Position Specification

Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
GPE Vice-Chair

3/14/2024

Private and Confidential

Russell Reynolds ASSOCIATES

Our Client

Established in 2002, GPE is a shared commitment to ending this learning crisis. GPE supports the countries with the greatest need and focus on reaching the most marginalized children. GPE brings together partner governments, donors, international organizations, civil society, teachers' organizations, the private sector, and philanthropic foundations to deliver quality education so that every girl and boy can have hope, opportunity, and agency.

GPE supports nearly 90 partner countries to transform their education systems to get the most vulnerable girls and boys in school, improve teaching and learning, and build resilience to withstand shocks and adapt to the challenges of the 21st century.

For 20 years, GPE has been financing and supporting lasting change in education so that countries can capitalize on the opportunities of the 21st century. GPE focuses on improving education at a systems level to leverage the profound transformations required to deliver at least one year of preschool and 12 years of quality education for every girl and boy. GPE does this through a twofold approach: strengthening education systems and leveraging domestic and international finance to accelerate and sustain progress.

Globally, GPE coordinates, convenes, and collaborates with actors across the global education sector. The GPE Board, with representation from each partner constituency, sets strategy, debates policy, and allocates funds. At the country level, GPE supports government-led education sector coordination and brings partners together in local education groups to drive transformation and ensure the voices of the most marginalized are represented in decision-making.

GPE's Upcoming Milestones

In the coming months, GPE will embark on several important ventures including discussions on the next strategic plan and laying the groundwork for GPE's next financing campaign. GPE's current strategy, GPE 2025, is aligned with and directly addresses Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). Its main goal is to accelerate access, learning outcomes and gender equality through equitable, inclusive, and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century. The current strategy focuses on three partnership-wide objectives:

1. strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact,
2. mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change and,
3. strengthen capacity, adapt, and learn, to implement and drive results at scale.

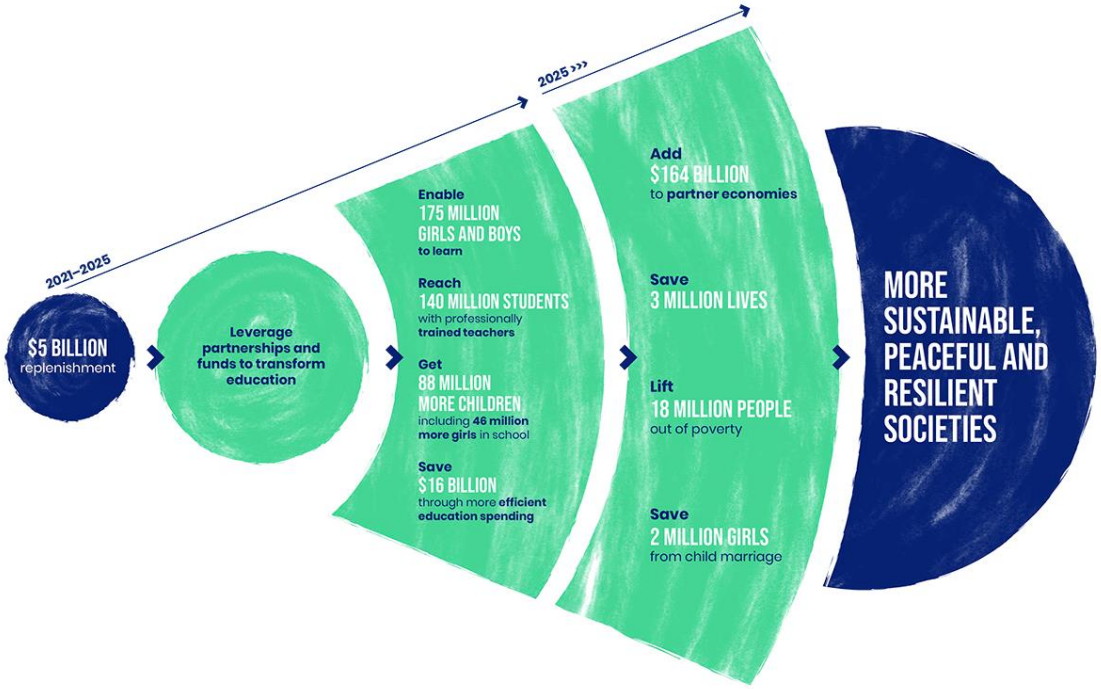
These 3 country-level objectives are supported by an enabling, global objective: to mobilize global and national partners and resources for sustainable results.

GPE's current strategy will end in December 2025, and initial discussions on the next strategic plan, GPE 2030, will begin at the June 2024 Board of Directors meeting in Berlin, Germany.

