MULTIPLY POSSIBILITY

GPE Case for Investment 2026-2030



GPE Transforming Education

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"We have a unique opportunity to equip a new generation with the tools to shape an Africa that leads in the 21st century. This demands vision, determination and investment. 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. GPE's mission aligns with ours: to ensure education serves as a direct and reliable pathway to national development and economic prosperity."

President Bola Tinubu
of Nigeria



"Along with our African partners, we are developing the building blocks of a new joint educational effort towards our common future. Education, vocational training and digitalization are essential components in many of the initiatives of Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa. Our projects all share a specific focus on enhancing the potential of the young generations, thus creating opportunities for future economic growth. Fostering the human capital of the youngest lays the foundations of strong communities and the institutions of tomorrow. Italy is very pleased to partner with Nigeria in making sure that education represents a powerful driver of socio-economic and human development of nations."

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni
of Italy

INTRODUCTION

Education multiplies possibility. It is the most powerful investment we can make in the future of our children, our nations and our world. Education fuels inclusive growth, strengthens resilience and lays the foundation for a more stable and prosperous world for all.

We are at a pivotal moment. The largest generation of children and youth in human history is coming of age. Most live in low- and lower-middle-income countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa.[1] Meanwhile, technological shifts like artificial intelligence and the accelerating impacts of climate change are transforming how we work and live.

A quality education holds the key to unlocking this generation's potential to seize opportunities and overcome 21st-century challenges. Yet education systems are under immense pressure—strained by conflict, climate shocks and pandemics; overstretched and chronically underfunded. International assistance, once a lifeline for the world's most vulnerable children, is shrinking.

As a result, millions of children and young people are being denied the chance to learn, widening inequalities within and between countries and undermining countries' ability to build skilled workforces, grow their economies and respond to a rapidly changing world. The consequences are felt across borders—in instability, displacement and unsafe migration.

Short on time? Read the summary:
https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/case-investment-2026-2030

TRANSFORMING HOW WE FUND AND DELIVER EDUCATION HAS NEVER BEEN MORE URGENT.

As we approach the 2030 deadline to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need a bold new paradigm to finance and deliver quality education for all.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)'s fifth financing campaign is our chance to spark that shift. As the world's only partnership and fund dedicated exclusively to transforming education in low- and lower-middle-income countries, GPE has spent over two decades supporting partner countries to build equitable, inclusive and resilient education systems.

Our track record proves that large-scale change is possible, even in the most challenging contexts. Since 2021, GPE has helped 372 million children in partner countries get a better education—50 percent of the school-age population in these countries.

As we enter our next strategic cycle (GPE 2030), from 2026 to 2030, we are significantly elevating our ambition. With funding of US$5 billion, GPE will mobilize partners and catalyze additional resources to deliver a quality education for almost 750 million children in up to 96 countries and territories.



"Education fuels jobs, resilience, and peace. Education systems do not just need a boost—they need transformative change. An investment of $5 billion in GPE will leverage partnerships and financing to help nearly 750 million children get a better education and break intergenerational cycles of poverty, fragility and inequality. By investing now, we multiply possibility for an entire generation. We equip young people with the skills to survive and thrive, and build more resilient, peaceful societies and economies. The choice is clear: support GPE and multiply possibility for every child, and for all of us."

Jakaya Kikwete
GPE Board Chair and former
President of Tanzania



Pirakov Aliakbar (left) and Hasanova Shukrona (right), grade 4 students at school 51 in Kulob. School 51, Tajikistan, is a school that has been largely successful in implementing the curriculum reform that began in 2015/2016 and is now being embraced by all of the development partners and rolled out as part of a system-wide transformation. Credit: GPE/Kelley Lynch

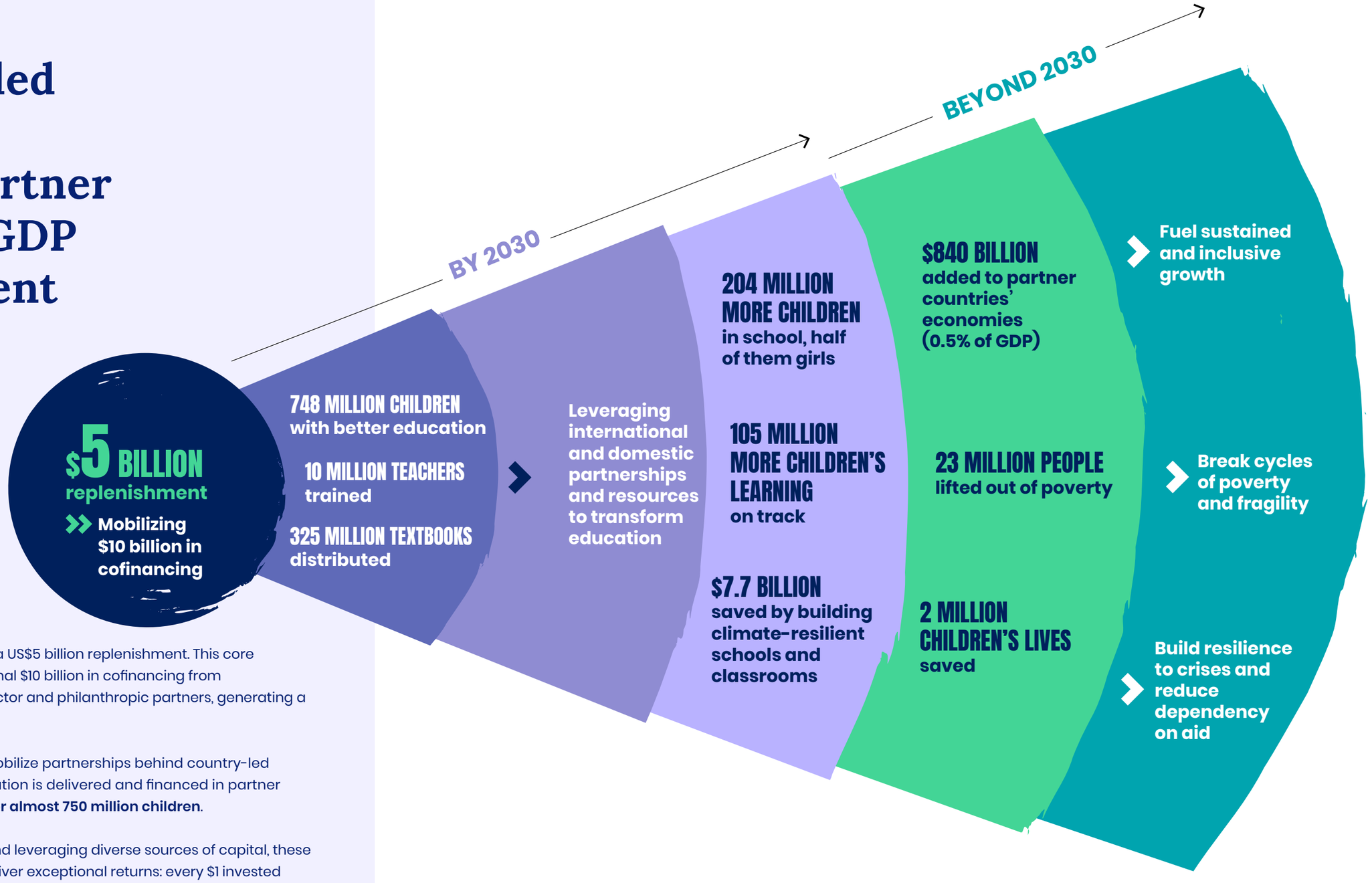
WHAT WE DO IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL DEFINE THE NEXT 50.

Improvements in education now will deliver exceptional economic returns for decades to come, adding as much as 0.5 percent to partner countries' GDP. With ambition, partnership and purpose, we can shape a future where every child learns, every country thrives and progress is shared by all.

But if we fail to transform education now, the cost will be irreversible: in lost potential, deepened inequality and prolonged instability.

Our choice is clear: invest in education, replenish GPE and multiply possibility for a generation of children and young people around the world.

A fully funded GPE would increase partner countries' GDP by 0.5 percent



FROM INVESTMENT TO IMPACT: HOW GPE MULTIPLIES RETURNS

A fully funded GPE 2030 starts with a US$5 billion replenishment. This core investment will catalyze an additional $10 billion in cofinancing from development banks, the private sector and philanthropic partners, generating a total of $15 billion.

GPE will align this financing and mobilize partnerships behind country-led ambitions to transform how education is delivered and financed in partner countries—improving **education for almost 750 million children**.

