

Students say their school name using sign language at School 212 in Murun, Mongolia. All4Education, supported by Education Out Loud, is ensuring more children with disabilities have access to quality education through advocacy efforts and gathering missing data for changemakers to acknowledge the challenge. According to data from 2021, more than 80% of children with disabilities are now attending school up from 44% in 2010.

GPE/Antitheziz Atelier



CHAPTER 4

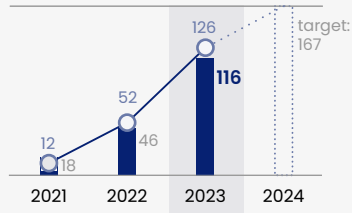
GPE MOBILIZES GLOBAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERS AND RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

15.

116 cases of research supported by the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) contributed to policy development or delivery in partner countries.

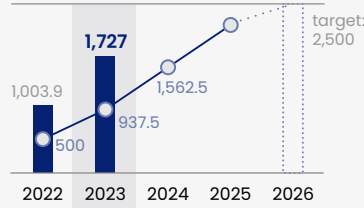
● overall ○ milestone



16.iii.

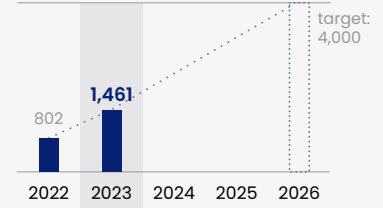
An additional US\$1,727 billion in co-financing was leveraged through GPE innovative financing mechanisms.

● overall ○ milestone



18.ii.

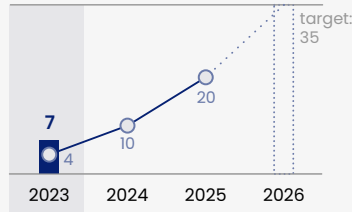
A total of US\$1,461 billion in donor commitments were fulfilled.



16.i.

7 partner countries benefited from newly mobilized strategic partnerships.

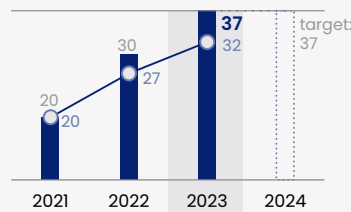
● overall ○ milestone



17.

37 partner countries had civil society organizations that contributed to education planning, policy dialogue and monitoring through GPE Education Out Loud-funded projects.

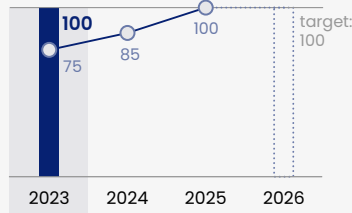
● overall ○ milestone



16.ii.

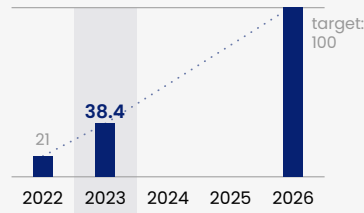
100% of GPE-mobilized strategic capabilities were on track to meet their objectives.

● overall ○ milestone



18.i.

38.4% of donor commitments were fulfilled.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Research, knowledge and innovation programs financed by the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) have contributed to 116 cases of uptake in country-level education policy development and delivery across 70 countries. Seventy-two of these cases related to gender, equity and social inclusion. KIX received an extension to 2027, with \$88 million in additional funding.
- Education Out Loud financed civil society organization projects that successfully influenced education planning, policy dialogue and monitoring in 37 countries from 2021 to 2023. Education Out Loud received an extension to 2027, with \$60 million in additional funding.
- Three strategic capabilities initiatives were piloted over the past year in seven countries in the areas of (1) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning; (2) Climate-Smart Education Systems; and (3) Education Data Leadership. In the first year of implementation, all projects are on track to reach their objectives. GPE has allocated a further \$4 million for strategic capabilities in the areas of gender equality, safe learning, school nutrition and technology for education; and support for climate will be scaled to an additional 20 countries with \$15 million over the coming year.
- GPE innovative financing mechanisms are leveraging \$1.7 billion in cofinancing toward the \$2.5 billion target for 2025.
- GPE donors contributed \$1.46 billion toward their pledges of \$4 billion to fund GPE 2025. As of June 2023, 38.4 percent of the financial pledges were fulfilled.

