ANNUAL REPORT 2021



GPE Transforming Education

VISION

A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD.

MISSION

To mobilize partnerships and investments that transform education systems in developing countries, leaving no one behind.

GOAL

To accelerate access, learning outcomes and gender equality through equitable, inclusive and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century.

PRIORITY AREAS

Access; Early learning; Equity, efficiency and volume of domestic financing; Gender equality; Inclusion; Learning; Quality teaching; Strong organizational capacity.

OBJECTIVES

Strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact.

Mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change.

Strengthen capacity, adapt and learn, to implement and drive results at scale.

Mobilize global and national partners and resources for sustainable results.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD **4**

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021 **6**

GPE IN ACTION **7**

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION **8**

› GPE'S COVID RESPONSE 12

› SUSTAINING EDUCATION THROUGH CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY 14

GENDER EQUALITY **16**

WORKING TOGETHER TO DRIVE CHANGE **20**

A LEARNING PARTNERSHIP **24**

RAISE YOUR HAND **26**

› CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS **30**

› GLOBAL EDUCATION SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS **31**

GPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS **32**

FOREWORD



CHARLES NORTH
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Had anyone told me in March 2020 that two years later we would still be grappling with the effects of COVID-19, I likely would not have believed them. Yet for the diverse partners that make up the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), 2021 was a year dominated by the ongoing pandemic and its devastating impact on education and learning for millions of children around the world.

GPE partner countries and donors alike grappled with school closures and learning losses amid the heavy health and economic toll of the virus. To support partner country education systems under enormous duress, in 2021 GPE provided more than US$740 million in education grants. Leaning on the breadth of the partnership, GPE provided technical and financial support to sustain country-led efforts to strengthen education systems, bolster national responses to the COVID-19 crisis and help governments cope with conflicts, displacement and disasters. As a result, millions of girls and boys were able to continue learning despite challenging circumstances.

In Nigeria, GPE support underpinned government efforts to get more children – particularly girls – into school through scholarships, stipends and other initiatives that also aim to boost teacher training and improve the quality of education. By 2021, more than 417,000 girls had received scholarships through this effort.

In Vanuatu, GPE helped students, teachers, schools and communities coping with the dual impacts of the pandemic and Cyclone Harold. With GPE support, the government ensured children could access specially adapted early-learning materials, and provided dozens of schools with new water tanks, benefiting students, their families and communities.

Despite the scale of the challenges faced by GPE partner countries, common themes arose: hope, resilience, and a resolve to not only recover from this crisis but also to build back more resilient, inclusive and effective education systems so that no child will be left behind.

These obstacles and opportunities inspired GPE to refine our approach to transforming education systems, as set out in our five-year strategy, GPE 2025. Forged in the reality that partner countries, facing the impacts of the pandemic, conflict, climate change and economic contractions, require bold actions and system-wide transformation, GPE's refined approach provides more flexible and context-specific support to help governments deliver impact at scale. Six countries stepped up in 2021 to pilot this approach, which brings diverse partners together to identify bottlenecks and align behind priority reforms; hardwires gender equality at every step along the way; and builds learning and adaptation into implementation.

In 2021, GPE united an ever-growing range of allies through the Raise Your Hand campaign, which culminated in the Global Education Summit in July 2021. The summit mobilized major financial and in-kind commitments from partner countries, donors, businesses, foundations and development banks, and rallied diverse stakeholders together to keep education at the top of the global agenda.

A major milestone for GPE in 2021 was the arrival of the new Board Chair, His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete, and Vice Chair, Dr. Susan Liautaud, taking the reins from Julia Gillard and Serigne Mbaye Thiam, respectively. In early 2022, we also said goodbye to GPE's Chief Executive Officer of nine years, Alice Albright, whose leadership was central in defining us as a vital partner for countries striving to improve education and for the global community looking to align with them.

Let me conclude by thanking all GPE partners for their continued hard work and dedication. As this report shows, our collective efforts have helped us improve the lives of millions of children around the world and provide them with hope, opportunity and agency through a quality education.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

GPE launched a **new approach to transforming education systems** in six partner countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Kenya, Nepal Tajikistan and Uganda. The second round of countries included: Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Comoros, Fiji, The Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Zimbabwe.

$467 million in **COVID-19 accelerated financing** supported 66 countries through the second year of the pandemic.

Estonia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the LEGO Foundation **joined the partnership**.

GPE approved **new grants** totaling $740 million.

Two new innovative financing instruments were launched: the **GPE Match** and the **Smarter Education Financing Initiative** (the latter in partnership with the Arab Coordination Group).

The GPE Board of Directors approved a **new Board committee structure** as well as a new evaluation policy and results framework to **support the delivery of GPE 2025**.

His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete became the new Chair of the GPE Board of Directors and **Dr. Susan Liautaud** joined as Vice-Chair.

Education Out Loud, GPE's fund for civil society advocacy, approved 19 grants for activities across 56 countries. Grantees were instrumental in influencing 22 national policy changes in 18 countries to better embrace education as a fundamental human right.

New guidance was published on strengthening the effectiveness of local education groups and joint sector monitoring in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **2021 Results Report**, the last in the series reporting against the GPE 2020 results framework, showcased how GPE contributed to better education outcomes in partner countries.

The **GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange** funded action-research initiatives in 32 countries and brought together more than 14,000 people through learning events.

The Raise Your Hand financing campaign culminated in the **Global Education Summit** online and live in London in July, hosted by President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, and **raising $4 billion** for GPE 2025.

Development banks, foundations, businesses as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies mobilized more than **$1.5 billion** in catalytic cofinancing to the **GPE Multiplier** and the **Girls' Education Accelerator**.

