GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP *for* EDUCATION
REPLENISHMENT 2020

GPE'S ENGAGEMENT with GIRLS' EDUCATION



FACTSHEET

THE CHALLENGE

The number of girls completing primary school in the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) partner countries increased from 57% in 2002 to 74% in 2015. But despite this impressive gain, 131 million girls remain out of primary and secondary school—a huge challenge for global education.

At all levels of education, fewer girls than boys are in school in low-income countries, with the gender gap widest for the poorest and most marginalized girls. In GPE partner countries affected by fragility and conflict, 37% more girls than boys are out of primary school, compared with a 4% gap in other partner countries.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Investments in girls' education are a smart way to make progress on many of the Sustainable Development Goals—not just the goal for education. These investments contribute to poverty reduction, improved nutrition, sustainable agriculture, good health, decent work and economic growth. Investing in girls' education can make a difference in the following ways:

- Every dollar spent on an additional year of schooling for girls in low-income countries results in an estimated **US$10 in increased earnings and health benefits.**
- Educated girls and young women **are usually healthier than girls who did not go to school—and they have healthier children,** who are likely to live past the age of 5.
- Over the past four decades, the global increase in women's education **has prevented more than 4 million child deaths.**

GPE'S APPROACH

GPE is mobilizing its partners—developing countries, donor countries, multilateral agencies, civil society, teachers, philanthropic foundations and the private sector—to put gender equality at the heart of national education systems. In 2016, GPE adopted a gender equality strategy to support partner countries in their efforts to achieve equitable access to and participation in education. GPE helps its partner countries achieve these objectives in the following ways:

- GPE incentivizes partners to prioritize gender equality and other equity issues. GPE's results-based funding model links **30% of grants to progress on equity indicators** such as gender equality.
- To help partners with gender responsive sector planning, GPE provides guidance on and support for analyses of barriers to gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence in schools. GPE supports country-led policy dialogue on these issues, and is funding the development of analytical tools to identify which girls and boys are out of school and why.
- GPE collects gender-disaggregated data, which helps reveal inequalities, and monitors learning outcomes, school completion and out-of-school rates, and how many education sector plans have gender strategies. GPE also strengthens the capacity of partner governments to collect and analyze data on gender equality.

GPE SUPPORT FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION WORKS

With GPE's support, developing country partners have achieved remarkable progress between 2002 and 2015:

- 38 million additional girls were enrolled in school. The primary school completion rate for girls rose from 57% to 74%.
- The lower-secondary completion rate for girls rose from 35% to 48%.
- In GPE countries affected by fragility and conflict, the number of girls completing school for every 100 boys rose from 74 to 88 for primary education in the period, and from 67 to 83 for lower-secondary.

GPE's grants support diverse strategies for girls' education at all levels, including awareness-raising campaigns, community gender training, female teacher recruitment, boarding schools for girls, gender sensitive curriculums, gender training for teachers, capacity building of school management committees, better access to water points and latrines, and measures against gender-based violence.

GPE'S REPLENISHMENT

GPE's five-year strategic plan, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal on education, has three main targets: improving learning; increasing equity, inclusion and gender equality; and building effective and efficient education systems.

To achieve these goals, GPE is replenishing its resources and aims to raise US$2 billion in annual funding by 2020 to ensure quality and equitable education for an additional 25.6 million children of primary and lower-secondary school age. This will also enable the partnership to get more girls into school and learning, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable and those in countries affected by fragility and conflict.

The replenishment will enable an additional 13.3 million girls to complete primary and lower-secondary school in GPE partner countries.

Because early childhood care and education is a critical foundation for girls' education, increasing GPE's replenishment will ensure that girls aged under 5 develop as they should in terms of health, learning and psychosocial well-being. It is expected that by 2020, 75% of girls in GPE partner countries will be on track for this, up from 68% in the 2011-2014 replenishment period.

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