INTRODUCTION

To support system transformation in partner countries, GPE mobilizes global and national partners and resources (GPE 2025 enabling objective) through several initiatives. This chapter discusses the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) and Education Out Loud programs, both designed to leverage global, regional, and local knowledge to support partner countries' education goals. In addition, it highlights the GPE 2025 strategic capabilities initiative, which connects governments with global and regional expertise to address complex or cross-sectoral capacity challenges. This chapter also provides an overview of direct donor contributions to the GPE Fund and the additional financing raised through GPE's innovative financing mechanisms (GPE Multiplier, GPE Match, Debt2Ed, SmartEd and Enhanced Convening).

4.1. LEARNING PARTNERSHIP THROUGH KIX

(Indicator 15)

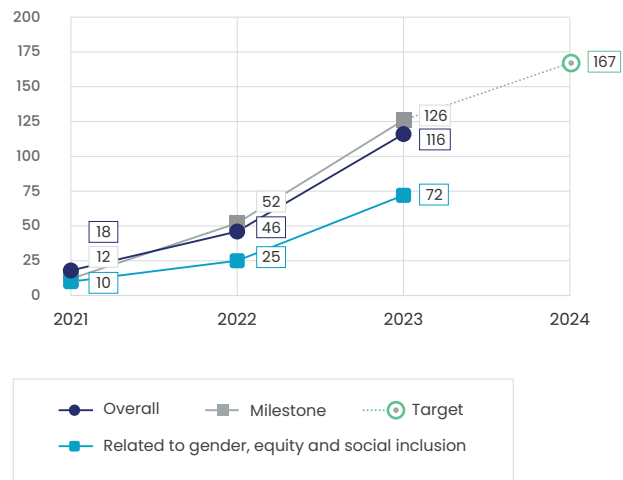
KIX is the largest education fund dedicated to scaling, generating and facilitating the use of evidence in education. It is designed to generate demand-driven knowledge, develop insights and evidence from applied research and learning exchanges and to strengthen the capacity of knowledge producers and users in low- and middle-income countries to scale innovations and improve the use of evidence in education planning, policy and practice.⁹⁶ KIX is being implemented by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and financed by GPE and IDRC. It has been extended through 2027 with an additional \$88 million in funding, bringing its budget to over \$165 million.⁹⁷

Indicator 15 measures KIX's contribution to strengthening the knowledge and skills—including those related to gender, equity and social inclusion—of educational stakeholders in GPE partner countries.⁹⁸ It captures the number of specific cases of KIX-supported research, knowledge and innovation that contributed to shaping education policies in partner countries.⁹⁹ Over the period 2021–23, KIX-supported knowledge and research have been used in 116 cases of education policy development or delivery across 70 countries, with 72 of those cases related to gender, equity and social inclusion (figure 4.1;

FIGURE 4.1.

KIX continues to contribute to strengthening knowledge and skills in partner countries.

Cumulative number of cases of uptake of KIX-supported research, knowledge and innovation in country-level policy development or delivery



Source: GPE Secretariat.

see also box 4.1). Because of partial data collection in 2023—several grantees did not report data within data collection deadlines and some reported outcomes are still maturing—the annual milestone was not fully met.

⁹⁶ International Development Research Centre (IDRC), *KIX Annual Report 2022–2023: Scaling Educational Options for Out-of-School Children*, (Ottawa, Canada: IDRC, 2023), <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/gpe-knowledge-and-innovation-exchange-annual-report-2022-2023>.

⁹⁷ GPE approved an \$80 million extension. IDRC is contributing a further \$8 million in funding and will continue its role as implementing partner.

