 5 sub Saharan African countries.
- II. Focused support for governments to deliver ICT skills based education through Microsoft IT Academy:  
Microsoft will provide in the GPE Eligible Countries low cost access to technical training and certification in secondary schools and universities with a focus on increasing the level of STEM and technical skills, supporting increased access to jobs and opportunities for students completing the courses. This will support overall education outcomes, along with economic development, which is of critical importance.

I must stress that Microsoft's work and its pledge is driven by the desire to work as a partner with stakeholders, and will be realized through the creation/extension of cross-sectorial in-country partnerships.

As a result of these partnerships, we hope to deploy 5 national digital hubs, training 37,500 teachers and benefiting over 1.5M students, and support/create new 900 Microsoft IT Academies, training over 200,000 students and delivering at least 20,000 student certifications.