GPE Transforming Education



PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Working Together for Effective Partnership

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 What Does It Mean to be a GPE Partner?

04 Summary

05 How Private Foundations Contribute to an Effective Partnership

06 The Role Played by Private Foundations in GPE's Country-Level Work

07 Private Foundations Accountabilities

09 Private Foundations Engagement in Practice and How to Get Involved

11 Testimonials

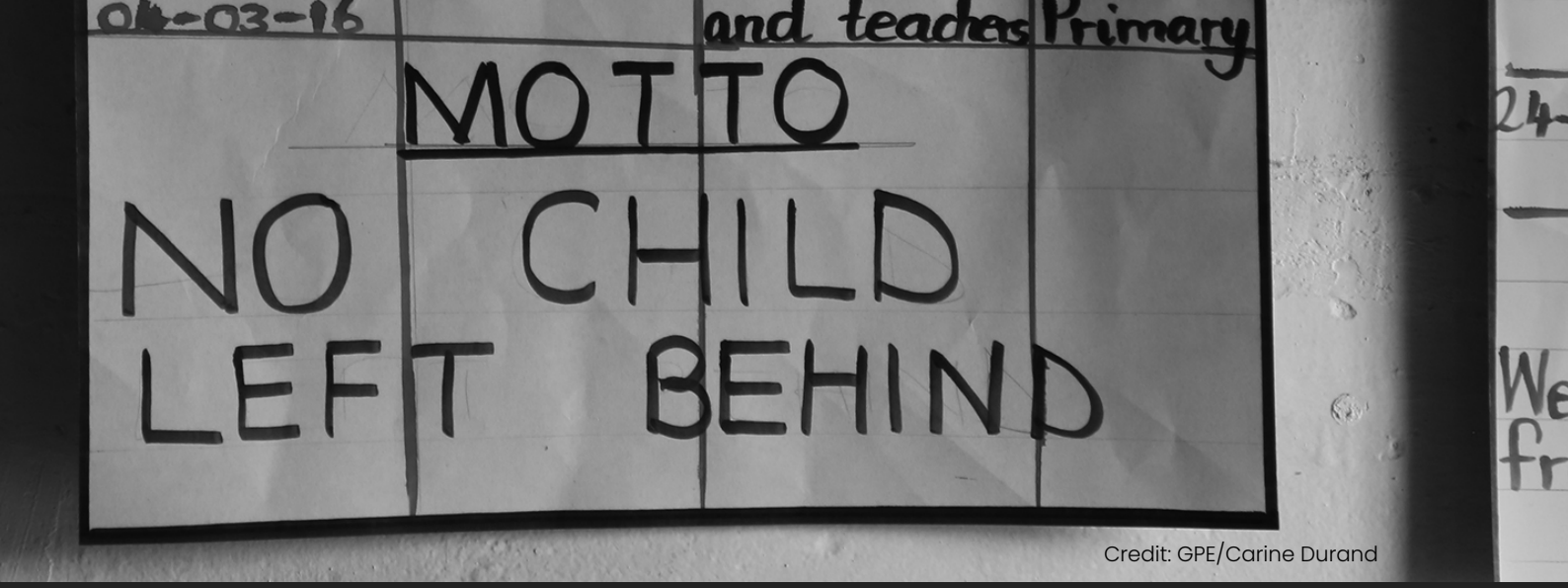
12 Resources

Credit (cover photo): GPE/Chantal Rigaud
Credit (this page): UNICEF Burundi/Colfs

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GPE PARTNER?



Credit: GPE/Kelley Lynch



Credit: GPE/Carine Durand

SUMMARY

Private foundations contribute significantly to solutions that strengthen education systems. They play a critical role in the achievement of GPE's mission, providing funding and knowledge to address bottlenecks in education systems, engaging in global level advocacy, and creating networks to address key education sector challenges.

GPE provides a platform for establishing mutually reinforcing partnerships between private foundations and other partners, in particular governments of GPE partner countries. The GPE Secretariat is engaging with a growing group of foundations. Private foundations can become a member of GPE's private foundation constituency and actively participate in GPE-related processes at global, regional and country level.



Credit: Ministry of Education, Kyrgyz Republic

How Private Foundations Contribute to an Effective Partnership

Foundations can play a crucial role in helping to achieve GPE's goals and objectives, as they are uniquely placed within the donor community due to their close ties with local communities and civil society organizations, as well as their willingness to support innovation and experimental models. Private foundations can engage in GPE both at global and country level.

GPE is governed by a multi-stakeholder Board of Directors. The different categories of partners are organized in constituencies, including a private foundations constituency. Each constituency selects a Board member and an alternate Board member and can also nominate members to GPE's various governance committees.

Private foundation representatives on GPE's Board and committees reach out to constituency members to consult on proposed decisions and policies and agree on input to GPE governance structures. You can find out here who the private foundation Board and alternate Board members are. You can also find out more about private foundation representation in GPE's Board committees.



Credit: GPE/Chantal Rigaud

The Role Played by Private Foundations in GPE's Country-Level Work

Although GPE's grants are often in focus at country level, the grant processes are meant to have an impact beyond the funding. Private foundations can help ensure GPE processes lead to:

- Strengthened data and analysis
- Gender-responsive education sector plans and policies
- Sufficient and equitable domestic education financing
- Addressing underfunded priorities such as gender equality
- Capacity building for strengthened education systems
- Effective, harmonized and inclusive policy dialogue and aligned donor support
- Learning and adaptation for the achievement of results

All of these areas have a particular focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations.