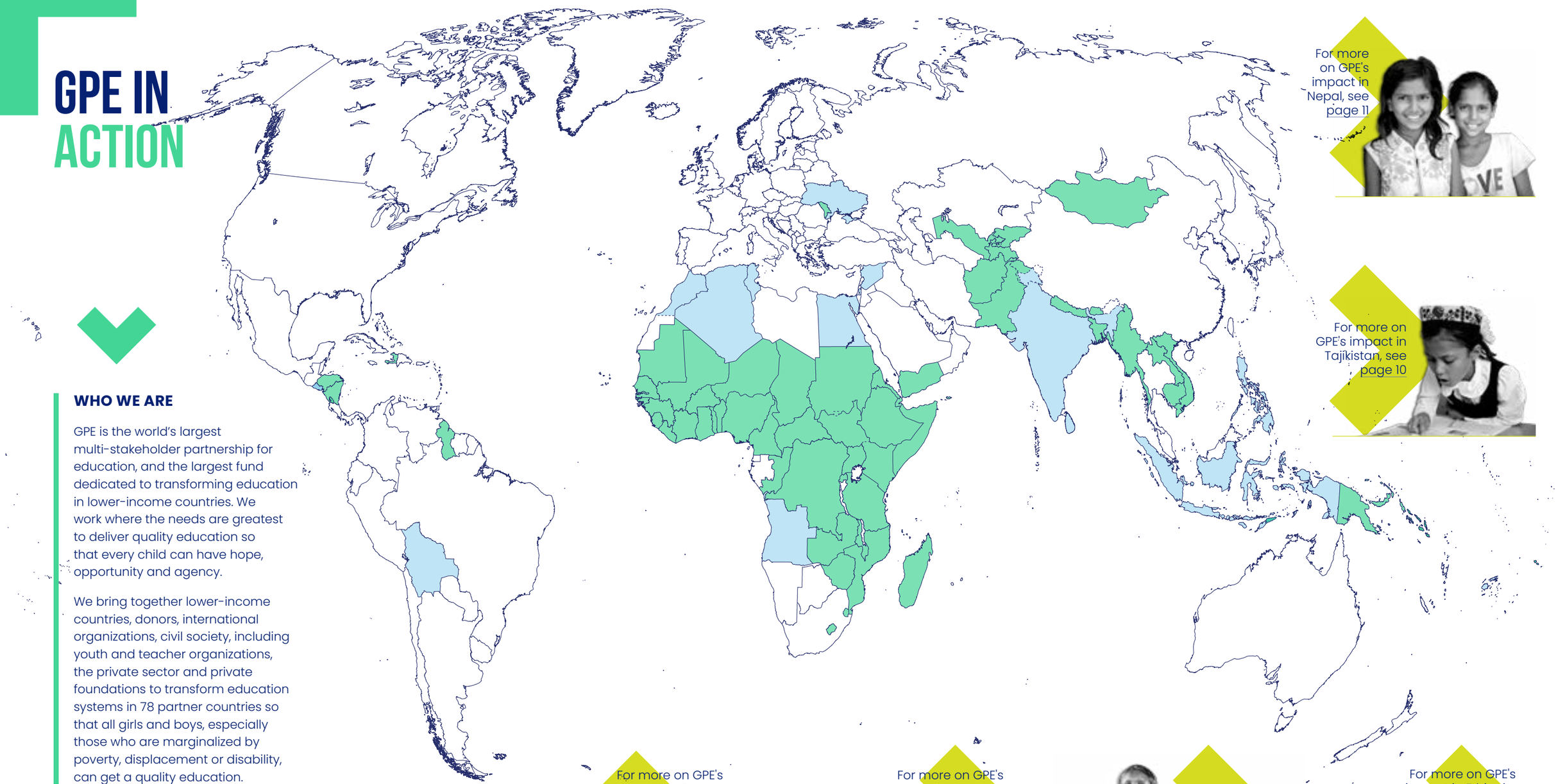
Nineteen heads of state endorsed the **Call to Action on Education Finance**, demonstrating partner countries' strong commitment to funding education.

GPE IN ACTION

WHO WE ARE

GPE is the world's largest multi-stakeholder partnership for education, and the largest fund dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries. We work where the needs are greatest to deliver quality education so that every child can have hope, opportunity and agency.

We bring together lower-income countries, donors, international organizations, civil society, including youth and teacher organizations, the private sector and private foundations to transform education systems in 78 partner countries so that all girls and boys, especially those who are marginalized by poverty, displacement or disability, can get a quality education.



GPE partner countries

Eligible countries and territories

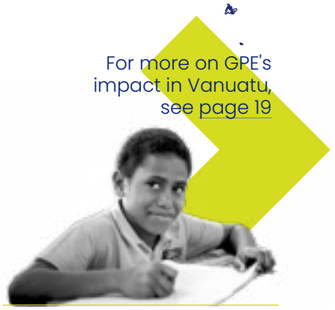
For the full list of GPE partners and eligible partners, see:
https://www.globalpartnership.org/where-we-work/partner-countries

For more on GPE's impact in Nepal, see page 11

For more on GPE's impact in Tajikistan, see page 10



For more on GPE's impact in Ghana, see page 13



For more on GPE's impact in Vanuatu, see page 19



For more on GPE's impact in Kenya, see page 19



For more on GPE's impact in Ethiopia, see page 15

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION



Punkaj Kumar Das with his school books outside Shree Ram Narayan Ayodhaya School in Pipra, Mahottari District, Nepal.

GPE/Kelley Lynch

Well before the COVID-19 pandemic swept the globe, GPE partner countries were calling for a bold departure from business as usual to meet the challenges of the 21st century. They called for collective efforts to transform education systems for system-wide impact at scale, based on the principle of leaving no one behind.

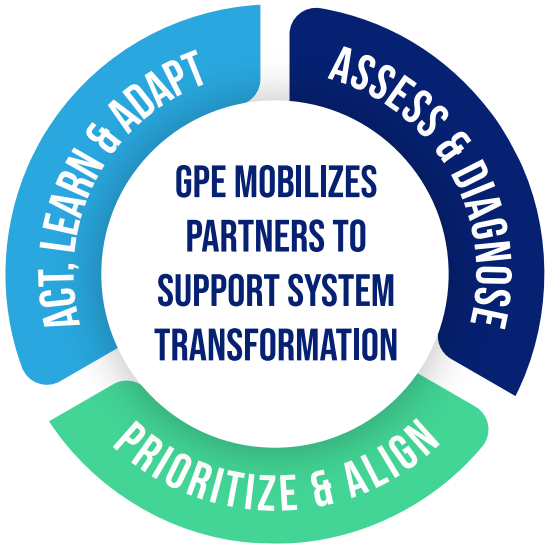
In 2021, the health crisis continued to cause unprecedented disruptions to education in GPE partner countries, with 74 of 76 GPE partner countries experiencing school closures. Governments responded with innovative and comprehensive efforts to keep children learning and safely reopen schools. These efforts were supported by more than $500 million in COVID-19 emergency grants from GPE, as well as by evidence generated from a coalition of organizations through a global learning grant.