Grounded in domestic financing and leveraging diverse sources of capital, these improvements in education will deliver exceptional returns: every $1 invested through GPE will result in more than $33 in increased lifetime earnings for children living in partner countries. Over five decades, this could add as much as **0.5 percent to partner countries' GDP** through increased productivity, lift **23 million people out of poverty** and save **2 million children's lives**—making GPE one of the best investments in development.

For the methodology:
https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/methodology-projected-results-gpe-replenishment.

1. MULTIPLY POSSIBILITY

1.1 EDUCATION: THE ENGINE OF PROGRESS

Education is a powerful engine of inclusive growth and long-term prosperity. Quality education increases earnings, drives job creation, broadens the tax base and creates fiscal space to reinvest in public services and build resilience,[2] which in turn helps countries build self-reliance and reduce dependency on international assistance when confronted with crises such as conflict, pandemics or other shocks.

Education unlocks transformative impact and multiplies progress across all development goals, including **economic growth, jobs and skills, peace and stability, resilience, health and equality**.



Fourth-grade student Jacklin participates in a targeted literacy intervention at Escuela República de Francia in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Escuela República de Francia is the first school in the country to implement the Ministry of Education's Estrategia de Nivelación de Aprendizajes, an evidence-based literacy intervention for grades 2–6, which is supported by GPE. Credit: GPE/Kelley Lynch

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Over the past 50 years, improvements in education have powered half of global economic growth.[3] Just one additional year of schooling can increase annual income by nearly 10 percent,[4] fueling greater savings, spending and tax revenue, and ultimately supporting economic self-reliance.[5]

JOBS AND SKILLS

In Africa alone, 230 million jobs will require digital skills by 2030. Quality education equips young people with the skills to thrive in rapidly evolving labor markets shaped by technological shifts—including artificial intelligence—and the transition to greener economies.[6]

PEACE AND STABILITY

One extra year of education can reduce the risk of conflict by up to 20 percent,[7] with particularly powerful effects when girls and women learn equally.[8] Quality learning helps tackle the drivers of violence,[9] build resilience to extremism and foster more cohesive, equal and stable societies.[10]

RESILIENCE

Education lays the groundwork for resilient societies, equipping children and communities to navigate crises, recover from shocks and adapt to economic and social change. It saves lives in disasters,[11] supports recovery from conflict and increases climate awareness by 8.6 percent,[12] making it an essential investment in a turbulent world.

HEALTH

Education is life-saving. A child whose mother can read is 50 percent more likely to live past the age of 5,[13] be immunized and attend school.[14] Schools also deliver health education and act as platforms for vital public health and nutrition services.

EQUALITY

Education is the most effective equalizer. Since 1980, better education alone has reduced poverty by 40 percent.[15] For girls, each additional year of schooling reduces the likelihood of child marriage[16] and increases lifetime earnings, unlocking generational gains and expanding women's participation in the workforce, fueling stronger, more inclusive economies.[17]



Viet Nam: Fueling economic ascent with education

Viet Nam's remarkable transformation into a fast-growing economy has been powered by sustained public investment in education. With GDP growing steadily at 6–7 percent annually,[18] the country also has a pipeline of skilled workers that fuels innovation, increases productivity and fosters inclusive growth.

Since joining the partnership in 2003, the country has made significant progress in expanding access and improving learning outcomes, and GPE's support has evolved—decreasing in volume while increasingly focusing on reaching the most marginalized learners, most recently through a cofinanced program with the Nippon Foundation, managed by Save the Children Italia, that aims to get children with disabilities and from ethnic minorities into school and learning.

1.2 THE COST OF INACTION: A GENERATION AT RISK

The generation of children growing up in GPE partner countries today will shape tomorrow's world.

Tomorrow's talent and productivity will increasingly come from regions with fast-growing populations, notably sub-Saharan Africa. By 2040, nearly 900 million young people from these countries will enter the workforce.[19]

This demographic shift represents a powerful opportunity—but only if education systems equip these young learners with the knowledge and skills they will need to drive global growth, stability and innovation.

Yet today, more than 270 million children and youth are out of school.[20] Conflict, instability, climate shocks and hunger disrupt learning for millions. Overcrowded classrooms, inadequate materials, poor infrastructure and a global shortage of 44 million teachers[21] mean that quality education is out of reach for many more: 70 percent of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries can't read a simple story.[22] The most vulnerable—girls, children with disabilities and those affected by crisis—are being left furthest behind.

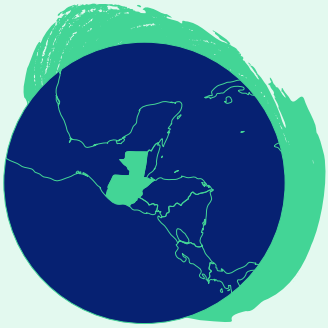
EDUCATION FINANCING IS FALLING BEHIND

Despite growing demand, education financing is not keeping pace. In low-income countries, governments spend just $55 per child per year on education; in lower-middle-income countries, they spend only $309 per child—far below what's needed to deliver quality learning for all. While many GPE partner countries are prioritizing education, domestic resources remain constrained by rising debt and competing fiscal pressures.

Meanwhile, global education aid is shrinking—and shifting away from countries that need it most. In 2023, just 20 percent of education official development assistance (ODA) went to low-income countries, and aid for basic education fell to 30 percent.[23] This leaves countries with fewer options to invest in the large-scale reforms needed to transform education systems.

A GLOBAL RISK

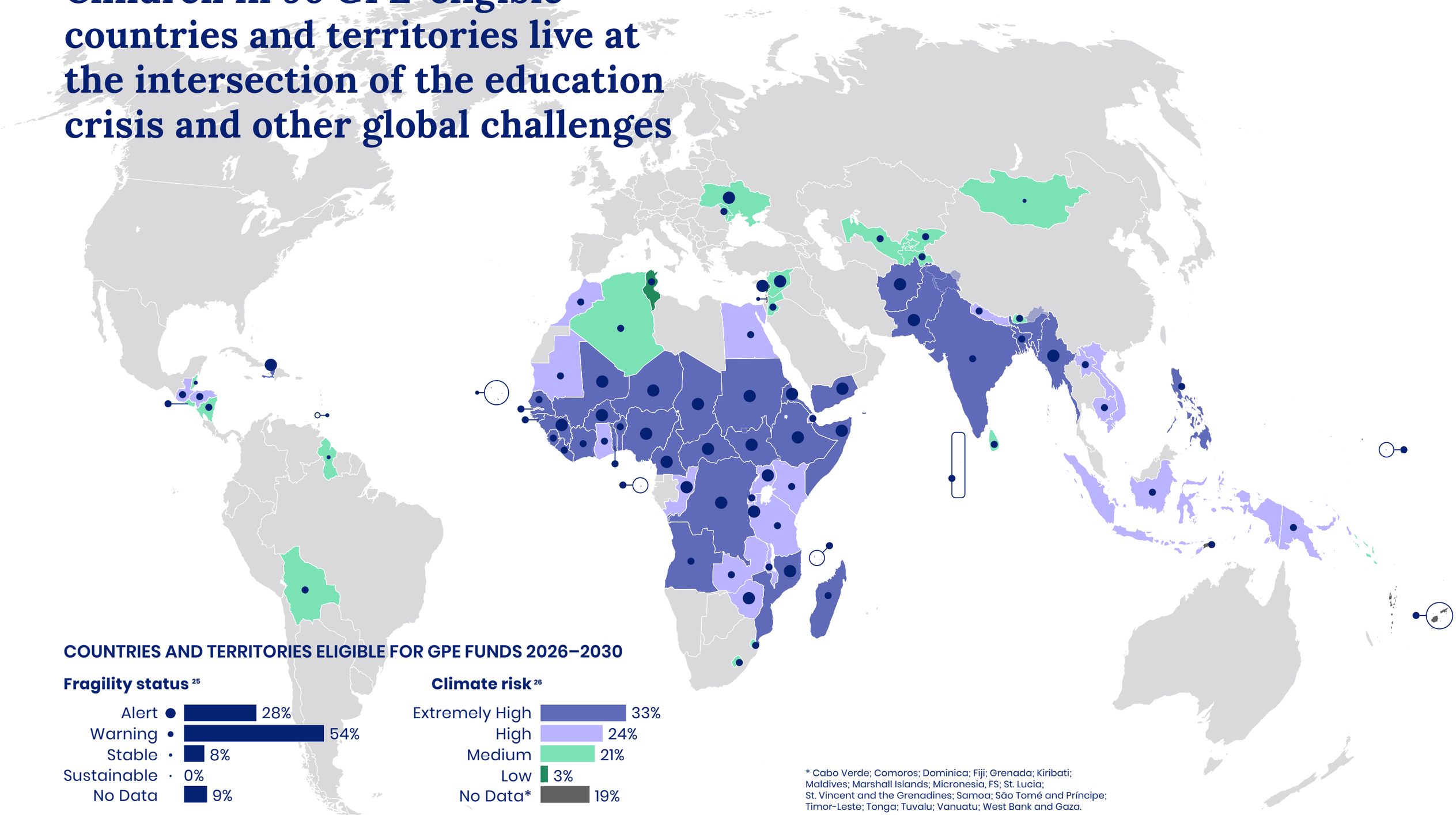
The learning crisis already costs the global economy $3.3 trillion each year in lost productivity.[24] Without urgent action and scaled-up investment, these losses will accelerate perpetuating a vicious cycle where low learning weakens human capital, limiting economic growth and constraining public spending. This will ultimately leave governments more vulnerable to shocks and reliant on external aid, and threaten global prosperity for us all.



