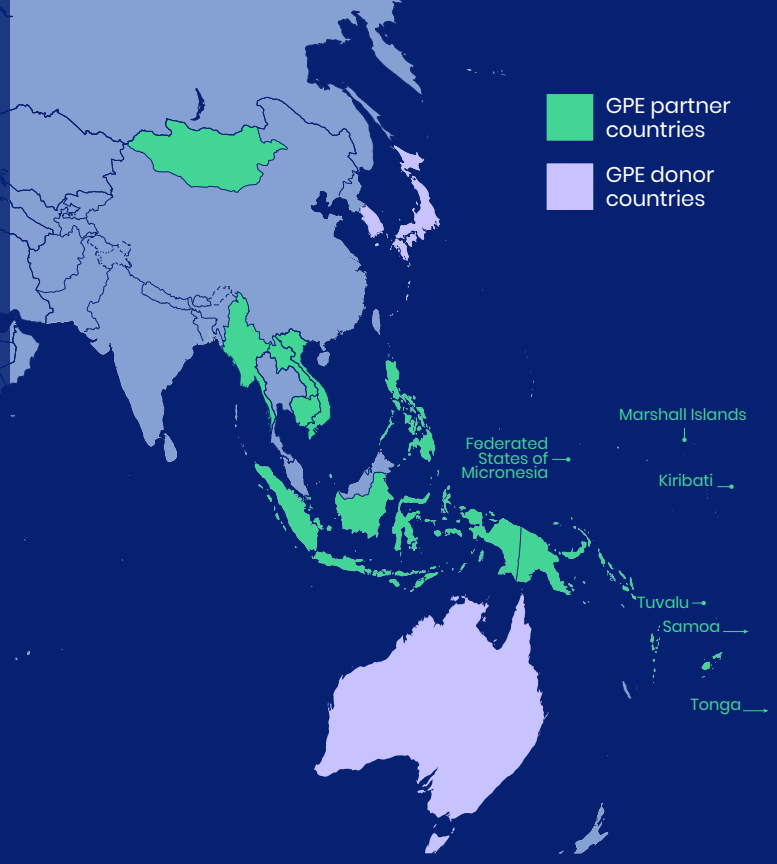
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GPE IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Over the next decade, an estimated 320 million people will reach working age in East Asia and the Pacific, but only 110 million jobs are projected to be added. Climate impacts also continually disrupt learning across the region. Investing in education equips nations with skills for the future, driving job creation and reducing vulnerability to climate-driven disasters. Since 2003, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has supported 18 countries across East Asia and the Pacific with over US$730 million in grants to build climate-resilient and inclusive education systems as a springboard to stronger economies.

THE CHALLENGE

Across the region:

- Children do not have **equal access to education** and learning resources, especially those from communities in rural areas and with low socio-economic status in urban settings.
- In low- and lower-middle-income countries, **more than half of 10-year-olds** cannot read and understand a simple text. Close to **37%** of children are also **taught in a language they do not understand**.
- Countries are some of the most prone in the world to climate disasters, including typhoons, floods and landslides. In 2024 alone, some **50 million children** had their **learning disrupted** due to **climate** hazards. Rising sea levels impact Pacific Island countries the most.
- Multiple **barriers to secondary education** exist including poverty, child labor, geographic remoteness and a lack of relevant curricula, keeping students from developing the **skills they need**.

GPE RESULTS

OVER US$730 MILLION

to 18 countries through 136 GPE grants.

44 ACTIVE GRANTS

totaling **$281.5 million** (as of February 2026) across 18 partner countries, including **two regional grants** ($16 million) to the Pacific Islands.

NEARLY $40 MILLION

invested since 2023 to make schools in the region climate resilient, in addition to close to $8 million through the **Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative**.

GPE Transforming Education

MULTIPLY POSSIBILITY FUND EDUCATION

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

GPE APPROACH

GPE adopts a partnership model to transform education systems through sustainable, innovative financing that supports country-led reforms. GPE has had a presence in **East Asia and the Pacific** since 2003, with **Viet Nam** being the first country from the region to join the partnership. Today, there are **18 GPE partner countries** across the region—home to an estimated 145 million children. For their education reforms, partner countries prioritize equal access to education that meets the needs of all children and quality foundational learning in literacy and math so that children reach basic proficiency levels and can catch up from learning loss.

Across the region, GPE provides **financial support** and **technical assistance** on child nutrition, technology for education (Tech4Ed) and climate impacts so that countries can support children's education and well-being before, during and after crises:

- In **Indonesia** and the **Philippines**, $2 million has been invested to support children's nutrition through the GPE School Nutrition Technical Assistance Facility in partnership with the School Meals Coalition and World Food Programme.
- Through the Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative, GPE works with Save the Children, UNESCO and the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) in 13 partner countries—the majority in **the Pacific**—to increase ministry capacity to coordinate across education and climate sectors and access financing. Through the initiative, **Cambodia** has integrated climate and disaster risk reduction into its education planning, trained ministry staff and identified ways to access larger climate financing, with **Lao People's Democratic Republic** and partner countries in the Pacific now following a similar path.
- In July 2025, the Green Climate Fund approved the $67 million BRACE (Building the Climate Resilience of Children and Communities through the Education Sector) program cofinanced with $26 million from GPE. BRACE will support countries, including **Cambodia** and **Tonga**, to build climate-resilient schools, integrate climate change into curricula and strengthen early warning systems. BRACE also creates a platform to match education projects with climate investments, streamlining GPE's technical assistance to support partner countries in unlocking large-scale climate financing for education.