⁹⁸ For full details on Indicator 15, see Global Partnership for Education (GPE), *GPE Results Framework 2025: Methodological Technical Guidelines*, (Washington, DC: GPE, 2022), <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/gpe-results-framework-2025-methodological-technical-guidelines>.

⁹⁹ With the costed extension, IDRC is developing a new results framework for KIX that will be considered for the GPE 2025 results framework in future reporting years. Additional details will be provided in the 2024 results report.

4.2. ADVOCACY THROUGH EDUCATION OUT LOUD

(Indicator 17)

Education Out Loud funds activities that support civil society participation in education policy decision-making to better respond to community needs, particularly those of disadvantaged and marginalized families. This initiative collaborates with partners to raise awareness, discuss challenges and solutions and advocate for increased domestic and international financing and for inclusive policies, planning, monitoring and results in the education sector. Implemented by Oxfam Denmark (formerly Oxfam IBIS) and financed by GPE, Education Out Loud is the world's largest education advocacy fund. In December 2022, it was extended through 2027 with an additional \$60 million, bringing its total funding to \$133 million.

Through three operational components and a learning agenda, Education Out Loud has provided more than 79 grants in 63 countries and states since 2019.¹⁰¹ Indicator 17 measures the number of countries where civil society organizations involved in Education Out Loud-funded projects have influenced education planning, policy dialogue and monitoring. From 2021 to 2023, civil society organizations with Education Out Loud funding have influenced education planning, policy dialogue or monitoring in 37 countries (figure 4.2 and box 4.2). Of these, 15 are PCFCs.

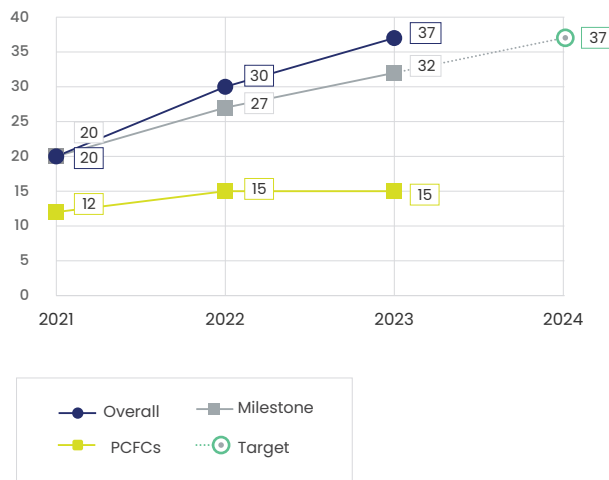
In response to the recommendations of the 2022 midterm review,¹⁰² Education Out Loud will undergo the following adaptations as part of the costed extension:

- > More efficient operational processes throughout the program cycle to reduce transaction costs
- > Targeted support to grantees for further inclusion and effective participation in national policy dialogue, including other GPE initiatives such as KIX
- > A sharper focus on gender and social inclusion
- > Greater learning opportunities and synergy across operational components
- > Increased external communication about results

FIGURE 4.2.

Education Out Loud contributes to improved civic participation.

Cumulative number of countries where civil society organizations engaged in Education Out Loud-funded projects have influenced education planning, policy dialogue and monitoring



Source: GPE Secretariat.

- > Differentiated funding and longer-term grants to respond to the quality of proposals and implementation track record
- > A renewed focus on sustainability.

Beginning in July 2022, four globally renowned research organizations have also joined Education Out Loud as global learning partners: Accountability Research Center, Institute of Development Studies, UNESCO's International Institute for Education Planning and a consortium of Management for Development Foundation and the Australian Council for Education Research. They will carry out strategic research across the entire portfolio of Education Out Loud, and the outcomes of their research will inform the practices of Education Out Loud grantees and other advocacy and accountability practitioners.

¹⁰¹ For a full list of the countries and states, see <https://educationoutloud.org/grant-recipients/countries>.