Guatemala: Strengthening education pathways for migrant youth

Migration flows—both national and international—are a key challenge in Guatemala, disrupting education continuity and preventing students from completing school. A $10 million GPE investment mobilized $47 million from local private foundations to help the government improve education for 2 million children and youth, including reintegrating 28,000 returning migrants into the national education system. Part of this program supports returning youth by providing "second chance" learning pathways and certifying their skills, enabling them to stay in their communities, find gainful employment, be self-reliant and contribute to local economic development.

Children in 96 GPE-eligible countries and territories live at the intersection of the education crisis and other global challenges



COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ELIGIBLE FOR GPE FUNDS 2026–2030

Fragility status [25]

Climate risk [26]

* Cabo Verde; Comoros; Dominica; Fiji; Grenada; Kiribati; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia, FS; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; São Tomé and Príncipe; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu; West Bank and Gaza.



"Education stands as the most powerful investment we can make in both our people and our continent. It lays the groundwork for equal possibilities, sparks innovation and opens doors to opportunity. We have placed education at the heart of our national development in Sierra Leone, fully aware that it holds the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and realizing our true potential.

Our collaboration with GPE has been vital in this effort—enabling us to expand access, focus on foundational learning, improve quality and reach the most marginalized of our children. This mission goes far beyond classrooms and textbooks; it is about empowering every child to forge their own future and explore their dreams. Education is Africa's gateway to a brighter tomorrow. If we want a continent that is prosperous, peaceful and self-driven, we must continue to boldly and collectively invest in nurturing the minds of the coming generation."

President Julius Maada Bio
of the Republic of Sierra Leone

1.3 GPE: DRIVING TRANSFORMATION AT SCALE

The scale and urgency of today's education challenges demand a coordinated global response that moves beyond short-term solutions to deliver real, lasting reform. GPE is built to deliver that response.

We bring together governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, teachers, the private sector and philanthropy to build equitable, inclusive and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century. We focus on countries with the greatest need and children who are most at risk of being left behind, strengthening systems to withstand the impacts of conflict, climate change and fragility.

GPE does what works, where it matters most, sustainably and at scale, so that every child can learn and thrive. For more than two decades, we have adapted to meet evolving needs: anticipating challenges, responding with ambition and innovation, and delivering results that last.

Who we are: A commitment to quality education for all

GPE is the only global partnership and the largest fund dedicated exclusively to a vision where every child receives a quality education. We mobilize partnerships and investment behind ambitious, country-led reforms that transform education systems so that every girl and boy can fulfill their right to quality education.

What we do: Country-led transformation

Lasting change happens when governments lead. GPE supports countries to design and deliver reforms that ripple across entire systems, and aligns partners and resources behind national priorities to tackle the most urgent barriers to learning— keeping equity, inclusion and resilience at the center of reforms.

Our flexible model meets countries where they are while keeping a sharp focus on strengthening national systems for long-term impact. With 35 accredited grant agents, we match the right partner to each context, ensuring effective support across diverse settings.

How we work: Leveraging partnerships and resources to unlock change

Domestic financing is the foundation of sustainable education systems. GPE supports countries to boost the volume, equity and efficiency of education budgets and expand fiscal space by helping countries attract sustainable, aligned financing at scale. To accelerate the pace of change, we mobilize international partners and leverage resources behind country-led reforms: since 2002, we have raised more than $10 billion for education and leveraged an additional $4.7 billion in cofinancing from more than 70 partners.

Why we succeed: Partnerships that last

Governments must own and drive reforms, but lasting change depends on collective action and accountability. GPE aligns the expertise and resources of diverse partners—teachers, civil society, youth, parents, communities and donors—behind country priorities, while strengthening the broader ecosystem that supports transformation, from engaged communities to a strong evidence base laying the foundations for sustainable, inclusive change.

What sets us apart: Built for sustainability

GPE has put sustainability and national ownership at its core. For more than 20 years, we have helped countries lead their own transformation by strengthening national systems and incentivizing more and better domestic financing. By aligning external support with country priorities, GPE puts aid effectiveness principles into practice, making funding more predictable, coordinated and impactful.

Key Results 2021–2025

QUALITY

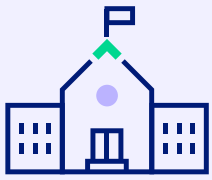


372 MILLION
children supported with better education

4.7 MILLION
teachers trained

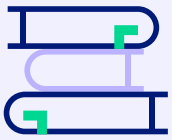
272 MILLION
textbooks distributed

ACCESS



10 MILLION
more children enrolled in school, half of them girls

LEARNING



85%
of GPE grants that measured learning reported improvement

EQUITY AND INCLUSION



51%
of children supported by GPE implementation grants are girls

70%
of children reached are in countries affected by conflict and fragility

FINANCING



$4.7 BILLION
innovative financing raised at a ratio of 1:4, from more than 70 partners

60%
of partner countries maintained their education budget at or above 20% of total spending, or increased it

RESILIENCE



$2.5 BILLION
in potential damages saved for partner countries through climate-resilient schools

Source: Global Partnership for Education (GPE), *Methodological Note on Key Results 2021–2025* (Washington, DC: GPE, 2025).



Nepal: Building a future through education

Prior to partnering with GPE, Nepal faced a large population of out of school children - nearly one in three primary-age children,[27] especially in rural and marginalized areas. A GPE partner since 2009, the government has leveraged this support to drive ambitious reforms, including a bold decentralization effort that has shifted education management from 75 districts to 753 local governments.

This commitment has led to a sharp drop in out-of-school children and rising literacy across all regions and groups. GPE is helping to mobilize resources and align partners behind the country's vision of strengthening local capacity, improving teaching, expanding early childhood education and ensuring inclusion for the most marginalized students, particularly girls and children in rural areas.

Investing in education has built the foundation for a more skilled and resilient workforce. A new generation is reinvesting in their communities as teachers, entrepreneurs, health workers and public servants, strengthening local economies and social cohesion.



Chandra Devi Mahara, a facilitator for the Girls Access to Education (GATE) program, supervises a student's work. GATE is a flexible, nine-month schooling initiative in Nepal designed for girls aged 10 to 14. The program enables participants to rapidly catch up on foundational subjects, and, based on their age and abilities at the end of the course, transition into mainstream education. Credit: GPE / Kelley Lynch

2. MULTIPLY TRANSFORMATION

2.1 A FUTURE-READY MODEL

Despite important progress, transforming how we fund and deliver education has never been more urgent.

Populations are young and growing fast, technology is reshaping labor markets and the jobs of tomorrow demand new and adaptable skills.[28] In Africa alone, 230 million jobs will require digital skills by 2030.[29] Education systems must evolve to equip every child not just to participate in but to drive dynamic, inclusive economies.

Meeting this moment requires two fundamental and interconnected shifts: **transforming education systems** to deliver quality learning at scale, and **rethinking how education is financed** to enable long-term, sustainable investment.