Nonetheless, the ongoing effects of the pandemic, combined with pre-existing pressure from the increasing severity of climate change impacts, population growth and conflicts, have put education systems under unparalleled strain. GPE partner countries are facing substantial learning losses, with girls, students with disabilities, displaced children and other marginalized children disproportionately affected and bearing the greatest risk of never returning to their education.

The scale of the crisis requires an urgent and ambitious response to create strong and resilient education systems that achieve education outcomes at scale and address systemic inequalities. In 2021, GPE launched a new strategy, GPE 2025, which sets out how the partnership will leverage its unique assets and ways of working – its alliances, technical expertise and finance – to support governments to deliver the transformative, large-scale changes that are needed to provide a quality education to all children and youth.

RESPONDING BETTER TO COUNTRY NEEDS

In 2021, GPE launched a sharpened approach to helping partner countries transform their education systems. Building on lessons learned over the past five years, this approach places a greater focus on leveraging the full power of the partnership by convening a diverse range of actors to identify priority reforms – those reforms with the greatest potential for catalyzing transformation in education systems – and aligning partners, resources and expertise behind nationally led efforts to deliver these shifts at scale. To further catalyze this change, GPE also offers countries a more flexible array of funding options tailored to their needs and priorities.



Under the new strategy, GPE's approach to transforming education involves three steps. First, drawing on the breadth and expertise of the partnership, GPE convenes a diverse range of country-level stakeholders to help governments assess and diagnose educational bottlenecks and challenges. Gender equality is a core part of these discussions. The second is to prioritize education system reforms that will support shifts toward inclusion, quality and

TAJIKISTAN PILOTS GPE 2025

Aiming to build on impressive enrollment gains and progress toward gender parity, Tajikistan has embraced GPE's new approaches under the GPE 2025 strategy to further the goal of providing quality and inclusive education. During 2021, the government, donors and civil society organizations came together to set out a common vision for education system transformation. They agreed to focus on implementing a new curriculum as the priority reform to drive change at scale. This inclusive discussion focused on a more targeted and coordinated approach emphasizing gender equality, data, learning and adaptation.



A student reading in school in the Ridaki District, Tajikistan.

GPE/Carine Durand

efficiency in education, and align resources and partners behind these efforts, all outlined in a clear partnership compact. The third covers implementation of the partnership compact, with ongoing support to ensure the availability of data and provide focused results tracking to guide progress, ensure accountability and allow for course corrections when needed.

During 2021, six countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Kenya, Nepal, Tajikistan and Uganda – stepped forward to pilot this refined way of working. Their experiences provided valuable insight into how the approach can help better assess education systems, identify roadblocks and prioritize reform areas, and deliver equitable learning for girls and boys.

As a next step, the pilot countries will use this process of developing a partnership compact to align partners and resources where they see the greatest needs and potential for transformation. To support them, GPE offers a refined array of grant funding. Some grants, such as the Multiplier, GPE Match and the Girls' Education Accelerator, offer governments innovative ways to attract cofinancing and "crowd in" investment in their education plans from other sources, including philanthropic foundations and development banks.

This range of financial support is complemented by other resources essential to driving education system transformation, such as the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX), which connects the expertise, innovation and knowledge of GPE partners, Education Out Loud, which helps facilitate civic engagement, and capacity building initiatives such as the Education Data Solutions Roundtable.

NEPAL PILOTS GPE 2025

The inclusiveness and engagement at the heart of the GPE 2025 strategy was showcased during 2021 in Nepal as they continue adjusting their education system to a recently decentralized federal governance structure. With local governments now more responsible for providing basic education, Nepal's work with GPE provided it a means to enhance its consultative processes with local administrations as they worked to survey gender issues and priorities across the country, including ensuring all students are protected from violence.



Best friends and neighbors Barsha and Chandni in Nepal.

GPE/Kelley Lynch

GPE'S COVID RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic propelled the world from an ongoing crisis in education worldwide into one that exacerbated existing inequities and risks, leaving a generational legacy of missed learning and exclusion.

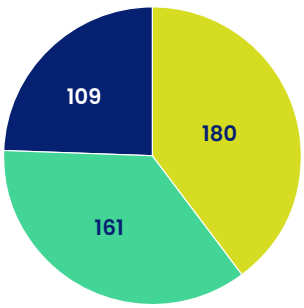
GPE's $500 million COVID-19 accelerated funding gave partner countries the resources to adapt their education systems and prevent this emergency having even more profound effects on student learning. Building on the initial planning support grants provided, via UNICEF, to 87 countries in April 2020, in 2021, GPE's COVID-19 funds had reached 66 partner countries, supporting up to 355 million boys and girls.

Partner countries used this emergency grant funding to develop and roll out distance learning initiatives designed to reach the largest number of children and prevent learning losses. Most did so by distributing printed materials, developing educational radio and television programming, and, when schools reopened, training teachers to provide accelerated programs to help students catch up on lost learning. Partner countries also used GPE support to help equip schools to safely re-open after closures.

Partner countries targeted support to the most vulnerable girls and boys including children in rural areas, children living with disabilities, and children from the poorest households. Many did so by distributing hygiene and sanitation kits, providing school meals and supporting psychosocial programs. All GPE grants were required to identify gender-based interventions, and to this end GPE funds supported community sensitization campaigns to mitigate the increased risks of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, violence, and pregnancy faced by girls during school closures, and launch back-to-school campaigns specifically targeting girls.

Incentivizing deeper collaboration among global education supporters, GPE also provided $25 million through a joint initiative with UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank to advance regional and global responses to the crisis and to share the knowledge learned. During 2021, this initiative supported the development of an online learning platform linking 6 million students and 200,000 teachers across 11 countries in Africa. In Asia, the coalition supported the publication of 800 learning materials designed specifically for children with disabilities in eight countries and available in a digital library to ensure they could continue to learn as teaching shifted online.