¹⁰² C. Coventry and A. Gebremedhin, "Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Secretariat: Mid Term Review of Education Out Loud," (Washington, DC: Global Partnership for Education, 2022), <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/mid-term-review-education-out-loud-final-report-2022>. Also see the GPE Secretariat management response to the mid-term review and the EOL action plan: <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/gpe-secretariat-management-response-mid-term-review-education-out-loud>.

BOX 4.2. Education Out Loud results in Mongolia and Somalia

In Mongolia, the national education coalition, with support from the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education, had advocated for improved, more equity-based and gender-responsive budgeting for education and produced a study on this topic in 2020. Sustained advocacy based on the study contributed to the government's approval of a resolution in 2022 that increased the education budget and created incentives for including children with disabilities in schools.

In Somalia (Somaliland), the research and advocacy on the national education budget by the national education coalition, Somaliland Network on Education for All, was key to a decision to increase the education budget and hire 340 new teachers. The coalition conducted an education budget analysis that helped identify gaps in funding to rural schools, considering that many rural schools lack qualified teachers and have high student-teacher ratios. It presented this information during its participation in the process for developing the new education strategy (2022–26) and in the government's budgeting process to advocate for increasing the education budget and allocating more resources for hiring qualified teachers for rural schools. The coalition has especially advocated for the recruitment of more female teachers to increase the gender balance among teaching staff.

4.3. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIPS

(Indicators 16i and 16ii)

GPE's strategic capabilities initiatives are designed to bring expertise, resources or solutions from GPE partners to reinforce national government capacity in specific aspects of system transformation. They aim to provide technical assistance to tackle complex education system or cross-sectoral challenges faced by multiple partner countries in support of the achievement of country reform priorities. Since this new mechanism was approved as part of GPE 2025, several strategic capability initiatives have been designed and launched to directly respond to partner countries' needs. The development of these initiatives follows an adaptive approach, which consists of testing the initiatives in a small number of countries, understanding how they can best bring value to the sector and then considering further scaling to additional countries.

Three strategic capabilities initiatives are currently providing technical support to partner countries under an initial allocation of \$2 million to test this novel approach.

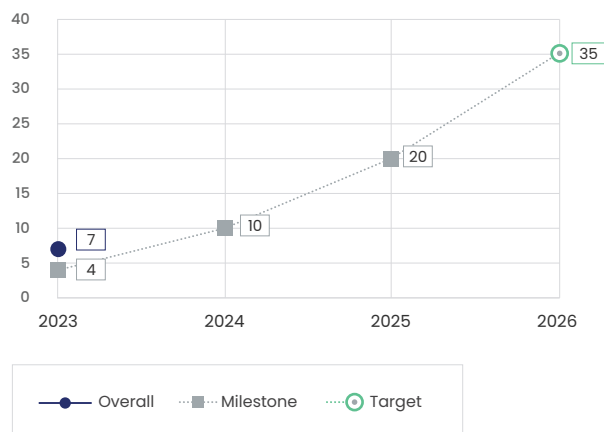
- The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning initiative supports partner countries' capacity to generate,

learn from and use evidence, working with the global development management consulting firm Social Impact. To date, it has helped Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to assess gaps in their monitoring and evaluations systems given the needs of their new education sector plans, and to develop implementation plans to address these gaps. It is also providing ongoing capacity support during the implementation of these plans. In The Gambia, it is supporting the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to monitor, evaluate and learn from the implementation of its partnership compact, drawing on the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of the various programs that support the compact's objective of improving foundational learning. Based on learning from the pilot phase, this initiative will focus on supporting compact monitoring going forward, which is an unmet need expressed by partner countries.

- The Climate-Smart Education Systems initiative is mobilizing the expertise of Save the Children, UNESCO and the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning to support countries in mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation into the education sector. The initiative launched its support for Malawi and Zimbabwe as its first pilot countries, undertaking an initial assessment and prioritization of

FIGURE 4.3.