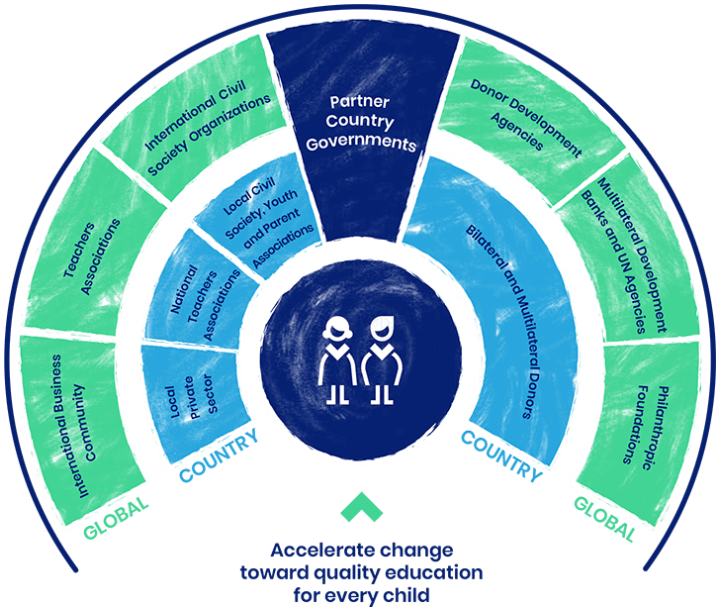
Every few years, GPE mobilizes resources from donors to replenish its fund and be able to give every child a quality education. GPE's financing campaigns are an opportunity to raise the funds needed to implement the partnership's strategy and to increase global education financing to meet the SDG 4.

GPE's 4th financing campaign culminated in the 2021 Global Education Summit, which raised more than $4 billion for the GPE Fund, mobilized $1 billion in co-financing and generated domestic financing commitments of $196 billion for education. Preparations will soon begin for the 5th financing campaign, which will cover the period 2026-2030 and will finance GPE's 2030 Strategy.

GPE leverages the power of partnership and uses funds as catalytic capital to mobilize even more education financing through proved innovative mechanisms like the GPE Multiplier while also ensuring a focus on improving the volume, equity, and efficiency of domestic financing.



GPE's Partners



The Role

GPE is searching for a new Vice Chair to lead the Board during this next stage of organizational and strategic growth and impact.

In recent years, GPE has transformed into a major global education fund, marked by a successful replenishment in 2021, securing nearly $4 billion in donor funding, plus domestic financing and co-financing commitments This has impacted 227 million children across 88 of the world's poorest countries and has established a notable presence within the global education sector. The Board of the GPE is for these reasons a major policy making place within the global education aid environment.

The Vice Chair will assist the Chair in fulfilling their duties in managing the affairs of the Board, including ensuring the Board functions effectively and meets its obligations and responsibilities. The Vice Chair is appointed by the Board and represents the Board and the partnership as a whole. They shall act without prejudice in fulfilling their responsibility and do not participate in voting for decisions by the Board.

Along with the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer, the Vice Chair is a key public representative and spokesperson for the Global Partnership and maintains on-going communication with and among the Board members, the CEO, and the Global Partnership's key stakeholders.

The Vice Chair, as well as on occasion serving as a Deputy to the Chair, has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Representation of GPE
- Board/Executive Committee meetings
- Co-leadership of the Board and the Governance System
- Risk Management
- Relationship with the CEO and the Secretariat

The Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Global Partnership for Education (the Global Partnership or GPE) is a high-profile position of global stature, providing leadership to GPE, which was established in 2002.

The Vice-Chair assists the GPE Chair in fulfilling his or her duties to manage the affairs of the Board, including ensuring the Board functions effectively, and meets its obligations and responsibilities. The Vice-Chair, along with the Chair (currently HE Jakaya Kikwete) and the Chief Executive Officer (currently Laura Frigenti), is a key public representative and spokesperson for GPE and maintains on-going communication with and among the Board members, the CEO, and GPE's key stakeholders.

Duties and responsibilities

- **Representation of the Global Partnership for Education:** The Vice-Chair serves as one of the primary representatives of GPE to the public along with the Chair and the CEO. As an "ambassador" for the Global Partnership and its mission, the Vice Chair may deliver speeches and/or presentations at major conferences, conduct media interviews, and perform high-level outreach to donor and partner country governments, civil society organizations (including the teaching profession), private sector companies and private foundations and partner agencies.
- **Resource Mobilization:** The Vice-Chair has a key role in GPE's resource mobilization efforts, advocating that investing in education through the GPE is essential to meeting Sustainable Development Goal 4. The primary focus of resource mobilization efforts will be sovereign governments and the Vice Chair will engage at the most senior levels of donor governments. In addition, the Vice Chair will help drive resource mobilization from philanthropy and the business community.
- **Executive Committee Meetings:** The Vice Chair will chair Executive Committee meetings: the Executive Committee comprises seven Board Members representing the broader constituency composition of the GPE Board and meets virtually. The Executive Committee was established by the GPE Board to carry out specific administrative functions and decisions as delegated by the Board, to perform an advisory role to

the Secretariat CEO and monitor the adequacy and implementation of GPE's governance and ethical policies.