COVID-19 ACCELERATED FUNDING GRANT ALLOCATIONS BY CATEGORY
(IN US$ MILLIONS)



GRANTS SUPPORT PARTNER COUNTRIES' RESPONSE IN:

- Equity: Hygiene and psychosocial support programs, with priority for the most vulnerable girls and boys, including children with disabilities.
- Learning: Distance learning initiatives, provision of learning materials, support to teachers in distance and accelerated remedial learning programs.
- System resilience and school reopening: Preparations for the reopening of schools by ensuring that students and teachers can return to safe education facilities.



Three girls read together in Ghana.

Worldreader

COPING WITH COVID-19 AND GETTING BACK TO SCHOOL IN GHANA

In Ghana, 9.2 million children were affected by school closures. The government faced the immediate challenge of helping children continue learning during the closures, while also planning for making up for lost time and ensuring student safety when classroom doors opened again.

In support, GPE provided $15 million in a grant to back learning continuity during the pandemic and to build resilience for future shocks; this was augmented with another grant of $24.4 million for the Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project, which focuses on better learning in lower-performing schools.

The COVID-19 response grant contributed to the development of over 1,640 TV and radio lessons as well as other distance learning materials distributed rolled out during the crisis. The government also used this support from GPE to distribute 3,000 tablet computers pre-loaded with educational content to 28 special schools with 7,070 students with disabilities.

When schools reopened in early 2021, more than 70,000 teachers across 10,000 schools in the Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project could draw on new training to provide remedial and accelerated lessons tailored to at-risk or poor-performing students.

SUSTAINING EDUCATION THROUGH CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY

GPE 2025 is centered on supporting system transformation, meeting partner countries where they are. The strategy identifies support to countries affected by fragility and conflict as a key priority, because children in these countries are more likely to be out of school and more vulnerable to learning loss. During conflicts and disasters, schools are often destroyed or become unsafe, and children and teachers may become forcibly displaced. Crises exacerbate disadvantages for girls in particular.

In 2021, 34 GPE partner countries were experiencing conflict or fragility, and 65 percent of new funds approved went to countries in these situations. GPE's role in crisis situations is to sustain support to the government and partners to plan, respond and recover by promoting alignment and coordination, strengthening capacity, sustaining continuity of education services, and building back better in terms of effective, responsive and inclusive education system delivery.

In **Yemen**, GPE has been working closely with the government and development partners to sustain access to education and keep the system from collapse during eight years of conflict. Since 2015, GPE's support has benefited more than 4 million children. GPE funds have helped train 180,000 teachers, recruit 2,000 new rural female teachers, support 7,000 schools through small grants and rehabilitate 100 schools damaged or destroyed in the fighting. In 2021, implementation began on a new $50 million grant to strengthen the resilience of the education sector, including through distance learning, providing children with trained teachers and safe learning spaces, and meeting children's basic needs, for example by supporting school meals.

Since the Taliban took power in **Afghanistan** in August 2021, GPE has been working with humanitarian and development partners to save the already fragile education system from collapse and safeguard the right to education for millions of Afghan girls and boys. In October 2021, GPE convened partners in a consultation on options for continuous engagement in the country. Following that meeting, partners invoked the GPE Operational Framework for Effective Support in Fragile and Conflict-affected States in late 2021 and elaborated the Afghanistan Education Sector Transitional Framework in early 2022. GPE has also been supporting the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan to provide education opportunities to out-of-school boys and girls through community-based learning centers without government intervention.

In **Mali**, GPE is supporting education with a combination of grants designed to meet emergency needs while sustaining progress towards long-term goals. An accelerated funding grant is helping meet the needs of children affected by conflict and instability in the northern regions, while in 2021 implementation began on a new basic education program, cofinanced with the World Bank International Development Association (IDA), which aims to strengthen the resilience of the education system and address critical challenges including low enrollment and high dropout rates for girls.



Teacher Serawork Melaku works on a puzzle with Bemenet, 12. Felege Abay Elementary School, Bahar Dar, Ethiopia.

GPE/Kelley Lynch

GPE'S SUPPORT TO REFUGEES IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is the third largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, with more than 800,000 refugees mainly from neighboring countries of South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. Ethiopia adopted the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in 2016, and in 2019, made provisions to provide refugees with access to pre-primary and primary education. In 2021, the country used $20 million from the GPE Multiplier, with cofinancing from the World Bank and Denmark, to launch an $80 million refugee integration program focusing on the regions of Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Somali and Tigray. The program supports the long-term goal of integrating refugee children in the national system by serving both refugees and host communities in the same schools, with a particular focus on equity, including addressing barriers and challenges faced by girls.

GENDER EQUALITY



A girl in school in Tajikistan.

GPE/Carine Durand

To achieve education transformation at scale, children of all genders must be able to get a quality education. Strategies must consider gendered experiences and meet the specific needs of girls and boys to help overcome obstacles ranging from distance to schools, cultural norms and practices, school hygiene, gender-based violence, child labor and early marriage.

Gender equality in education is an explicit goal of the GPE 2025 strategy and is "hardwired" into every aspect of GPE's operations, leadership and advocacy. At the country level, GPE helps ensure that partners are using a gender lens at every stage of system transformation, from conducting gender assessments of system bottlenecks, to identifying in partnership compacts how different stakeholders and priority reforms will support gender equality, to ensuring strategies are adapted based on evidence gathered through gender diagnostics, to monitoring gender equality results.

When a country develops a partnership compact, consideration is given in all cases to how the compact will accelerate progress towards gender equality, taking into account the specific challenges and opportunities in that context. GPE mobilizes and aligns funding, technical expertise and partnerships to support this focus. GPE can also provide dedicated funding for governments to advance gender equality. From 2021, countries can use a systems capacity grant to strengthen gender responsive planning and policy development, including by conducting gender analyses of education systems, identifying gender barriers, and developing policies, plans and budgets to address inequalities. GPE has also developed the Girls' Education Accelerator window (see box on page 18) for countries seeking additional funding to complement efforts to close the gap between boys and girls.

IN PRACTICE: BREAKING DOWN GENDER BARRIERS

Working with governments, donors, civil society organizations, foundations and other partners, GPE helps tackle gender barriers in context-specific ways. Strategies to tackle gender inequalities may include improved data collection, public awareness campaigns, school construction closer to communities to reduce the risks of assault to girls, resources for menstrual hygiene management, providing support and incentives to keep boys and girls in school, and removing harmful stereotypes from learning materials.