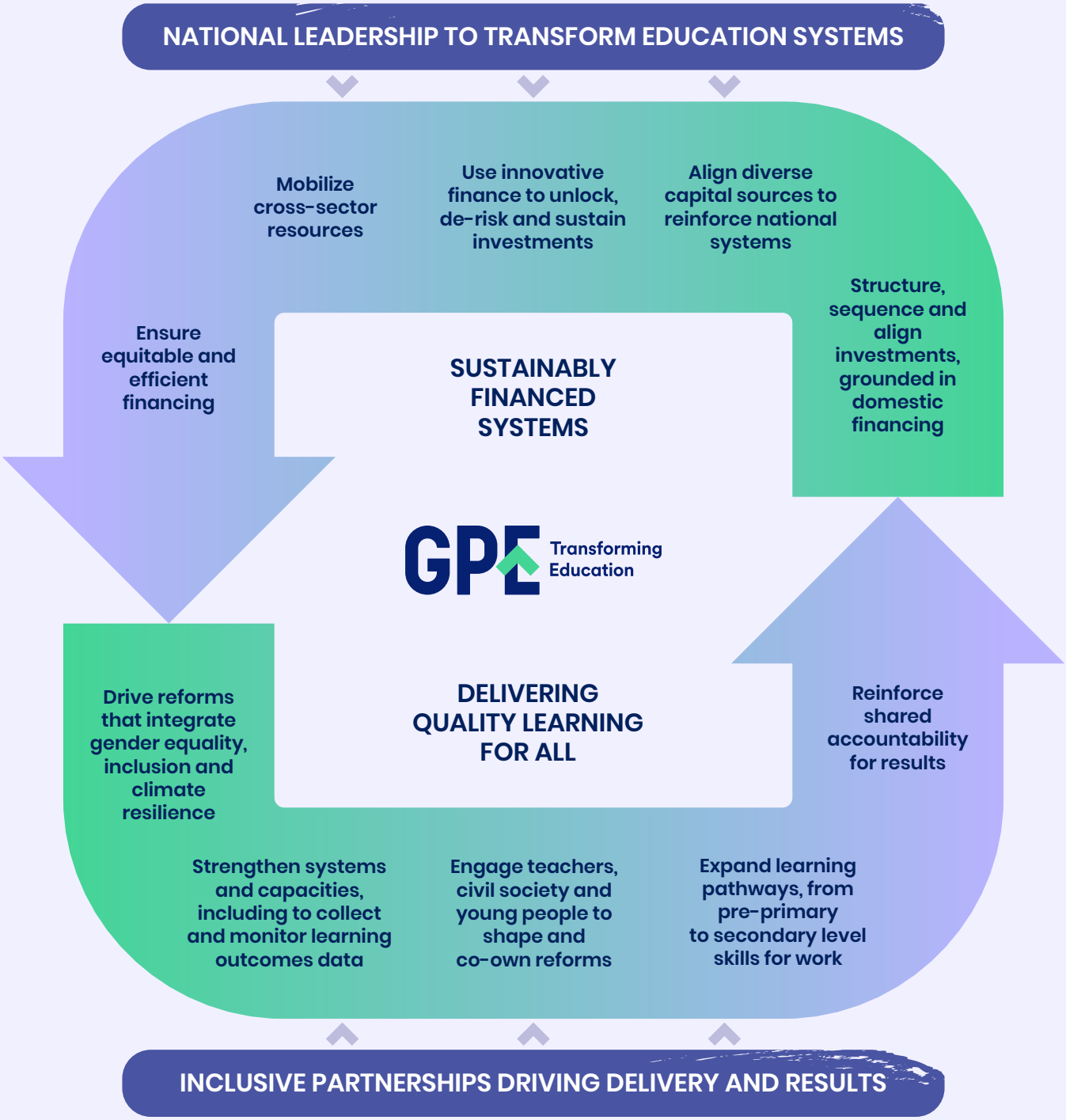
GPE 2030 is designed to drive both. By aligning the full power of our partnership behind country-led reforms—and unlocking the volume, efficiency and equity of financing needed to sustain them—GPE will help countries deliver learning for every child and lay the fiscal foundations for lasting, systemwide change.



"At the Islamic Development Bank, we see access to education not only as a right for all, but also as a shared responsibility to nurture human dignity, build resilience, and harness life opportunities. IsDB's commitment to SmartEd and our enduring partnership with GPE reflect our strong belief that innovative and value-driven financing can transform education systems, especially in the world's most vulnerable contexts. Together, we must catalyze investments that strengthen learning outcomes, build relevant skills, develop human capital, and secure intergenerational prosperity across the Global South."

Chairman Muhammed Al Jasser
Islamic Development Group

GPE 2030: Transforming education financing and delivery for sustainable impact





"I am convinced that education is not an expense but an investment—an essential tool for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. And all the more so in the current context of tight budgetary constraints, we must advocate for a holistic approach to education to ensure that financial resources are used efficiently and are in line with our ambitions. France believes in the effectiveness and added value of GPE."

Thani Mohamed-Soilihi
Minister Delegate for Francophonie and International Partnerships, France

2.2 EDUCATION FINANCING

DRIVING A SHIFT TO LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Education financing in low- and lower-middle-income countries is far below what is needed to deliver quality learning at scale. Low-income countries spend on average just $55 per child per year on education.[30]

Meanwhile, global education aid is shrinking and shifting away from the countries that need it most. In 2023, just 20 percent of education official development assistance (ODA) went to low-income countries, and aid for basic education fell to just 30 percent.[31] Aid cuts in other sectors are further tightening fiscal space.

To invest in the large-scale reforms needed to get all children learning, partner countries need a fundamental shift: away from short-term, fragmented support to long-term, sustainable investment strategies anchored in domestic resources. GPE 2030 will help partner countries advance this shift by:

1. **POSITIONING EDUCATION AT THE HEART OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL POLICY:** GPE will increase support to governments to embed education in macroeconomic planning, public investment strategies and national dialogue and budget decisions, not as a competing cost but as a core driver of inclusive growth, climate resilience, public health and digital transformation.

2. **UNLOCKING GREATER DOMESTIC FINANCING THROUGH STRONGER INCENTIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** GPE supports countries to boost the volume, equity and efficiency of education budgets through policy dialogue, results-based financing and better public financial management. GPE 2030 will build on this while also expanding support for innovative domestic resource mobilization, including outcome-based funding, climate-linked investments and national tax and levy mechanisms.

3

LEVERAGING CATALYTIC GRANTS TO MOBILIZE COMPLEMENTARY FINANCE: GPE will continue to direct the majority of grants to the countries with the greatest needs, while deploying more flexible instruments—such as the GPE Multiplier and Debt2Ed—to unlock and align significantly larger volumes of financing, tailored to each country's ambitions and contexts. GPE will help countries structure and sequence blended finance aligned with national priorities and fiscal realities, and prioritize education within their public borrowing strategies. This includes responsibly leveraging concessional loans and development bank financing to advance long-term reform.

4

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND ATTRACTING PRIVATE CAPITAL: GPE will expand engagement with global and national private sector and philanthropic partners, drawing in their experience and expertise and crowding in new resources, including through a new Foundation for GPE. As we bring new partners into the sector, we will ensure their efforts align behind national leadership so investments are deployed where they will have the greatest impact and reach the most marginalized.

How GPE leverages more and better domestic financing

Recognizing that sustainable transformation depends on national investment, GPE combines financial incentives, technical support and inclusive dialogue to help partner countries protect, grow and improve their education budgets and strengthen national systems.

GPE also uses results-based financing to incentivize these shifts, linking a portion of grant funding to successful policy shifts that increase education budgets, improve spending efficiencies and ensure funds reach those most in need. Nearly 80 percent of partner governments that have opted into these "top-ups" have tied them to domestic financing.

This approach helps governments stay on track to achieving tangible results. For example, in Cameroon and Sierra Leone, it helped raise education budgets and move thousands of community-funded teachers onto the payroll, easing the burden on low-income households, and in Mozambique, reforms reduced textbook costs by 17 percent and improved distribution. In Tanzania, a top-up backed a nationwide teacher deployment policy that placed 98 percent of new primary teachers in schools with the greatest need, making education spending more equitable.



Côte d'Ivoire: Turning debt into financing for education

GPE's Debt2Ed is an innovative financing instrument to transform repayments on national borrowing into investments in education while unlocking grant financing through the GPE Multiplier. Debt2Ed reduces the public debt burden of partner countries and enables more and better spending to get more children into school and learning.

Côte d'Ivoire was the first partner country to leverage this innovative approach, redirecting $77 million from a debt swap with France towards the education sector. The move unlocked the GPE Multiplier, which in turn leveraged additional cofinancing from multiple partners. In total and including the Debt4Ed portion, the country mobilized $182 million—with the World Bank as grant agent—to improve access to quality education, reach marginalized students with adapted materials, train teachers and enhance governance.

