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GPE INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR EDUCATION



A grade 4 student listens in class at Escuela República de Francia in Guatemala City, Guatemala. This is the first school to implement the ministry's science-based literacy program to help children catch up from learning loss.

GPE/Kelley Lynch

Innovative financing increases the amount of funding to education and enables new, additional, more efficient and more equitable financing. Through the GPE Multiplier, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has mobilized US$4.7 billion for education since 2018 from more than 70 cofinancing partners that would not have been available otherwise.

OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT

- The international community can scale up innovative financing tools to significantly **broaden the resource base and diversify the financing partnerships** available to support education in low- and lower-middle-income countries.
- There is high demand from countries for innovative financing to support and **retake ownership of their education budgets**, still under major strain from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, increasing debt burdens, declining official development assistance (ODA) and deepening levels of poverty.
- More than 30 GPE partner countries spend more than half of their education budget on debt service, but GPE's innovative financing through the Multiplier is showing meaningful results for scaling financing to **transform how education funds are accessed efficiently and used effectively** across the partnership, creating more value for resources invested.

GPE INNOVATIVE FINANCING TOOLS

The GPE Multiplier allows countries to mobilize additional resources to transform their education systems. Each dollar from the Multiplier can be mobilized by $4 or more from development partners such as multilateral banks, bilateral donors and nongovernmental organizations, and at a 1:1 funding ratio from the private sector and foundations. Financing can be invested as a grant or used to lower the interest rate on concessional lending and works alongside other external financing. Any financing secured through the Multiplier can be used toward priority education reform areas alongside funding from other GPE grants that partner countries can access, including the system transformation grant and the Girls' Education Accelerator.

Results

$4.7 billion in cofinancing secured for 63 GPE partner countries and territories. In Tajikistan, funds have been directed towards school construction and improving teaching and the country's education management information system. In South Sudan, funds include support to a school safety framework to help the education sector adapt to the impacts of climate change. In contexts impacted by fragility and conflict such as the West Bank and Gaza and Ukraine, Multiplier funds have been used to ensure children have continued access to education and receive psychosocial support.

GPE Transforming Education

MULTIPLY POSSIBILITY FUND EDUCATION

ACG SmartEd (the Arab Coordination Group Smart Education financing initiative) dramatically scales up education financing in the Islamic Development Bank's 37 member countries who are also GPE partner countries by combining grant capital with concessional lending and lowering the cost of education investment for countries. Developed by the Arab Coordination Group and GPE, SmartEd leverages the Multiplier at a 1:4 funding ratio for holistic education investments that address the global learning crisis.

Results

$850 million mobilized through ACG SmartEd with $150 million from the GPE Multiplier and $700 million from the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Coordination Group—a grouping of bilateral Arab development funds. Cameroon, Chad, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan are the first partner countries to receive financing, which mobilized just over $519 million collectively for education programs.

GPE Match is a dollar-for-dollar matching mechanism that incentivizes investments in education from the business community and private foundations. GPE Match grants can be triggered through the GPE Multiplier or through the Girls' Education Accelerator.

Results

In Lesotho, the GPE Match has demonstrated how foundation and private sector funding can be translated into system-level impact to deliver quality education for all children, especially in the early years. A $2.5 million Multiplier grant was matched by $2.5 million from the Roger Federer Foundation, and an additional $2.5 million Multiplier grant mobilized more than $3.6 million in cofinancing from local partners, including foundations and a bank. These partnerships unlocked over $11 million for education initiatives—tied to teacher training, digital learning, 21st–century skills and scholarships—that will benefit over 90,000 learners across 5 districts.

The Girls' Education Accelerator is a dedicated fund of up to $250 million for projects that tackle barriers to girls' education in the countries where it lags the furthest behind. These funds work alongside other GPE grants, incentivizing countries to implement a more targeted approach for girls' learning in the most disadvantaged and challenging settings, and to support gender equality in countries and regions where girls' education has been identified as a challenge.

Results

$225 million secured for 3.6 million girls across 15 partner countries with $179.5 million mobilized in contributions from Germany, the LEGO Foundation, Ireland, Denmark, Belgium, the Harry Hole Foundation, Dubai Cares, Open Society Foundations and GPE Match. These funds are currently supporting 194,000 girls in Zimbabwe by advancing national education priorities to reduce school dropouts and provide safe learning environments, and 26,000 girls in El Salvador by tackling harmful gender norms at an early age and revising national assessments to eliminate gender bias.

Debt2Ed is a financing mechanism integrated within the Multiplier that transforms a partner country's sovereign debt into new investments for education, pooling funds from diverse cofinancing partners. Through a debt swap or loan buy-down, countries enter an agreement with a creditor that can reduce their debt burden, lower the cost of borrowing and enable more efficient spending for education programs. Agreeing to a debt swap or loan buy-down on public debt and investment of equivalent funds into a partner country's education sector immediately unlocks additional funds from the Multiplier.

Results

$77.1 million for education programs in Côte d'Ivoire via Debt2Ed through a debt swap between France and Côte d'Ivoire. Additional leveraging of financing helped the country unlock a Multiplier grant of $40 million.

LEARN MORE

All countries and territories eligible for GPE support can access GPE innovative financing tools through the GPE Multiplier. For more information, visit: https://www.globalpartnership.org/funding/how-apply-grants.

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