El Salvador – through its engagement under GPE 2025 – is pursuing gender equality in early learning to counter social norms biased against girls getting an education and leaving them vulnerable to gender-based violence, a major challenge across its society. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, GPE's more inclusive engagement approach encouraged a range of partners to consider how improved data and coordination among partners behind government actions could accelerate progress under the country's system-wide girls' education strategy.

In a world dividing its attention across a growing number of emergencies, GPE's advocacy on gender equality during 2021 focused on raising the political profile of girls' education as a core strategy to help present and future generations confront global challenges such as conflict, climate change, health and nutrition. Through the Raise Your Hand campaign, GPE strengthened partnerships and pursued joint advocacy with civil society, multilateral agencies, donors, governments and youth leaders, taking part in global and regional events, ministerial meetings and through social media.

GIRLS' EDUCATION ACCELERATOR

In 2021, GPE launched the $250 million Girls' Education Accelerator, a funding window that provides additional support to countries that have committed to gender equality and girls' education as a focus for system transformation through their partnership compacts. Currently, 30 countries where girls' education lags furthest behind are eligible for this additional support, which can be accessed to supplement both the system transformation grant and GPE Multiplier. The Girls' Education Accelerator can fund evidence-based interventions designed to tackle barriers to girls' education, both within education systems (such as training teachers on the prevention of sexual abuse and harassment) and more broadly at community level (such as public awareness campaigns). In this way, the Girls' Education Accelerator not only provides an innovative and efficient financing option to help tackle gender barriers, but also acts as a catalyst in focusing attention on gender equality as an urgent priority in education reform.



Teacher at Nyamachaki Primary School, Nyeri County, Kenya.

GPE/Kelley Lynch

TEACHER TRAINING AND MENTORING IN KENYA

In Kenya, GPE has been instrumental in backing the government's shift to a competency-based curriculum that focuses on what children can do rather than simply what they know. That effort has been built around the launch of the National Education Management Information System to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency. The results have been apparent in the 70 percent reduction in the cost of textbooks, achieved by making procurement and distribution more efficient as well as the equal enrollment of girls and boys. GPE also supported the training of 102,000 teachers in innovative methods that are essential to ensuring all Kenyan children can receive a quality education, regardless of their location or family circumstances. These efforts included an emphasis on teacher mentoring that gives each educator access to a network of peers and supervisors who can guide them through future challenges. Kenya also participates in the Girls' Education Awareness Program and the Education Data Leadership Program, both launched in 2021 (see page 22).

DISASTER RESPONSE IN VANUATU

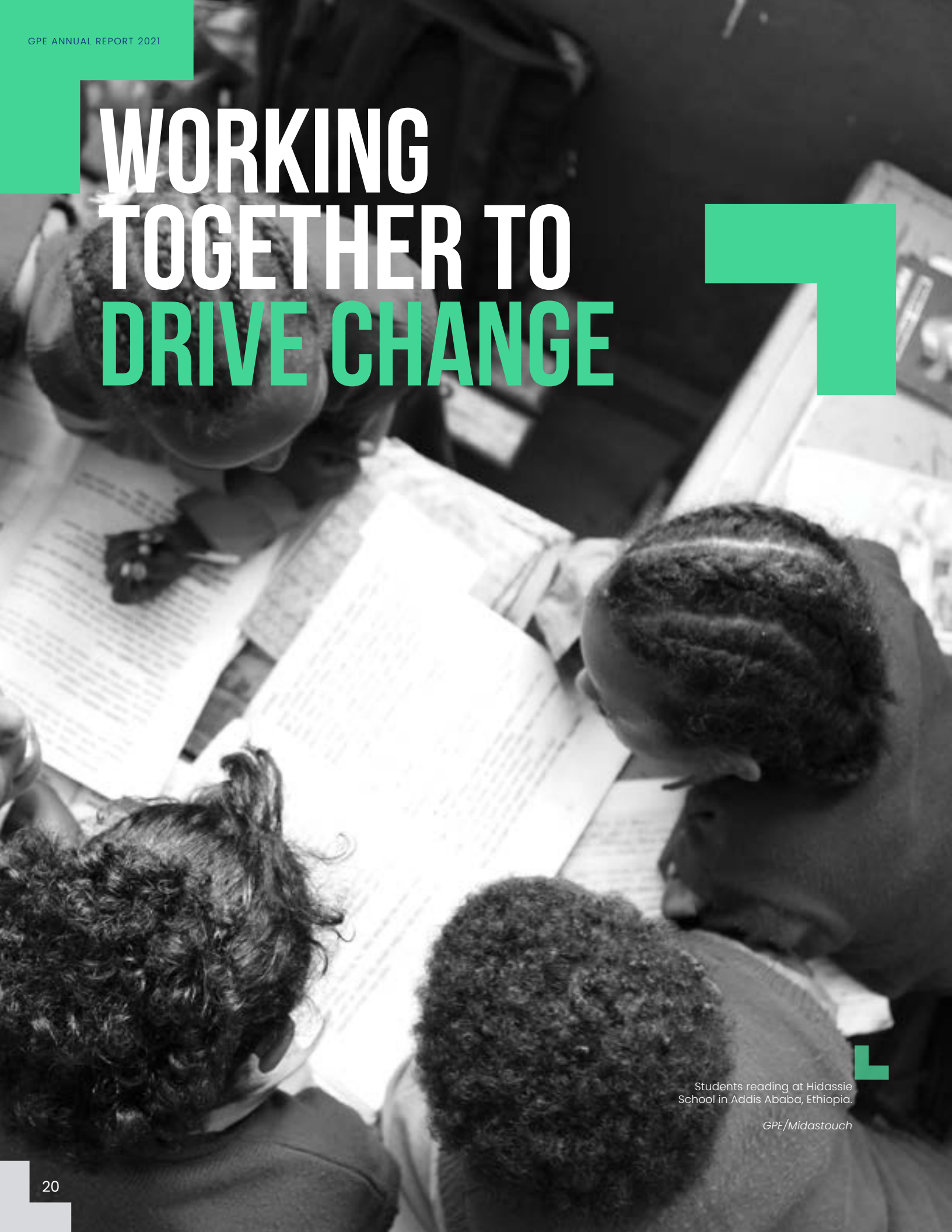
Vanuatu drew on GPE support to create contingency plans that included guidelines for teachers and parents, as well as packages of materials that can be given to students for use when home-schooling. Almost 900 schools were entirely or partially destroyed by cyclone Harold in April 2020, affecting nearly 51,000 students and 2,400 teachers. By 2021, GPE had provided the country with more than $4 million in urgent grant support for both cyclone recovery and the country's COVID-19 education response, helping rebuild and improve dozens of schools while creating home-school packages designed to be accessible for all children, whatever their abilities.