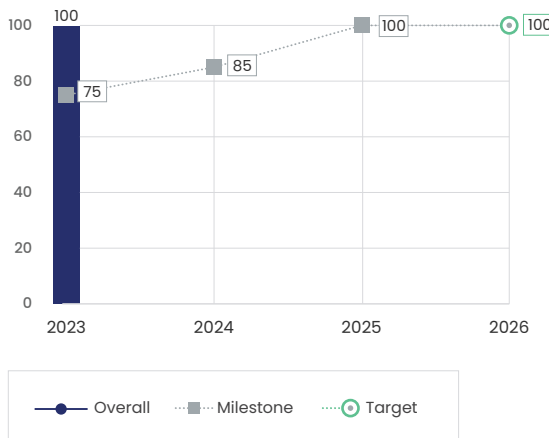
GPE has successfully launched strategic partnerships.
Cumulative number of partner countries benefiting from newly mobilized strategic partnerships



Source: GPE Secretariat.

FIGURE 4.4.

The new strategic capabilities programs are meeting their objectives.
Proportion of GPE-mobilized strategic capabilities that meet their objectives (percent)



Source: GPE Secretariat.

Note: Five strategic capability initiatives have available progress information and are considered for Indicator 16ii.

opportunities to strengthen climate resilience and climate action in and through the education sector. The GPE Board of Directors has approved \$15 million to further scale this support to an additional 20 countries.

- › The Education Data Leadership Program, which seeks to leverage business expertise to strengthen the capacity of education ministries to collect, organize, store, share and disseminate education data, is piloting in The Gambia and has served as an important model of learning for private sector engagement in support of country priorities.

In addition to these three initiatives already under way, the GPE Board approved \$4 million to develop and test strategic capabilities initiatives in four additional areas: gender equality, safe learning, school nutrition and technology for education. These new initiatives will begin piloting in one to two countries in late 2023 and early 2024.

Progress in this novel mechanism is measured using two indicators in the 2025 GPE results framework. Indicator 16i measures the number of partner countries benefiting

from newly mobilized strategic partnerships. In 2023, seven partner countries (Dominica, The Gambia,¹⁰³ Grenada, Malawi, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Zimbabwe) had strategic partnerships, surpassing the milestone of four countries (figure 4.3). By 2026, the target is 35 countries.

Indicator 16ii measures the proportion of GPE-mobilized strategic capabilities that meet their objectives, accounting for an initial period of piloting and testing at the outset. In 2023, all of the strategic capabilities were on track to meet their objectives (figure 4.4), which focused on beginning implementation of the initial strategic capabilities at the country level (and reaching milestones associated with that in terms of inception and country planning phases), and securing approval of the design and launch of an additional four initiatives (including milestones associated with the effective engagement of countries and identification of partners in the design of the concept notes).

¹⁰³ The Gambia has two strategic capabilities initiatives: (1) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, and (2) the Education Data Leadership Program.

4.4. INNOVATIVE FINANCING

(Indicator 16iii)

Transforming education in partner countries will require substantial financial resources beyond the GPE Fund. GPE 2025 seeks to crowd in new and additional external cofinancing through a set of innovative financing instruments designed to attract and diversify resources from a range of financing partners:

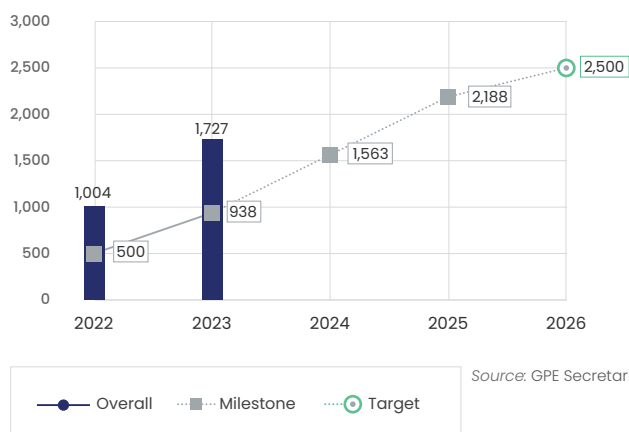
- > The GPE Multiplier grant aims to leverage additional financing from development banks, nongovernmental organizations and bilateral partners by contributing \$1 for every \$3 mobilized in cofinancing.
- > GPE Match is designed to catalyze financing from the private sector and philanthropic donors by matching their contributions dollar for dollar.
- > The Smart Education Financing Initiative (SmartEd) leverages \$4 from the Arab Coordination Group and the Islamic Development Bank for every dollar from GPE and targets 37 common partner country members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and GPE.
- > The Debt2Ed instrument aims to support debt relief by channeling funding that would have been spent on debt service toward investments in education.
- > Enhanced Convening supports partner countries in the design and implementation of resource mobilization strategies intended to gather additional resources from sovereign and nonsovereign donors.

Indicator 16iii monitors GPE's achievement in implementing its innovative financing mechanisms and measures the amount of additional cofinancing mobilized through these mechanisms. As of June 2023, GPE 2025 innovative financing mechanisms had accounted for a total of \$439.9 million in grants to 27 partner countries (including six partner countries affected by fragility and conflict). These grants are leveraging over \$1.7 billion in cofinancing through the GPE Multiplier (\$1.4 billion), GPE Match (\$48 million), Debt2Ed (\$77.1 million), SmartEd (\$160 million) and Enhanced Convening (\$27.5 million).¹⁰⁴ The total amount of cofinancing far exceeded the 2023 milestone of \$938 million (figure 4.5), illustrating strong demand and interest in GPE's innovative financing initiatives. Côte d'Ivoire and Uzbekistan were the first

FIGURE 4.5.

GPE innovative financing mechanisms are leveraging \$1.7 billion in cofinancing toward the \$2.5 billion target for 2025.

Additional cofinancing leveraged through GPE innovative financing mechanisms (US\$ millions)



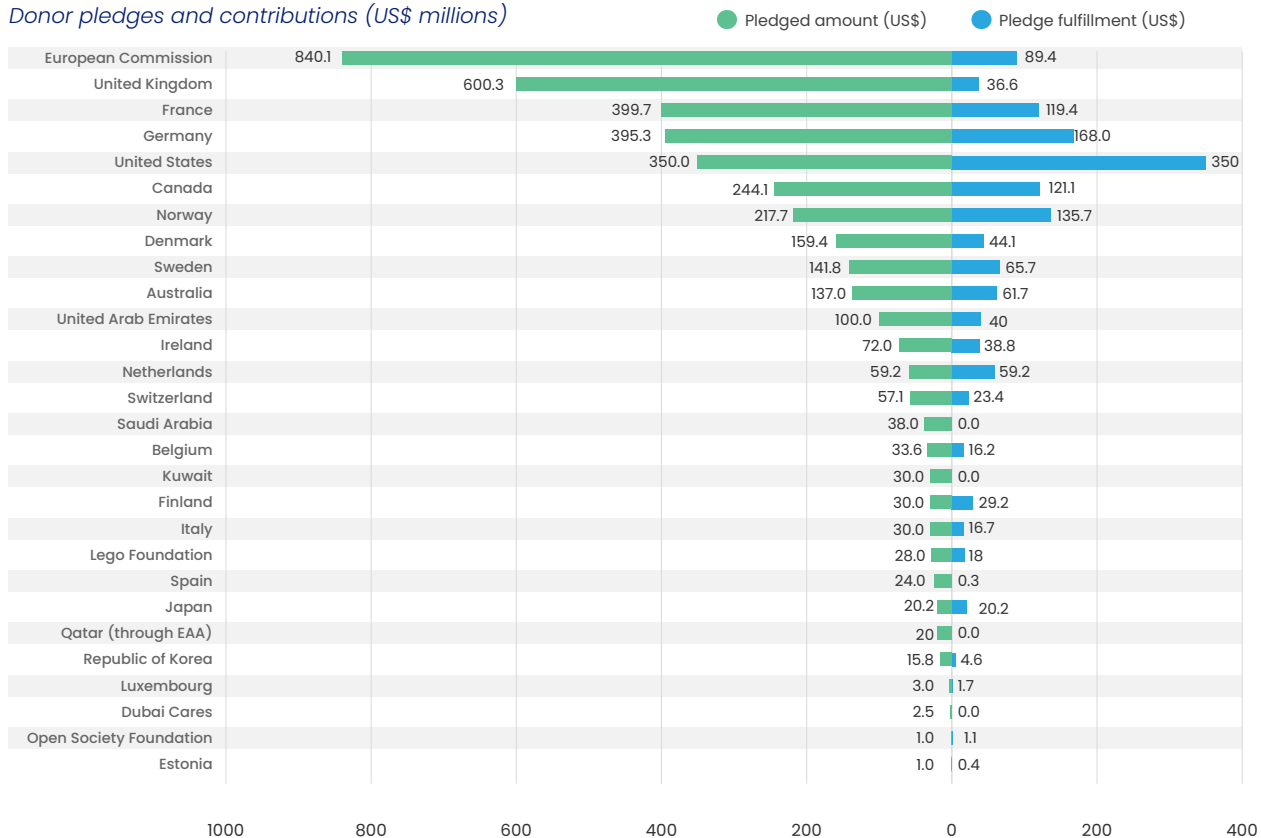
partner countries to benefit from leveraging, respectively, the Debt2Ed and SmartEd financing instruments.

