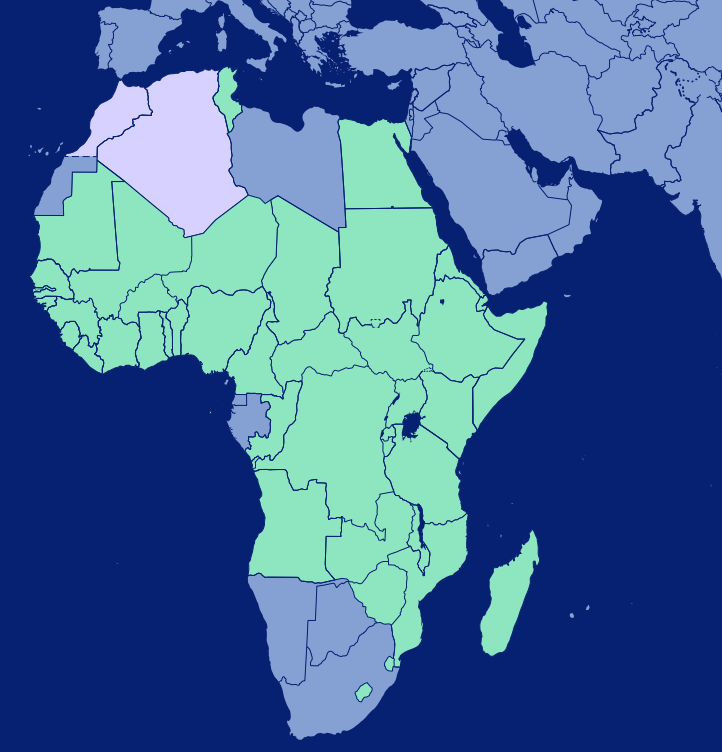
DECEMBER 2025

GPE IN AFRICA

Investing in quality education equips individuals and nations with skills for the future. Today, there is an unprecedented opportunity to unlock the potential of youth in Africa—where close to half the world's working population will live by the end of the century. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has supported 44 countries across Africa with US$7.9 billion in grants to build stronger education systems as a springboard to stronger economies and stable societies for close to 300 million children. Almost half these children are in countries impacted by fragility and conflict.



THE CHALLENGE

Across countries in Africa:

- Over **100 million** children remain **out of school**, especially in areas that are **rural**, **fragile** or affected by **conflict**.
- **Girls** are more likely to be out of school or not complete their education compared to boys due to poverty, child marriage and gender barriers including lack of access to adequate sanitation facilities in schools. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world that has not achieved gender parity—meaning equal numbers of girls and boys—for school enrollment at any level of the education system.
- There is a **foundational learning crisis** further impacted by a **teacher shortage**. By the end of primary school across the continent, 90% of children cannot do basic math and 70% do not have basic reading skills to understand text. In sub-Saharan Africa, over 15 million more teachers are needed by 2030 to deliver quality, inclusive education for all children.
- There is an estimated **US$77 billion** annual **financing gap** for education to achieve national sustainable development goals by 2030.
- Many schools lack access to electricity and digital resources, limiting use of **modern learning technology**. There is also a **mismatch** between national **curricula** and the **skills** needed to prepare students for the workforce.

GPE RESULTS

$8.3 BILLION

to 44 African countries through 560 GPE grants since 2003.

$4.7 BILLION

since 2003 to support education in 31 African countries impacted by fragility and conflict, including close to half a million in accelerated funding to support learning during crisis.

117 ACTIVE GRANTS

in Africa totaling $2.7 billion (as of December 2025) across 41 partner countries—over half are impacted by fragility and conflict.

GPE Transforming Education

MULTIPLY POSSIBILITY FUND EDUCATION

For all sources visit: www.globalpartnership.org/data.

GPE APPROACH

GPE has had a presence in Africa since its launch in 2002, with **Burkina Faso**, **Guinea**, **Mauritania** and **Niger** being part of the first countries to join the partnership. Today there are **44 GPE partner countries across Africa**—home to an estimated 295 million school-age children—with **Algeria** and **Morocco** also eligible to join the partnership.

As shown in the paper *Educate Africans Fit for the 21st Century*—jointly developed by GPE, the African Union, the African Development Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF—**unlocking the potential of Africa's growing youth** population means making the right investments in education, including: prioritizing foundational learning, gender equality, inclusion and teacher training; and developing relevant curricula and infrastructure to support a smoother transition to the job market.