A student in class at the FresWota School in Vanuatu.

GPE/Arlene Bax

WORKING TOGETHER TO DRIVE CHANGE



Students reading at Hidassie School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

GPE/Midastouch

As the world's multi-stakeholder partnership for education, GPE brings governments the expertise of an increasingly diverse range of global and national actors, including multilateral development banks, private philanthropic organizations and foundations, donors and UN agencies, civil society and businesses, to deliver transformative change. Throughout 2021, GPE forged new alliances and secured commitments to broaden support to partner countries.

During 2021, the Asian Development Bank joined the Islamic Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in becoming a GPE partner, immediately pledging to double its support to education programs to 10 percent of total commitments by 2024. The Inter-American Development Bank also became a grant agent, which means it can support GPE partner countries in Latin America in planning, receiving and directing GPE financing to education priorities.

At the RewirEd Summit in December 2021, GPE and the Arab Coordination Group – an alliance of financial development institutions from across the region - launched the Smart Education Financing initiative, generating half a billion dollars in innovative financing for education for 37 countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, where 28 million children are out of school.

GPE also worked with philanthropic foundations to find innovative ways to strengthen education sectors in partner countries, involving them in national and global education policy efforts and broadening their experience in areas including advocacy, technical support, assessment, planning and financing. At the Global Education Summit, LEGO Foundation, Open Society Foundation and Dubai Cares provided $13.5 million to a range of GPE-backed initiatives, including the Knowledge and

Innovation Exchange (see box, page 23) and the Girls' Education Accelerator (see box, page 18), while cofinancing commitments totaled another $101.5 million.

In 2021, GPE also created the GPE Match grant to double qualifying philanthropic investments by businesses or foundations in partner countries. Businesses and foundations can trigger the one-for-one contribution from GPE Match in two ways: as part of the GPE Multiplier or by contributing to the Girls' Education Accelerator.

GPE is increasingly helping partner countries benefit from the expertise of the business community. Through GPE's Girls' Education Awareness Program, the expertise of national and international companies in communications, marketing and advocacy is being used to complement government-led gender equality initiatives in Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe by delivering messaging campaigns designed to counter harmful social norms that keep girls from learning. Through the Education Data Leadership Program, business community partners are lending their expertise in data competency to ministries of education. At the Global Education Summit in 2021, nine companies - Microsoft, Intel, IBM, Cisco, HP, Avanti Communications, Ecobank, Econet and Price Waterhouse Cooper – provided $6.3 million in in-kind contributions to these initiatives.

Civil society organizations and a new cadre of youth leaders were also prominent allies in GPE's Raise Your Hand replenishment campaign and the Global Education Summit, lending their support to these efforts to boost the urgency of education reform and secure the resources needed to make it happen. Civil society partners including ActionAid, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), the Global Campaign for Education Secretariat and their regional Secretariats, Malala Fund, ONE, Oxfam, Plan International, Results and Save the Children supported the #RaiseYourHand campaign through advocacy and outreach, including on social media. The World Food Programme attended its first GPE Board meeting in 2021, joining UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, further strengthening GPE's UN and multilateral partners.

EDUCATION OUT LOUD

In partnership with Oxfam IBIS, GPE's financial backing to the Education Out Loud fund continued to support civil society activities and influence, shaping education policy to better satisfy community needs, in particular those of disadvantaged and marginalized families. In 2021, Education Out Loud approved 19 grants for activities across 56 countries. Grantees in 2021 were instrumental in influencing 22 national policy changes in 18 countries to better embrace education as a fundamental human right.

National education coalitions supported by Education Out Loud in 18 countries contributed to the design of COVID-19 response education policies to ensure students could continue learning despite the ongoing crisis. One-fifth of the organizations receiving Education Out Loud grants were focusing on girls' education and gender equality, and education rights for teen mothers, with research into the state of girls' education in Tanzania informing a change in government policy toward re-entry for teen mothers.

Education Out Loud also works closely with ministries of education to ensure transparency and accountability of education plan design and implementation. In Liberia, a partnership with the Ministry of Education is helping enhance access to and availability of disaggregated data on girls' education to support implementation of the national policy on girls' education. In Pakistan, data and evidence are being generated to track government plans and financing at provincial, district and local levels. In the Philippines, education groups are being supported to monitor the education strategies during the pandemic. Large numbers of grantees are also engaging in research and capacity building for advocacy on domestic financing to education.

In September 2021, GPE's Board approved an additional $17.3 million to support the work of 60 national civil society coalitions for a further two years, bringing the total funds available for Education Out Loud activities to $72.8 million.

GPE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION EXCHANGE (KIX)

KIX supports the generation and sharing of ideas on what works in improving education systems, connecting more than 60 GPE partner countries, backing this with funding, and supporting capacity to scale up innovation. It connects partner countries through regional hubs: one in Latin America and the Caribbean, two in Africa, and one in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. KIX also provides grants for action-research, focused on thematic areas identified by partner countries and including early learning and development, gender equality and social inclusion, teaching and learning, and education data solutions. The hubs and grants are managed by the International Development Research Centre, which acts also as grant agent, cofinancer and partner.

Some of the KIX achievements in 2021 include:

- The KIX COVID-19 Observatory for Africa, developed in response to the pandemic, shared information from 40 African countries on policy and practice responses to COVID-19 as authorities worked to sustain learning and reopen schools.
- KIX hubs and the observatory moderated 76 knowledge exchange activities in 2021 involving more than 5,000 participants, while KIX grants supported 322 events involving over 9,100 stakeholders.
- KIX has provided more than $20 million through 22 regional grants for action-research initiatives in 32 countries.
- KIX is also leveraging support from others, partnering with LEGO Foundation on a $3-million project to spur early learning activities in 11 English-speaking African countries.