SCALING UP IMPACT THROUGH CATALYTIC COFINANCING

Meeting the scale of today's education challenge demands faster, deeper, and more innovative action. GPE 2030 elevates our ambition to harness new partnerships and unlock unprecedented cofinancing to help countries transform their education systems. This expanded investment will double our impact compared to the previous period—driving change at the pace and scale the world's children deserve.

With a new, graduated funding framework designed to prioritize grant financing for countries with the greatest needs, a fully funded GPE 2030 will make more than $2 billion in Multiplier grants available to partner countries and leverage additional finance at a ratio of 1:5—mobilizing at least $10 billion in cofinancing from a diverse range of partners to accelerate system transformation at the scale and speed that is urgently needed.

Building on proven instruments and piloting new innovations and new pathways for resource mobilization, GPE will help countries attract additional concessional, philanthropic and private capital to finance long-term, system-anchored reforms. Our grants will play a catalytic role—used strategically to reduce risk for other investors, attract new financing and structure funding packages that are tailored to each country's needs and capacities.

To support this ambition, GPE will expand its network of partners, offer a broader suite of flexible financing options and provide targeted support to governments to help design and manage investment packages aligned with national reform priorities. We will also continue to assess debt sustainability whenever our grant funding is paired with concessional loans, ensuring that countries can scale education investment without compromising long-term fiscal stability.

Taking innovative financing further

Since 2018, GPE has used innovative financing instruments to mobilize $4.7 billion in catalytic cofinancing from more than 70 partners, including development banks, bilateral donors and a growing number of private sector and philanthropic actors.

Between 2021 and 2025, the GPE Multiplier surpassed its five-year target in just three years, helping partner countries mobilizing on average $4 for every $1 of grant financing for an additional $4.7 billion to the education sector. This success has paved the way for a growing suite of instruments that are helping partner countries mobilize financing for education, including:

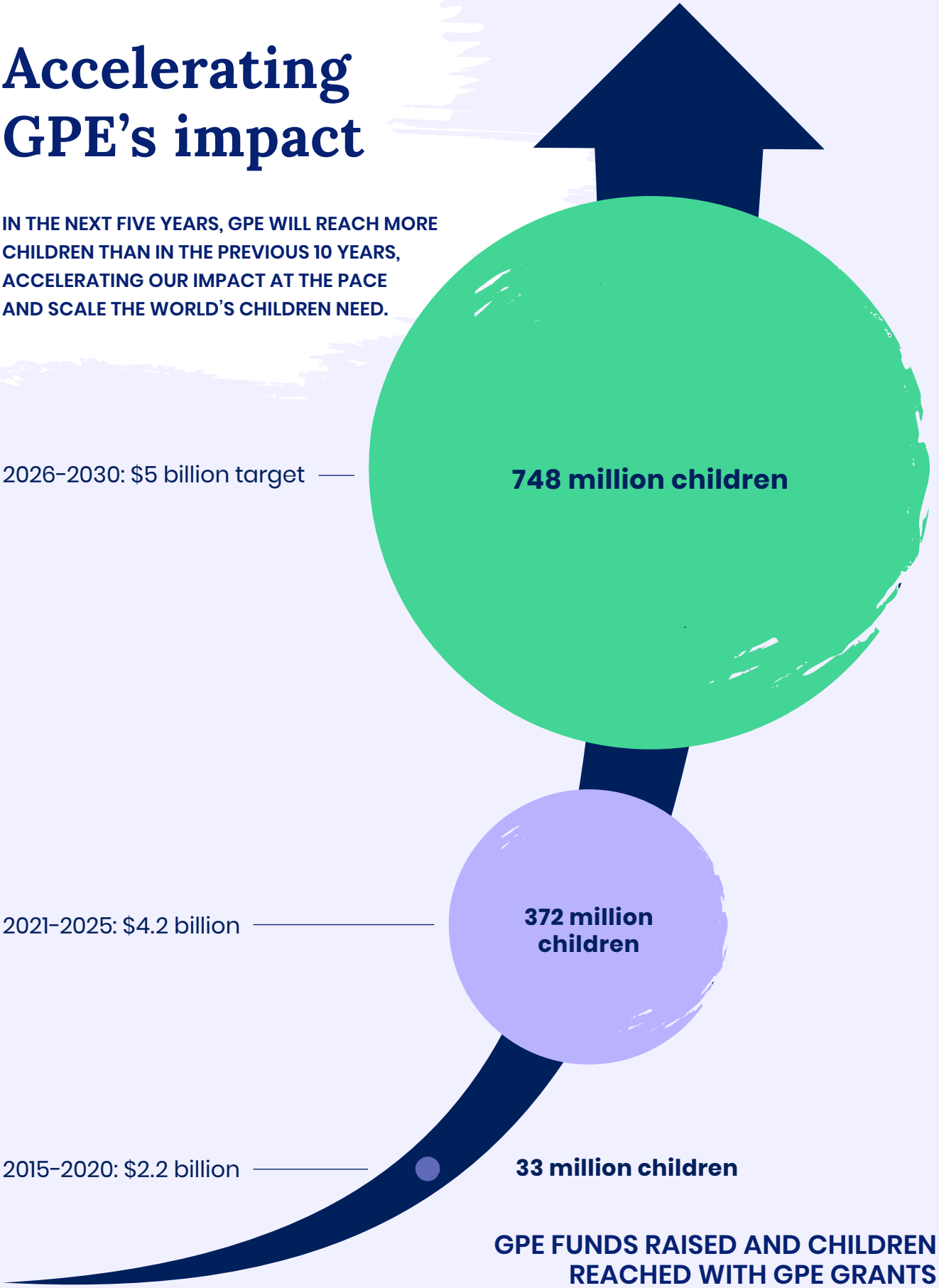
- **Debt2Ed:** Converts sovereign debt into domestic investment by matching debt swaps or restructurings to the education sector with GPE grant funding, freeing up fiscal space for long-term reform.
- **Girls' Education Accelerator:** Provides resources to support gender equality in countries and regions where girls' education has been identified as a main challenge.
- **GPE Match:** Offers a 1:1 match on private sector and philanthropic contributions, attracting new partners to the education sector.
- **SmartEd:** A joint initiative with the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to mobilize new investments in education in 37 eligible IsDB member countries through blended finance solutions.

GPE 2030 will build on this strong track record, piloting pathways to scale up education finance and unlock new partnerships and resources:

- **Education impact bonds:** In partnership with outcome-based financing initiatives, GPE can help scale models that link funding to measurable education results.
- **Climate-linked financing:** GPE is exploring bond structures and financing solutions that tie education investment to climate resilience and adaptation.
- **Islamic financing:** Building on strong collaboration with the IsDB, GPE will explore blending grants with Islamic capital to generate long-term investments in education infrastructure.
- **Guarantees:** GPE will explore partnerships to expand financing options for education through risk-sharing instruments such as guarantees.

Accelerating GPE's impact

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, GPE WILL REACH MORE CHILDREN THAN IN THE PREVIOUS 10 YEARS, ACCELERATING OUR IMPACT AT THE PACE AND SCALE THE WORLD'S CHILDREN NEED.



GPE FUNDS RAISED AND CHILDREN REACHED WITH GPE GRANTS AND COFINANCING, 2015-2030

KEEPING COSTS LOW

Despite a 25 percent increase in the number of partner countries since 2021 and inflationary pressures, we have kept operating costs under 7 percent of disbursements, minimizing costs to donors and partners. GPE also invests funds awaiting disbursement, generating nearly $250 million between 2021 and 2025—more than our operating expenses in the same period—maximizing the value of every donor contribution.

Since 2021, the GPE Secretariat has also reformed how it works to improve efficiency and results. This has included relocating staff closer to partner countries, with an expanded presence in Europe, a support office in Chennai, India, and a new office in Nairobi, Kenya. For 2026-2030, GPE will continue to find innovative and strategic ways to improve efficiency and keep operating costs low while prioritizing the operational excellence for which we are renowned.



With no special needs schools near her and without the option to attend regular school, Oyunjargal, who has a hearing impairment, studied at home and attended an informal child development center. Thanks to a GPE-supported program, she is now enrolled at Ireedui 21st school in Murun, Mongolia. Credit: GPE/Bat-Orgil Battulga

2.3 TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SYSTEMS

GPE 2025 marked a turning point toward system transformation. GPE 2030 builds on this momentum with a practical path to accelerate progress, leveraging the partnership's collective strengths to help governments design and deliver large-scale reforms that improve learning, advance gender equality and inclusion, and strengthen mutual accountability for results.