To promote country-to-country learning and research on addressing educational challenges, the **GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Asia, and Pacific** (KIX EMAP) hub is active across the region with seven current projects focused on: gender equality, education system resilience to current and future disruption, preventing school-based violence and teacher training in technology for early childhood education. **GPE's Education Out Loud** also funds civil society organizations and coalitions to advocate for and monitor quality, inclusive education policies and budgets across the region.

GPE DONORS

Across East Asia and the Pacific, there are **three GPE donor countries**:

- **Australia**, a donor since 2008, has contributed over **$589 million** to GPE and is the 8th largest donor to the GPE Fund. Australia is an active member of local education groups in partner countries and is also the coordinating agency for grants active in seven partner countries including: Fiji, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Australia views strong education systems as key to delivering its international development policy focused on building resilience across the region.
- **Japan**, a donor since 2008, has contributed over **$61 million** to GPE and is the coordinating agency for grants active in two partner countries in the region: Mongolia and Papua New Guinea. Quality education is a key pillar of Japan's white paper on official development assistance (ODA). Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the implementation agency for Japan's ODA program and has collaborated with GPE in seven partner countries, having received approval as a GPE grant agent in December 2024.
- The **Republic of Korea**, a donor since 2015, has contributed over **$20 million** to GPE and has collaborated with GPE partners to provide cofinancing for education to accelerate progress on access and learning quality in Mongolia. The Republic of Korea also shares its expertise with the partnership on using technology to transform education systems as a member of the Global Reference Group for the GPE Tech4Ed technical assistance initiative.

GPE Transforming Education

MULTIPLY POSSIBILITY FUND EDUCATION

PARTNER COUNTRY SPOTLIGHTS

MONGOLIA

A partner country since 2006, Mongolia has received over $46 million in GPE grants to achieve its priority reforms to enhance the quality of education, increase education access and improve the efficiency of education governance. In response to finding children consumed high levels of unhealthy food and the links between quality learning and nutrition, Mongolia decided to expand a school feeding program to reach 48,000 children across 45 schools in the city of Ulaanbaatar as well as in rural and remote areas with financing from a $5 million GPE Multiplier grant managed by Save the Children Australia. The Multiplier grant also unlocked over $5 million in cofinancing from JICA and Save the Children Japan to increase the capacity of primary and lower-secondary schools to meet the learning needs of all students, including teacher training in developing education plans and learning assessments for children with disabilities, piloting special education teachers in schools, providing assistive learning devices, involving parents in developing and carrying out individualized education plans and increasing children's awareness to support their peers with disabilities.

MYANMAR

A partner country since 2018, Myanmar has received over $128 million in GPE grants coordinated by the Australian High Commission and UNESCO to support continued access to quality education. Following the military takeover in 2021, GPE developed a joint response plan in coordination with Education Cannot Wait, international and civil society organizations, local education providers and nongovernmental actors to support the partner country in sustaining access to education. GPE mobilized its funding flexibly, reprogramming a $50 million grant implemented through local education providers to provide safe learning spaces and reach the most vulnerable children across different regions affected by conflict—particularly girls and boys from ethnic minorities. GPE has partnered with multiple donors to support education in Myanmar, raising more than $20 million in cofinancing from Australia and the United Kingdom while providing an additional $28 million in GPE grant funding—showing the strength and flexibility of the partnership in the face of complex and fragile contexts.

COLLABORATION AND REGIONAL FINANCING ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Through the education strategy 'Pacific Regional Education Framework – PacREF 2018-2030: Moving towards education 2030,' GPE promotes collaboration between all 15 countries in the Pacific, including 10 GPE partner countries: **Fiji**, **Kiribati**, the **Marshall Islands**, the **Federated States of Micronesia**, **Papua New Guinea**, **Samoa**, the **Solomon Islands**, **Tonga**, **Tuvalu** and **Vanuatu**. The PacREF framework was adopted by education ministers to embed Pacific culture, values and knowledge into education systems and to address priority education policy areas through a regional approach.

- Six partner countries (Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu) decided to combine their GPE implementation grant into a $14.9 million regional grant to cover 85% of the costs of the PacREF Program for all 15 island countries in the Pacific. Co-funded by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and managed by the Asian Development Bank, the program develops 'regional goods' for education, including tools, standards and strategies, so that countries can adapt evidence-based solutions relevant to their context and save on resources. The Australia Pacific Training Coalition, Pacific Community's (SPC) Educational Quality and Assessment Programme, the University of the South Pacific, UNESCO and UNICEF provide technical support to develop these regional goods, with additional support from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.