A LEARNING PARTNERSHIP



Mariama is student at the Freetown Secondary School for Girls.

GPE/Ludovica Pellicioli

GPE partner countries benefit from the evidence generated and lessons learned during the partnership's 20 years of supporting education reforms. Throughout 2021, the partnership continued to focus on gathering and sharing information and improving its capacities in strategic monitoring, evaluation and learning, including by enhancing the monitoring and evaluation framework.

At the country level, GPE continued to refine its focus on supporting learning and embedding the use of data in countries' approach to systems transformation to reinforce their abilities to adapt their strategies based on emerging evidence.

Monitoring and evaluation reviews published in 2021 focused on the efficacy of GPE's COVID-19 response as well as its goal to crowd in greater investment in education system transformation from donors that might otherwise not have contributed in the absence of GPE funds.

To ensure its rapid response to the pandemic was meeting its goals, GPE published an evaluation in 2021 that confirmed the half-billion-dollar support effort was sufficiently comprehensive and provided the right support to partner countries. Furthermore, in 2021, a review of the GPE Multiplier found that this innovative grant window is succeeding in not only crowding in financing from other sources but also contributing to swifter financing and spurring policy reforms. In 2021, GPE also published the final report chronicling five years of country progress against GPE 2020 (see box below).

GPE RESULTS REPORT

The GPE Results Report 2021 is the final annual results report on the GPE Strategic Plan 2016–2020 (GPE 2020). The report highlights the work of the partnership during this period, as well as its rapid pivot to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 32.7 million students were supported by GPE grants, 24.2 million of these in partner countries coping with conflict or in similarly fragile situations
- Primary school completion rates improved to 76 percent in 2020 from 72 percent in 2015; lower secondary was up to 53 percent from 49 percent over the same period
- 68 percent of countries in 2020 directed at least 20 percent of public spending to education compared with 64 percent in 2015
- The share of partner countries with quality learning assessments improved to 48 percent in 2020, from 40 percent in 2015.

For more information, see the 2021 Results Report.



Mimi (pictured) was featured in the Raise Your Hand campaign video which was viewed more than 1 million times by over 800,000 people across the world.

GPE



In October 2020, GPE launched Raise Your Hand, Fund Education, a nine-month campaign in support of global education. The campaign aimed to mobilize support from an increasingly diverse range of partners, centering education as an urgent priority on the global agenda at a time when the pandemic, economic uncertainty, conflict and climate change are demanding the world's attention.

The campaign culminated in the Global Education Summit in July 2021. Cohosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, the two-day online and in-person event saw leaders from governments, businesses, private foundations and development banks commit funding and support to children's education in the world's lowest-income countries.

Amid the ongoing education crisis caused by the pandemic, the summit provided a key moment for the global community to come together and pledge support for a quality education for all girls and boys. Donor pledges secured throughout the campaign raised a record $4 billion (see box below), including a pledge by the G7 leaders for a fully funded GPE, and four new donors joined the partnership.

Rallying behind a Call to Action on Education Financing (see box, page 29) led by President Kenyatta, GPE partner countries committed to spending at least 20% of national budgets on education – up to $196 billion in education financing by 2025.

The summit also saw an unprecedented number of pledges from businesses, private foundations and development banks, which along with a range of partners have mobilized more than $1 billion towards innovative financing instruments that provide catalytic capital to partner countries alongside investments from GPE. This included more than $100 million from the business community, private foundations and development banks.

A fully funded GPE would enable 175 million children in partner countries to learn, and get 88 million more children in school. The ripple effects of this investment could add $164 billion to partner economies, lift 18 million people out of poverty, and save 3 million lives.

THE RAISE YOUR HAND CAMPAIGN RAISED $4 BILLION, WITH PLEDGES FROM:

Australia
Belgium
Canada
Estonia
European Union
Finland
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kuwait
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Republic of Korea
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of America
Dubai Cares
LEGO Foundation
Open Society Foundations

For more information, see: https://www.globalpartnership.org/financing-2025/pledges

SIGNATORIES OF THE CALL TO ACTION ON EDUCATION FINANCE:

H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso
H.E. Jose Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia*
H.E. Denis Sassou N'guesso, President of the Republic of Congo
H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti
H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana
H.E. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives
H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique
H.E. Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of the Republic of Nicaragua
H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger
H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda
Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
H.E. Mohamed Hussein Roble, Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia
H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania
H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda
H.E. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe
H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

* Announced commitment at RewirEd Summit 2021.

For more information, see: https://www.globalpartnership.org/news/heads-state-call-action-education-finance

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES COMMITTED $6.3 MILLION OF IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GIRLS' EDUCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM AND THE EDUCATION DATA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

Avanti Communications
Cisco
Ecobank
Econet
HP
IBM
Intel
Microsoft
Price Waterhouse Cooper

MORE THAN $500 MILLION WAS COMMITTED IN COFINANCING FOR GPE'S MULTIPLER FROM:

Carlos Novella Foundation
Insights for Education
Islamic Development Bank (on behalf of Arab Coordination Group)
Education Above All
Jacobs Foundation
LEGO Foundation
Sergio Paez Andrade Foundation

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



In October 2020, GPE launched GPE 2025 and the Raise Your Hand education financing campaign.

watch here >>



In May, Raise Your Hand & Support Her Education brought UN Messenger of Peace Malala Yousafzai, GPE Chair Julia Gillard and others together to discuss the power of girls' education to shape our collective future.

watch here ››

In May, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and GPE Chair Julia Gillard visited a classroom in England, and connected virtually with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, who was also visiting a school in Nairobi. The event raised awareness about the global education crisis and girls' education.

$2.75B

In June, G7 leaders in Cornwall called for a fully funded GPE and announced a pledge of $2.75 billion.



In July, the Global Education Summit in London raised $4 billion.

In April 2021, the GPE Case for Investment launch in the Middle East brought together dignitaries from the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, who outlined their ambition to prioritize investments in education.

watch here ››



Celebrities, leaders and activists know the importance of ensuring that all girls and boys around the world get a quality education, giving them the chance to thrive and create a more sustainable future for all. International football star Didier Drogba, and many others, raised their hands for funding education.

watch here ››

In June, the Raise Your Hand Nordic Midsummer Festival showcased Nordic voices to put the global learning crisis on the agenda and commit to keeping education financing as a priority for the international community.

watch here ››



In July, Youssou N'Dour united with global stars Teni the Entertainer, Reekado Banks, Nomcebo Zikode and the London Community Gospel Choir for the anthem "Raise your Hand".

watch here ››



World leaders and education advocates came together to show their dedication and support to tackling the world's education crisis.