Together under GPE 2030, we will go further and deliver better across education systems by:

PUTTING LEARNING FIRST

Most GPE partner countries have made learning a top reform priority but lack reliable data to accelerate progress. GPE 2030 will catalyze stronger national learning assessment systems and incentivize high-quality, disaggregated data aligned with global standards, so governments can identify gaps, refine reforms and invest in what works.

EMBEDDING EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

GPE 2030 will reinforce the integration of gender equality, inclusion and climate resilience in education system reforms, grounding transformation in inclusive dialogue and context-specific realities to ensure lasting impact.

ELEVATING LOCAL VOICES

Real change must be sustained by those closest to the classroom. GPE 2030 will deepen the engagement of teachers, students, children, youth and local civil society in shaping, monitoring and implementing reforms.

EXPANDING LEARNING PATHWAYS

GPE 2030 will expand countries' ability to deliver quality education no matter where children and young people are on their educational journey. From pre-primary to secondary level skills for work, GPE will support inclusive, evidence-based approaches so all learners gain the skills they need to thrive.

DOUBLE DOWN ON RESULTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

GPE 2030 will strengthen how the entire partnership measures and tracks progress, increasing transparency and keeping the focus on ensuring reforms deliver equitable outcomes.

Building blocks for the future: Improving foundational learning to fuel progress

Every child should have the opportunity to realize their full potential through quality, inclusive learning. Yet for hundreds of millions of vulnerable children, foundational skills—such as reading, writing and socio-emotional capacity—remain out of reach, compromising their futures and slowing national development.

GPE helps partner countries tackle the learning crisis directly by supporting proven, cost-effective reforms that deliver results. Across GPE partner countries, government-backed reforms aimed at boosting learning outcomes include curriculum development and reform, provision of teacher and learning materials, training and support for teachers and learning assessment. A review of GPE grants that measured learning outcomes found that 85 percent reported improvements.

A cornerstone of GPE's approach is strengthening the data countries need to identify learning gaps and guide targeted reforms. In 2024 alone, GPE grants supported the systems that measure learning in 65 partner countries. Through the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX), GPE has also made significant investments in early learning data infrastructure in countries such as The Gambia, Togo and Uganda to support evidence-based decision making.

GPE 2030 will expand this focus through a new results-based financing mechanism. A top-up trigger will incentivize countries to measure learning outcomes early, consistently and comparably. Under this model, 10 percent of grant allocations will be tied to improved learning data, advancing progress toward this key aspect of Sustainable Development Goal 4.



Marie Goreth Mukayisenga, a teacher at GS Rosa Mystica in Kamonyi, Rwanda, oversees the study work of Alicia Ineza Turabayo, a grade 3 student. This inclusive school is among the first to use Rwanda Education Board edutainment episodes—developed with support from GPE and the World Bank—to make learning engaging and accessible for all students. Credit: GPE/Nkurunziza (Trans.Lieu)

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR LONG-TERM RESULTS

As a country-led partnership, GPE invests in building national capacities across all its work, including through dedicated system capacity grants. GPE's approach is highly adaptable. In extremely fragile and conflict-affected contexts, GPE coordinates with humanitarian partners to sustain learning while building resilience and strengthening local education actors. As situations stabilize, GPE's support shifts to building national systems, helping establish the foundations for resilient, self-reliant education delivery.

Unlike much aid that is delivered in parallel to national structures, GPE aligns support behind national plans, promotes the use of country systems and strengthens harmonization and mutual accountability. This puts the principles of aid effectiveness into practice, ensuring external support is predictable, coordinated and impactful.



"Two of the greatest priorities in education today are ensuring that every child has access to quality learning and creating the pathways that connect learning to opportunity. As a pan-African institution, we know that education is the most powerful investment a society can make in its future prosperity. We value GPE as a trusted partner with the reach, expertise and innovation needed to help countries strengthen their education systems. Ecobank and GPE are united in advancing innovative and inclusive solutions that mobilize communities for education."

Dr. Josephine Anan-Ankomah
Regional Executive – Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe and Central Asia, Ecobank



"As a champion for global education, I have seen how a single opportunity can open many doors. When we invest in education through GPE, we don't just change lives—we set new possibilities in motion for every child, every community, everywhere."

Malala Yousafzai
Nobel Prize Laureate and Cofounder, Malala Fund

A DIVERSE NETWORK TAILORED FOR IMPACT

No single organization can meet the full range of education needs across diverse contexts. GPE's strength lies in its diverse delivery model. With 35 accredited grant agents—including multilateral development banks, UN agencies, bilateral donors, international nongovernmental organizations and private foundations—GPE can match the right partner to the right context. This flexibility allows GPE to operate effectively across all settings, from fragile states to lower-middle-income countries.

This broad reach ensures value for money, enabling strategic and context-specific use of resources and reducing risk by avoiding reliance on a single institution. It also provides the ability to adapt when circumstances change.

LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSFORMATION

Governments must lead education reforms, but sustainable change requires the engagement of all actors in the system. GPE's unique model supports the broader ecosystem needed for long-term transformation: engaged teachers, empowered parents and communities, active youth and student voices, strong data systems and vibrant civil society.

Through **Education Out Loud**, the world's largest fund for education advocacy, GPE amplifies civil society engagement, advancing inclusive and equitable policy change in more than 60 countries. These coalitions also give teachers and young people a stronger voice in shaping education systems. GPE 2030 will deepen this support—strengthening teachers' role in reform and ensuring children, students and youth are more systematically included in national decision-making and accountability processes.

Through the **GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange** (KIX), GPE helps countries close evidence gaps, share proven approaches and scale impactful, cost-effective solutions, linking research to policy and practice across 88 countries, funding applied research rooted in national priorities and supporting peer learning to close evidence gaps.

Partnering with teachers to transform education

A good teacher is the single strongest predictor of student achievement. GPE supports partner countries to strengthen all aspects of the teaching profession: from recruitment and deployment to training, mentoring and ongoing professional development, especially in underserved areas. GPE's inclusive model also makes sure teachers are represented in national decision making: ninety percent of national education coalitions supported by Education Out Loud are informed by teachers.

Children, youth and students—partners in action

Young people's lived experience is critical to transforming education. Their insights help identify classroom solutions, and their voices hold decision makers to account. GPE supports a seat at the table for young people—86 percent of the national education coalitions supported by Education Out Loud include youth participation, and through the GPE Youth Leaders program, we support youth to speak up, influence policy and drive change.



"These are exceptional times, and they call for exceptional leadership from us all to finally fulfill every child's fundamental right to quality education. GPE has a proven track record of improving education systems in the lowest income countries. We must support GPE wholeheartedly and finance it fully."

Mugwena Maluleke
President, Education International

The power of regional partnerships in the Pacific

Nearly a dozen island countries in the Pacific region have joined GPE. Spread across vast distances and home to extraordinary linguistic and cultural diversity, the Pacific is also one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. Despite their uniqueness, many of the countries face similar education challenges: remote populations, limited resources and frequent climate-related disruptions.

To respond, GPE supports implementation of the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF), a joint strategy uniting 15 island nations around a shared vision for equitable, high-quality education. A $14.9 million GPE grant covers 85 percent of PacREF's program costs and has helped strengthen learning assessments and data, build climate resilience and integrate traditional knowledge and cultural heritage into curricula. In 2023, PacREF—with additional funding from other partners—launched the Waka Moana Learning Hub,[32] a shared repository of digital learning materials for teachers and students.

This approach shows how regional collaboration can address complex, shared challenges and deliver impact at a scale no country could achieve alone. GPE 2030 will expand support for regional collaboration in the Pacific and pursue similar approaches in Latin America and the Caribbean. This effort aims to provide more countries in these regions with opportunities to address shared challenges, unlock new partnerships, pursue efficiencies and attract additional financing.

GPE and IFFEd: Unlocking capital for human capital development

GPE is exploring how it can work with the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) to unlock greater volumes of affordable education financing for lower-middle-income countries. By combining GPE's innovative finance grants with IFFEd's guarantee-based model, this partnership could help mobilize significantly more capital to support large-scale programs and reforms that strengthen education systems and build human capital, moving countries beyond concessional aid. Initial discussions are underway with the Asian Development Bank to pilot this collaboration in 2026.

