

FRAUD, CORRUPTION *and* OTHER MISUSE

The Global Partnership for Education has zero tolerance for fraud, corruption and other misuse.

Providing financial and other assistance geared towards improving education in the world's poorest and least developed countries, including fragile states, entails inherent risks which must be managed. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Secretariat, as well as all GPE partners are aware and alert to these risks and their duties as the stewards of donor funds.

Like all global funds, the Global Partnership itself has no in-country presence. Using a partnership model, the Global Partnership ensures that the funding it provides through its GPE Fund is supervised or implemented directly by a multilateral agency (such as the World Bank or UNICEF) or bilateral agency (currently the U.K.'s Department for International Development, or DFID, and the Netherlands). Each of its Supervising Entities and implementers has robust policies and procedures, using international best practices to prevent, detect and handle cases of fraud, corruption and other misuse. These policies flow through the entire grant-making process, from award to close-out. They are also designed to ensure that communication flows are strong, including the use of 'hotlines' and ensuring whistle-blower protections for their staff and contractors.

All recipients of GPE funds are subject to regular audit, the results of which are shared with the GPE Board of Directors. When weaknesses are found in internal controls, steps are taken immediately to remediate the issues in order to bring confidence in the best use of international aid moneys.

The GPE Board of Directors – multi-sectoral body made up of donors, developing countries, civil society organizations, multilateral institutions and the private sector and private foundations – has the ultimate decision-making authority over the award of grants, as well as decisions to suspend or cancel grants and request refunds where appropriate. This authority is dependent on and fed by very open lines of communication from Supervising Entities, implementers and other in-country actors having knowledge about suspected misuse. The Board exercises its powers in a manner that recognises its fiduciary duties in a way that maximises the use of donor funds and development effectiveness.

All instances of misuse of GPE funds in the past have been handled by maintaining open lines of communications with the Board, while allowing Supervising Entities, implementers and the countries themselves to investigate the perpetrators and come to an appropriate resolution, including a refund of moneys to the GPE Fund.