



# Education Data Roundtable

“Without current data on how many children are not in school and the learning progress of those in school, governments are essentially flying blind.”

– Alice Albright, CEO, Global Partnership for Education

## The Data Challenge

**Quality education data is essential** to inform planning and policy decisions by governments. Without data, it is impossible to build effective, resilient and accountable education systems. Equally, aggregated data is critical to monitor progress towards SDG 4.

However, most developing countries lack education information systems and the tools to communicate the data needed by governments and partners to target their resources where the need is greatest.

## Why a Roundtable on Education Data Solutions?

**GPE helps developing country governments** to strengthen their education systems and provides funding to improve their data collection and analysis. However, the education data challenge is massive, pervasive and urgent. In February 2018, GPE launched the Education Data Solutions Roundtable. The Roundtable’s goal is to leverage local, private and development partners’ expertise to improve the availability and use of accurate and timely education data at country and global level.

## Who participates in the Roundtable?

Members of the Data Roundtable include senior representatives from developing country governments, the business community (HP, Econet, Intel, Tableau, MasterCard, Microsoft, Ecobank), business foundations (Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation), donor governments, the World Bank, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNESCO and its institutes, regional partners and civil society.

## What is the focus of the Roundtable?

### The Data Roundtable is focused on three questions:

1. What additional support do countries need to improve their data systems and ensure a more effective use of data?
2. How can public and private partners work together to identify innovative solutions to enhance the use of data at country and global level?
3. What new global investments can be made to improve the collection and use of data?

In response to bottlenecks identified by developing countries, Roundtable partners agreed to focus on developing sustainable solutions and capacity building strategies to address **three key challenges impacting data systems**.

#### 1. Better tools for education information management

Developing country governments often use “off the shelf” systems that are not suitable to deal with the scope and scale of their information needs. In addition, many data systems are not compatible and hence data cannot be aggregated at a regional or global level. Partners will recommend specifications for a sustainable data information system that can be adapted, and meets the needs of GPE partner countries for reporting against national and global education goals.

#### 2. Better data communication and visualization tools

Users of education data range from school teachers and parents to ministry officials and global partners. For data to have impact it is critical that it is well communicated to the user. The Roundtable will make recommendations for the design and use of data communication and visualization tools across different audiences.

#### 3. Integration of data across different systems to produce holistic school-level information

Typically, various education data systems in developing countries – such as those for learning assessments and financial or personnel management – cannot be integrated with other systems. However, it is essential that governments have a comprehensive view of each school as a management unit. The Roundtable will recommend what is required to ensure better integration of education data systems.

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