Shaping futures together: Partnering with the private sector and philanthropy

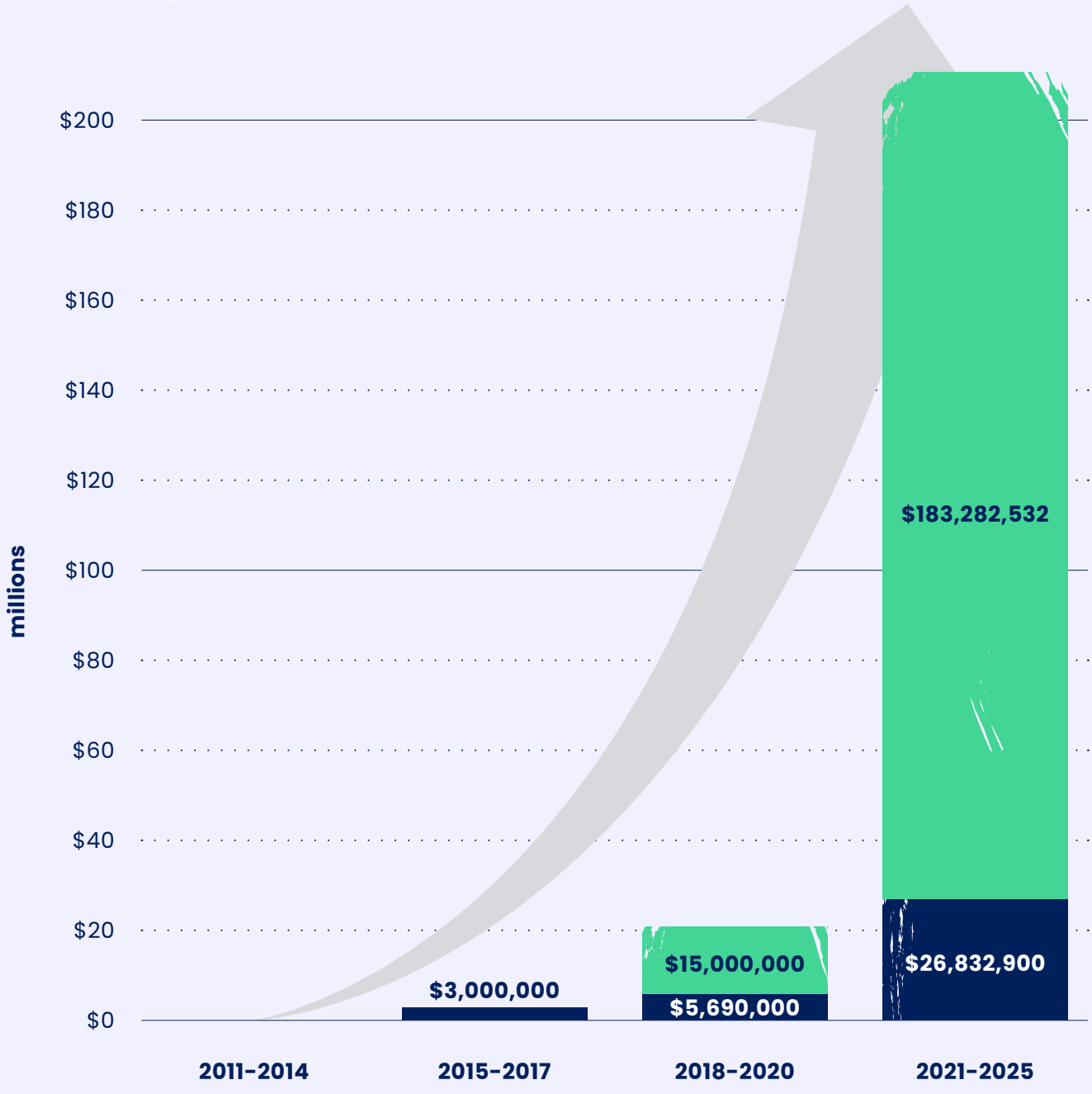
Governments lead on delivering education—but in today's fast-changing, fiscally constrained world, engaging the private sector and philanthropy can accelerate progress toward ensuring all children learn. GPE acts as a connector, incentivizing partnerships between governments, businesses and private foundations and aligning the capital, evidence, technology and delivery expertise these partners bring behind national education priorities.

GPE 2025 drove a surge in private and philanthropic engagement at both the global and country levels. During this period, GPE worked with over 40 private and philanthropic partners, mobilizing over $200 million in direct funding and cofinancing. Foundations took on lead coordination roles in local education groups for the first time, the first foundation was accredited and selected as grant agent, and a growing number co-invested through the GPE Match, which doubles qualifying philanthropic investments made by the business community or private foundations through the GPE Multiplier or the Girls' Education Accelerator.

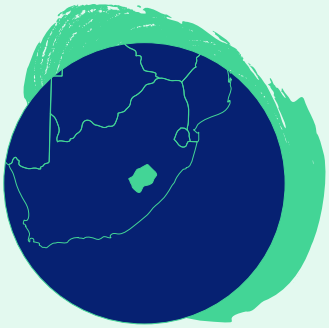
Collaboration with private actors also builds stronger bridges between education and employment. Foundations and businesses are co-investing not only in education but in workforce readiness, digital skills and entrepreneurship training—reinforcing education's role in driving inclusive and sustainable growth.

Innovative partnerships, diverse resources and capabilities, and sustainable financing are key to the education transformation agenda. The new Foundation for GPE established in Geneva, Switzerland, marks an additional milestone in engaging the private sector, philanthropy and other non sovereign partners in support of GPE's mission and objectives. The Foundation will expand, enhance and diversify collaboration with a wider range of funders, complementing successes to date and extending the reach of GPE's transformative education programs.

Contributions from the private sector and foundations to date



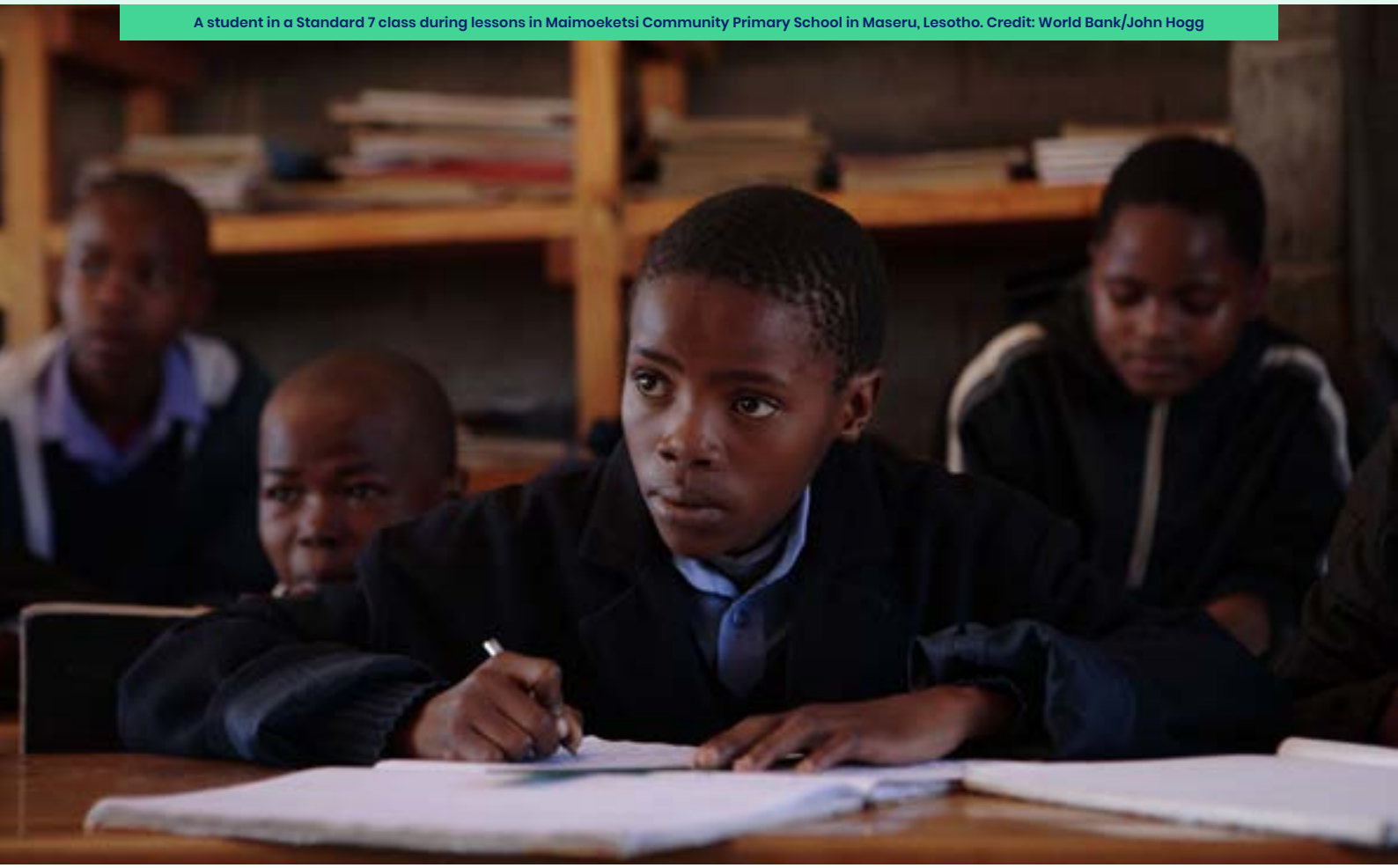
*Figures for cofinancing include $25,000,000 of in-kind contributions.