What role private foundations can play differs from context to context, depending on how private foundations and local education groups are organized. By engaging within local education groups, foundations can integrate program expertise, knowledge and innovation in national policy dialogue and align their funding to sector plans and processes so they contribute to strengthened national education systems.

Foundations can also help monitor the implementation of government-led education sector plans through participation in joint sector reviews. Their role can include promoting and contributing to evidence-based policy making and scaling of proven innovative solutions to address education system bottlenecks.



Credit: GPE/Stephan Bachenheimer

Private Foundations Accountabilities

In 2019, GPE's Board of Directors adopted an 'Accountability Matrix' to clarify what is expected from different GPE stakeholders to enable the partnership to achieve its vision and goals.

GPE defines private foundations as fully fledged development partners. The relationship with private foundations is institutionally governed through the following key accountability frameworks:

- The GPE Charter: Highlights the unique and complementary role that private foundations can play in advocacy, policy dialogue and education planning in partner countries.
- GPE's Private Foundations Engagement Strategy: Summarizes GPE's private sector engagement at global and country level as well as parameters for successful collaboration with businesses that have a clear investment benefit for GPE, with a focus on strengthening national education systems.

According to the GPE Charter, private foundation partners have the same roles and responsibilities as bilateral and multilateral development partners, namely to:

01

Increase support to government education sector plans, including through technical and financial support

02

Assist in mobilizing resources and aligning them with the priorities of country partners

03

Harmonize procedures and utilize country systems as much as possible



Credit: GPE/Chantal Rigaud

In subscribing to the GPE Charter, private foundations become accountable to the GPE as a global partnership, with key accountabilities including:

For the partnership –

- Support efforts to achieve SDG4 and SDG5 goals and objectives
- Provide support to sector analysis as well as development, implementation and monitoring of government-owned education sector plans
- Assist the government in mobilizing long-term financing
- Monitor overall alignment of financial and technical support to the education sector

For grants –

- Aid in defining the scope of grant programs and in reviewing and endorsing grant applications
- Support monitoring of progress of GPE-financed programs within the broader framework of sector plan implementation
- Support monitoring of progress of GPE-financed programs within the broader framework of sector plan implementation



Credit: GPE/Chantal Rigaud

Private Foundations Engagement in Practice and How to Get Involved

Private foundations can engage in GPE at global, regional or country level. Two recent examples of global engagement include Better Early Learning and Development at Scale (BELDS) and Assessment for Learning (A4L). To get involved in global or regional initiatives, or to propose ideas for doing so, you can get in touch with the Secretariat's focal point for Private Foundations or reach out to a Private Foundation Board member.

There are various ways to connect with GPE processes in a specific country:

- You can find information about GPE's engagement in a country by selecting the country on the 'Where we work' section of the GPE website. You will be able to see the Secretariat contact person and which partner holds the coordinating agency role. You will also find a copy of the country's education sector plan, as well as documents for GPE grants.
- In their role as the lead of local education groups, governments are the ultimate deciders on policy dialogue. If a private foundation works in partnership with the ministry of education, the best approach is to enquire with the ministry partner regarding local education group participation or representation.
- As a private foundation, you can reach out to the Secretariat lead for a specific country to enquire whether foundations are represented in the local education group or engaged in GPE in any way, and to get advice on how to get involved.



Credit: GPE/Chantal Rigaud

- In case of multiple foundations being active in the education sector in a country, it may be advisable to coordinate local education group representation with other private foundations.
- If a private foundation does not have a representative at country level, you can enquire whether your grantees participate in the local education group and, if not, encourage them to do so in a coordinated manner.
- You can seek the Secretariat's advice regarding who to connect with during country visits to get a better overview of the different players in the sector and to facilitate alignment of foundations' support to national education sector plans. Depending on the context, the best entry point might be a ministry of education focal point, the coordinating agency or even another private foundation.

Despite these resources, feedback from private foundations suggests it can be difficult for private foundations to find an effective path to engaging in the partnership at country level. Access to local education groups usually depends on the conditions, arrangements and politics in each country. Foundations might not have a presence in-country and if they do, they might lack the necessary capacity to ensure effective representation in local education groups. If this is the case, linking with other private foundations may be a good way to get started.

TESTIMONIALS

In my opinion, what makes GPE's partnership and funding approach different is that it is very intentional in promoting the principles of international aid effectiveness. With its emphasis on country ownership, alignment with national priorities, management for results, and mutual accountability, GPE really plays a role model in this regard.
I believe also that GPE is adding a lot of value in many other aspects. It promotes inclusive policy dialogue. It levels the playing field between very different stakeholders that have very different soft powers. It generally shares knowledge and facilitates experience sharing.

Sabina Vigani

Country Director, Jacobs Foundation

RESOURCES

Country-Level Guide: Recommended Education Sector and GPE Grants Processes

Principles Toward Effective Local Education Groups

LEG Self-Assessment and Performance Feedback Tools Terms of Reference for GPE Secretariat's Country-Level Role

Terms of Reference for Coordinating Agencies

GPE's Private Foundations Engagement Strategy

Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX)

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Working Together for Effective Partnership

GPE Transforming Education