- **Co-Leadership of the Board and the Governance System:** At the Chair's request and in close coordination with the Executive Committee, the Vice-Chair will contribute to strengthening the governance system by establishing procedures to govern the Board's work, ensuring the Board's full discharge of its duties and ensuring the proper flow of information to the Board. The Vice-Chair supports the implementation of Board ethics and conflict of interest policies, contributes to set the Board's dynamics and culture, and works to build productive relationships among Board members. The Vice-Chair will chair Board meetings if the Board Chair is unavailable. In close coordination with the Finance and Risk Committee, contribute to guide and support the Board in implementation of GPE's risk management policies and framework.
- **Relationship with the CEO and the Secretariat:** In close coordination with the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act as liaison between the Board and the Secretariat and serve as a principal sounding board, counsellor, and confidante to both the Chair and the CEO. At an appropriate level, the Vice-Chair may provide advice on reviewing strategies, defining issues, maintaining accountabilities, and building relationships between the Board and the Secretariat. The Vice Chair coordinates the annual performance review of GPE's CEO.

Term

The Vice-Chair is selected for a three-year period or such other term that the Board may determine and may be reselected for a single term. The GPE Chair and Vice Chair are not voting members of the GPE Board.

Time Commitment and Minimum Criteria

The Board normally meets face-to-face twice a year in locations throughout the world. It may also meet by audio-conference at different times during the year, depending on needs. The time commitment for the Vice-Chair is approximately three to six days per month, with an expectation of regular international travel. This may increase somewhat during GPE's financing campaign, currently expected to run from September 2025 to spring 2026.

Along with making the appropriate time commitment, the Vice-Chair will be expected to demonstrate:

- **Commitment to GPE's mission:** a global champion for education
- **Global reach:** commitment to and senior level experience in international development
- **Resource mobilization:** strong ability to raise funds for GPE from sovereign governments and philanthropy
- **Seniority:** sufficiently senior and expert in their field to provide meaningful guidance and oversight to a multi-stakeholder entity of GPE's size, scope, and responsibility
- **Diplomacy:** senior level experience in either negotiations, international diplomacy, multi-stakeholder partnerships or similar complex environments
- **Language:** ability to work in both English and French; additional GPE languages (Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese) will be considered an asset; and
- **Media:** experience, profile, and willingness to engage with global and local media across multiple markets.

Behavioral Competencies

- **Strategy skills**, including strong intellectual, management and analytical skills, a broad-based and long-term view of strategic and organizational goals and an ability to evaluate courses of action facing a complex international organization.
- **Advocacy, Influencing and Communicating Skills**, including strong abilities to engage and influence political leadership at the highest levels across all of GPE's donor and partner countries, as well as other multilateral entities; develop an effective and constructive relationship with all members of GPE, including

the Board Chair, Board members, Committee Chairs and CEO. This includes high emotional intelligence – namely, to be perceptive to people issues, a good listener and to win "hearts and minds".

- **Intercultural Skills**, including a strongly international perspective, an understanding of the issues and perspectives of a wide range of partner countries, and the ability to operate effectively in both developed and developing country settings.
- **Collaborating and Teamwork**, including a willingness to participate in robust, rigorous debate within a multi-stakeholder partnership, and then work with others to derive and implement new solutions; an ability to encourage partnerships between others; openness to be challenged on assumptions, beliefs or viewpoints, and a willingness to re-examine these where necessary.
- **Independence and Integrity**, including an ability to formulate a balanced and impartial view independently of organizational positions; an ability to articulate and defend his/her own position objectively and persuasively; and a commitment to speaking openly and respectfully in defense of a position or principle.

Remuneration and support

This is a non-remunerated position. The GPE Secretariat provides staff support for the Vice Chair and covers/reimburses travel expenses associated with GPE Board meetings and all GPE external engagements

Selection and Evaluation of the Vice Chair

The Vice Chair is selected by the Board through an open competitive process. The Vice Chair is selected for a three-year period or such other term that the Board may determine and may be reselected for a single term.

To see a list of Board members, please see here.

Contact

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