GPE adopts a **partnership model** to transform education systems through sustainable, innovative financing that supports country-led reforms, providing **financial support and technical assistance**. Through partnerships with UN agencies such as Education Cannot Wait, civil society and the private sector, GPE focuses both on the initial recovery and resilience of education systems across the **31 partner countries** in Africa currently impacted by **fragility and conflict**.

To promote country-to-country learning and research on addressing educational challenges, there are three **GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange** hubs for African countries: KIX Africa 19 connects partner countries primarily in eastern, southern and western Africa; KIX Africa 21 brings together partner countries in western and central Africa as well as the Indian Ocean; and KIX EMAP for countries in North Africa.

PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Partnerships with the private sector are vital to transforming education for children and youth in GPE partner countries in Africa, bringing in additional funds, technical expertise and tools to improve the quality of learning at scale.

- **Cisco** has piloted GPE's education data leadership program in **The Gambia** to enhance education data skills and competencies, providing ministry of education staff with access to its Net Academy data analytics courses at no cost and deploying senior technical experts for program support.
- In **Ghana**, a consortium of over 10 private and philanthropic funders led by the **Jacobs**, **UBS Optimus and Botnar foundations** have worked with GPE and country partners to match dollar-for-dollar the GPE Multiplier grant for a total combined investment value of $80 million to improve foundational learning. The initiative, embedded in the Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project, will target low-performing basic education schools, strengthen teaching capacity, accountability, and leadership systems. The Jacobs Foundation is also a member of the country's local education group.
- The Girls' Education Awareness Program was launched in **Kenya** in partnership between the government and private sector partners **Ecobank Foundation**, **Avanti Communications** and **Rotary** clubs. This program uses clear and local messages to reach families, girls and community leaders to raise awareness on and support for girls' learning, drawing on the strengths of businesses in communication and advocacy and opening up new opportunities for girls to build a better future.



Girls from Class 8 raise their hand during a math class at Marble Quarry Primary School that is participating in the Girls' Education Awareness Program supported by private sector partners in Nairobi, Kenya.

GPE/Luis Tato

GPE Transforming Education

MULTIPLY POSSIBILITY FUND EDUCATION

PARTNER COUNTRY SPOTLIGHTS



"We have a unique opportunity to equip a new generation with the tools to shape an Africa that leads in the 21st century. By funding the Global Partnership for Education, we empower countries that are blessed with a dynamic and youthful population, like Nigeria, to break down the barriers that keep children, especially girls, from acquiring the skills they need to thrive in the modern world."

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu
of Nigeria

NIGERIA

Nigeria's mission is to ensure education serves as a direct and reliable pathway to national development and economic prosperity. As a co-host for GPE's fifth financing campaign, Nigeria is answering the call to invest in education and multiply possibility for children and young people around the world. A partner country since 2012, Nigeria has prioritized accessible, equitable and inclusive foundational learning to transform its education system, including by constructing classrooms and water/sanitation facilities that are safe, to meet the needs of girls and boys as well as those of children with disabilities. To address the high numbers of children who are out of school, increasing access to accelerated learning programs is also a priority. Nigeria used a $100-million GPE grant to launch the 'Nigeria Partnership for Education Project' to train teachers and support integrated, religious schools so that more children stay in school, especially girls. The program issued grants to over 46,000 pre-primary and primary schools to support learning, including for students from nomadic populations. As a member of the GPE KIX Africa 19 hub, Nigeria is also participating in several projects including on teacher training in inclusive education and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, learning through play and life skills education for adolescents who are internally displaced.

CHAD

A partner country since 2012, Chad has received $239 million in GPE grant support to improve learning outcomes, especially for girls and the most vulnerable children, by focusing on teacher training and professional development. Chad has one of the highest learning poverty rates in the world, with 94% of children unable to read a simple text by age 10 and 60% of its population unable to read. Training programs supported by GPE funding and delivered by the ministry of education have provided 33,000 children who are out of school and over 42,000 youth and women with reading, math and vocational skills. Chad has also received funds to support girls' education through GPE's Girls' Education Accelerator and will receive education funding through the Arab Coordination Group Smart Education financing initiative (ACG SmartEd) that mobilizes $4 in cofinancing for every $1 mobilized from GPE.