GPE/Tom Whipps

GLOBAL EDUCATION SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

GPE partner countries taking part in the Global Education Summit together committed to education spending totaling $200 billion.

19 heads of state endorsed the 'Call to Action on education financing' that specifies protecting education spending at pre-COVID levels and also calls for 20 percent of public spending to be allocated to education.

23 donors pledged $4 billion toward GPE's replenishment, securing 80 percent of GPE's funding out to 2025. The full list of pledges can be found here.

186,220 visitors joined online across all events, highlighting both the interest and the urgency in the global effort to boost education worldwide.

10 heads of state attended the summit in person while the leaders of Norway, Spain and the European Commission joined online.

More than **2,500 registered participants connected** to the Global Education Summit through a virtual summit portal.

150 partners organized 70 side events before and during the summit, focusing on gender equality, teacher training, COVID-19, domestic financing and climate change, among others.

Businesses, philanthropic foundations and other donors committed $1 billion to innovative GPE financing options, such as the Girls' Education Accelerator.

35 youth leaders, aged 18-29, were instrumental in raising the profile of GPE's Raise Your Hand campaign throughout 2021, sharing their views via social and traditional media outlets and participating in more than 80 education-focused events worldwide.

GPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GPE has a 40-member constituency-based, multi-stakeholder Board of Directors.[1]

H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE



CHAIR

In September 2021, His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete became Chair of the Board, bringing a wealth of experience as former President of Tanzania and a passion for advancing education, promoting women's and children's health, and advocating for refugees.

DR. SUSAN LIAUTAUD



VICE CHAIR

Dr. Susan Liautaud joined as Vice Chair, adding to her current role as Chair of Council (trustees) of the London School of Economics and Chair of the Advisory Council for the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University where she also lectures in ethics.

Africa 1	Edgar Moyo, Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Zimbabwe Alternate: Abdullahi Abukar Haji, Federal Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education, Federal Government of Somalia (Federal, Puntland, Somaliland)
Africa 2	Komla Dodzi Kokoroko, Minister of Primary, Secondary and Technical Education and Crafts, Togo Alternate: Kosmadji Merci, Minister of National Education and Civic Promotion, Chad
Africa 3	David Moinina Sengeh, Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Sierra Leone Alternate: Sunday S.T. Echono, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria
Asia and Pacific	Yadav Koirala, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Alternate: Jimmy Uguro, Minister of Education, Papua New Guinea
Eastern Europe, Middle East, Central Asia	Usman Sharifxodjayev Ulfatovich, First Deputy Minister of Public Education, Uzbekistan
Latin America and the Caribbean	Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Saint Lucia Alternate: Doris Margot Gutierrez, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Education, Honduras
Donor 1	Donatienne Hissard, Deputy Director for Sustainable Development, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France Alternate: Sabina Handschin, Head of Education, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
Donor 2	Line Baagø-Rasmussen, Chief Technical Advisor, Education and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark Alternate: Per Magnusson, Senior Program Specialist, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden

1. This list is as of December 31, 2021. More information is available at: https://www.globalpartnership.org/who-we-are/board

Donor 3	Alicia Herbert, Director, Education, Gender and Equality and Gender Envoy, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom Alternate: Louise Holt, Director General, Social Development, Global Affairs, Canada
Donor 4	Camilla Helgø Fossberg, Policy Director, Education Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway Alternate: Rashid Al Shamsi, Director, Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates
Donor 5	Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General Directorate for Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace and Resources, European Commission Alternate: Dr. Heike Kuhn, Head of Division, Education, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
Donor 6	LeAnna Marr, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, United States of America Alternate: Mr. Aedan Christian Whyatt, Assistant Secretary for the Education and Social Protection Branch in Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
CSO 1	Kira Boe, Education Co-Lead, Oxfam IBIS Alternate: Yona Nestel, Inclusive Quality Education Lead, Plan International
CSO 2	Solange Akpo-Gnandi, Regional Coordination, Africa Network Campaign on Education for All, Senegal Alternate: Abeer Tamimi Darwazeh, Capacity Building and Learning Coordinator, Arab Campaign for Education for All, West Bank and Gaza
CSO 3	Haldis Holst, Deputy General Secretary, Education International Alternate: Dennis Sinyolo, Regional Director, Education International, Africa Region
Private Sector	David Boutcher, Partner, Reed Smith LLP and Secretary and Safeguarding Director, Executive Board, Global Business Coalition for Education, United Kingdom Alternate: Emily Friedman, Head of Business Investment for Education Impact, Global Business Coalition for Education
Private Foundations	Euan Wilmshurst, Head of Advocacy and Communication, LEGO Foundation, Denmark Alternate: Carolyne Ng'eny, Program Officer, Firelight Foundation, Kenya
Multilateral Agency 1	Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO Alternate: Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, World Food Programme
Multilateral Agency 2	Robert Jenkins, Director, Education Section and Associate Director, UNICEF Alternate: Rebecca Telford, OiC Deputy Director, UNHCR Division of Resilience and Solutions
Multilateral Agency 3	Luis Benveniste, Regional Director, Human Development, Latin America and the Caribbean, The World Bank Alternate: Syed Husain Quadri, Acting Director, Resilience and Social Development Department, Islamic Development Bank

COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors relies on three committees to guide its work across GPE's key operations, ensuring it can carry out its duties efficiently, strategically and transparently.

The Executive Committee handles a range of administrative tasks for the Board, acts as an advisor to GPE's chief executive officer and also monitors how GPE applies its governance and ethics policies.

The Finance and Risk Committee advises the Board on the most efficient and effective use of GPE resources and oversees risk management, finances and audit arrangements.

The Performance, Impact and Learning Committee keeps GPE focused on results through data gathering and strong monitoring and evaluation activities. This committee also champions GPE's engagement in global education initiatives.

Cover photo: A first grade student at the Felege Abay Elementary School in Bahar Dar, Ethiopia.

GPE/Kelley Lynch

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GPE Transforming Education