An independent evaluation of the GPE Multiplier¹⁰⁵ in 2023 reveals that stakeholders in partner countries value this mechanism because it has helped attract new and additional resources to the education sector and contributed to diversifying the cofinancing partners that engage in the sector. All approved Multiplier funding underwent the Secretariat's core additionality, cofinancing and debt sustainability requirements and assessments; however, the document review and interviews with partners show that the strength of financial additionality (the extent to which cofinancing is contingent on the Multiplier grant) varies across countries. More than half of the cofinancing investigated as part of the evaluation would likely have been mobilized in some capacity, but not at the same volume if the Multiplier did not exist. Although a significant percentage (69 percent) of total cofinancing under review consists of concessional loans (mainly from the International Development Association and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), the use of the Multiplier improved the terms of credit and borrowing. The evaluation also reveals that the Multiplier grants brought about significant value additionality and deepened local education group membership—and in some instances, helped create a group. Multiplier grants also aligned with sector priorities and incentivized sector dialogue and gender equality in partner countries.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁴ Cofinancing through Enhanced Convening has been deployed alongside Multiplier and GPE Match innovative financing mechanisms. Thus, the total for Enhanced Convening in parenthesis has been excluded from the total indicator amount to avoid duplication of results.

¹⁰⁵ E. Bagby et al., "GPE Multiplier Evaluation Report," (Oakland, CA: Mathematica, 2023), <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/gpe-multiplier-evaluation-report>.

¹⁰⁶ The GPE Secretariat management response to the Multiplier independent evaluation: <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/gpe-response-multiplier-independent-evaluation-august-2023>.

FIGURE 4.6.**GPE donors are at different stages in fulfilling their pledges.***Donor pledges and contributions (US\$ millions)*

4.5. DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GPE

(Indicator 18)

At the 2021 replenishment conference, a total of 27 donors (including 23 donor countries, one multilateral organization and three foundations) pledged to contribute nearly \$4 billion to the GPE Fund for the period 2021–25. In 2022, a new donor (Qatar) committed an additional \$20 million to the fund. Four donors (Germany, Japan, the United States and the LEGO Foundation) increased their initial pledges by a total of \$85.4 million, thus increasing the total volume of donors' pledges to \$4.05 billion.¹⁰⁷

As of June 2023, 38.4 percent of the financial pledges were fulfilled (Indicator 18i). Overall, 24 donors disbursed a total of \$1.46 billion (\$802 million in 2022 and an additional \$660 million in 2023) into the GPE Fund. Some GPE donors have already fulfilled their pledges. As of

June 2023, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands and the Open Society Foundation had disbursed the total amount pledged for the period 2021–25 (figure 4.6). The United States is so far one of the largest contributors to the GPE Fund and has fulfilled its \$350 million pledge, after increasing its pledge by \$45 million. Other donors—such as Dubai Cares, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia—have not yet started contributing to the GPE Fund.

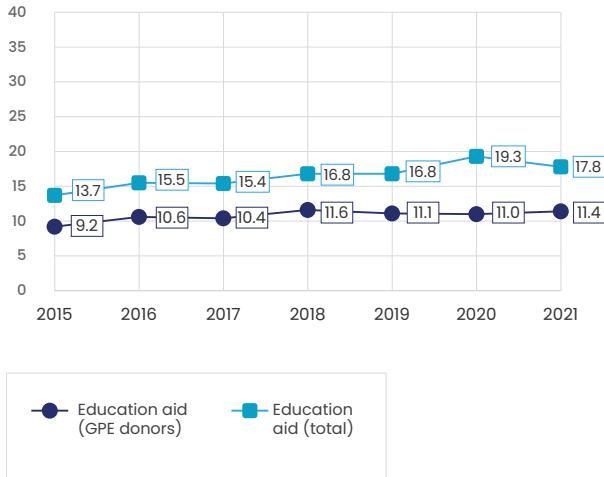
Official development assistance (ODA) to the education sector from GPE donors increased slightly, in real terms, in 2021 despite a decline in total education aid (figure 4.7). In 2021, the volume of ODA to the education sector declined by \$1.4 billion after five years of steady increase. GPE donors, however, increased their aid to the education sector by \$400 million between 2020 and 2021. GPE donors' education ODA as a share of total education ODA disbursements was 64.1 percent in 2021, up from 57.3 percent in 2020.

¹⁰⁷ For more details, see Global Partnership for Education (GPE), *Annual Report 2022*, (Washington, DC: GPE, 2022), <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/annual-report-2022>.

FIGURE 4.7.

GPE donors increased their contribution to education ODA by \$400 million despite the decrease in total education ODA in 2021.

Total education ODA (including 20 percent of general budget support) and education ODA by GPE donors (US\$ billion, constant 2021)



Source: GPE Secretariat compilation based on OECD Credit Reporting System (<https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=crs1>).

Note: Education ODA figures include 20 percent of general budget support.

TOWARD STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENTS

This reporting year has demonstrated progress by GPE programs and initiatives in strengthening partnerships. With the costed extensions to 2027, KIX will continue to generate evidence to address policy challenges across GPE partner countries with a renewed focus on connecting to country-level policy cycles, providing differentiated support for countries to engage with KIX and strengthening links with local education groups. These contributions are expected to promote the conditions for further uptake of research, knowledge and innovation. Likewise, the costed extension of Education Out Loud aims to support civil society in more countries so that it can influence education policy making, social dialogue and monitoring. The three strategic capabilities initiatives currently piloting technical support to partner countries demonstrate high demand from countries and that these initiatives are meeting their implementation targets. Additional funding has been allocated to the strategic capabilities initiatives, and further pilots are planned for 2024 in the areas of gender equality, safe learning, school nutrition and technology for education.

The year has also seen progress toward increasing investments in education. Donor contributions to the GPE Fund reached 38.4 percent of the 2025 replenishment target, with \$1.46 million contributed as of June 2023. In addition, the GPE 2025 innovative financing mechanisms are leveraging \$1.7 billion from partners. Although GPE donors' education ODA as a share of total education ODA disbursements increased in the last year, it remains below the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level. Maintaining GPE partners' commitment to finance education will be key to ensuring a successful implementation of GPE 2025.

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