Lesotho: Mobilizing global philanthropy and national private sector support for foundational learning

Lesotho has made foundational learning the cornerstone of its education reform, recognizing that early childhood education and basic literacy and numeracy are essential to long-term progress. GPE is supporting this ambition, mobilizing a powerful partnership of public, private and philanthropic actors including the Roger Federer Foundation and a coalition of local private sector partners—including Econet's Higherlife Foundation, Vodacom Lesotho and Standard Bank Lesotho. The combined result is an ambitious $11 million program, implemented by UNICEF, that is boosting early learning and school readiness for more than 93,000 children and training 1,350 teachers across five districts. This groundbreaking collaboration with the private sector via the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry has inspired more businesses to engage, and the government is now exploring a private sector–financed trust fund as a sustainable mechanism for future contributions.[33]

A student in a Standard 7 class during lessons in Maimoeketsi Community Primary School in Maseru, Lesotho. Credit: World Bank/John Hogg



3. MULTIPLY IMPACT: BUILDING INCLUSIVE, FUTURE-READY SYSTEMS

As populations grow and demand for 21st-century skills surges, education systems must be fundamentally reimagined or a generation of children and youth will be left behind. GPE supports governments to build education systems that are equitable, inclusive, resilient and ready for the future.

3.1 DELIVERING FOR THE MOST MARGINALIZED

To unlock the demographic dividend, all children must benefit equally from a quality education, no matter who they are or where they live. Over 2026–2030, GPE will leverage the full financial, technical and political capabilities of our partnership to help countries close persistent gaps in access and learning and go the last mile to reach the most marginalized children. Even in the most challenging contexts—from countries affected by fragility and conflict to those reeling from the impacts of extreme weather—GPE 2030 will ensure support for the children who are most at risk of being left behind.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

Education is one of the most powerful drivers of gender equality and essential for achieving broader development goals. Gender-responsive education systems fuel stronger economies, improve child and maternal health, and foster more inclusive, resilient societies. But these gains can only be realized when girls and boys benefit equally from quality education.

GPE places gender equality at the heart of its system transformation approach, recognizing that both access to education and learning outcomes are shaped by many factors both inside and outside the classroom, including social norms, gender stereotypes, poverty, disability, location and conflict. GPE 2030 will support countries to identify and address gender inequalities and accelerate gender equality to, in and through education, by:

- Using data and evidence on equity to feed into gender-responsive and inclusive planning
- Tackling harmful social norms and economic barriers that keep children out of school
- Developing a balanced teacher workforce of male and female teachers and school leaders
- Improving teaching and learning for inclusion and quality
- Bringing gender expertise into national dialogue and policy
- Leveraging partnerships to strengthen accountability for gender equality
- Increasing capacity of education systems to prevent and respond to gender-based violence

Girls' education: The heart of progress

More girls are in school today than ever before, yet we know the hardest to reach girls still face the highest barriers. Today 133 million girls worldwide are still denied their right to education.[34] Educating girls generates huge dividends for economic prosperity, equity, climate resilience, public health and peace. If every girl completed 12 years of schooling, child marriage would drop by two-thirds and global economies could grow by up to $30 trillion.[35]

In 2026–2030, GPE will continue to support partner countries to identify and remove systemic barriers to girls' education, mobilizing partners and resources to deliver transformative reforms so that every girl is in school, safe and learning.



Advent Munenge (middle) in class with other students in a program in Zimbabwe funded by the GPE Girls' Education Accelerator. With support from GPE and CAMFED, marginalized girls are gaining the skills and opportunities they need to stay in school and build brighter futures. Credit: Stabile Mpengesi/GPE



Pakistan: Partnering to get girls in school

In Sindh province, Pakistan, GPE is supporting the Ministry of Education to tackle gender-related barriers to learning for more than 925,000 girls and boys. With a total investment of $85 million since 2021, GPE, working with the World Bank and UNICEF, has helped the provincial government strengthen gender-sensitive teacher training, introduce early warning systems to prevent dropouts, build school leadership that creates inclusive environments, and engage communities on the importance of girls' education. GPE's support for inclusive policy dialogue has helped bring gender equality actors into education planning. This has shifted the focus from girls' access alone to broader system-level reforms that advance gender equality within and through education—laying the foundation for sustainable change.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

An estimated 240 million children worldwide live with a disability—and they are among the most likely to be denied an education. Children with disabilities are 49 percent more likely to have never attended school compared to children without disabilities.[36] Disability often intersects with other barriers—poverty, gender, displacement and geography—compounding exclusion.

GPE puts inclusion at the center of education system transformation, helping governments design reforms that remove physical, social and institutional barriers to learning. GPE 2030 will deepen partnerships, scale innovation and increase targeted and systemwide support to ensure children with disabilities are fully included in national education plans, budgets and sector coordination. This will include expanding the use of disability-inclusive data and tools to improve screening, track equity gaps and inform policy and resource allocation, as well as to invest in inclusive teaching and learning and targeted support for children with disabilities.



Uzbekistan: Scaling inclusive education

Uzbekistan, Central Asia's most populous country, is seizing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform its education system for a booming youth population.[37] At the heart of this effort is a bold national commitment to inclusion, with a focus on children with disabilities—especially girls in rural areas—who remain the most excluded from education.

To power this transformation, Uzbekistan leveraged GPE's unique model, mobilizing an ambitious $220 million financing package that combines a $40 million Multiplier grant with $160 million in blended finance from the Arab Coordination Group Smart Education Financing Initiative (ACG SmartEd),[38] and $20 million in domestic resources. This innovative partnership is strengthening accessible infrastructure, training teachers to meet diverse learning needs, and improving data to inform better decisions across the system. By lowering borrowing costs and accelerating reform, GPE's catalytic support is enabling Uzbekistan to expand access and equity at scale—showing how blended finance can drive sustainable, inclusive education for a new generation of learners.

Ruxshona writing her name on a board during a class at the Early Learning Hub supported by GPE in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Credit: GPE/Federico Scoppa



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

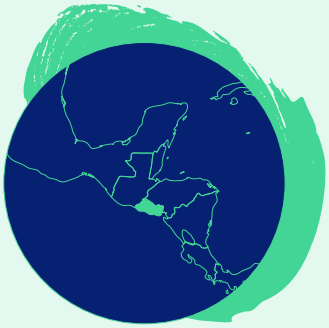
The early years lay the foundations for lifelong learning and skills development. Children who build strong literacy, numeracy and socio-emotional skills in their early years are far better prepared to acquire more complex competencies later in life. Evidence shows that every dollar invested in early learning can yield up to $17 in returns through improved education, health and employment outcomes.[39] Early learning is especially powerful for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping close developmental gaps before they widen, and promoting equity and social inclusion.

Despite progress, fewer than one in five children in low-income countries has access to preschool,[40] putting millions at risk of falling behind before their education has even begun. GPE prioritizes early childhood education—helping governments strengthen policies, invest in teacher training and expand access to quality pre-primary education. GPE 2030 is a unique opportunity to further scale partnerships and support for early learning as a cornerstone of systems transformation and to help partner countries break cycles of poverty and exclusion.



"Education forms the foundation of lasting peace, prosperity and dignity. Investing in education is not a choice. It's a moral and strategic imperative. Through GPE, millions of children access quality education while countries strengthen their education systems. This progress rests on two pillars: countries investing in their own educational futures and the global community standing together through GPE to ensure no child is left behind. Together, these efforts will help us deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals."

Amina Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations



El Salvador: Mobilizing finance for equity and inclusion

El Salvador has prioritized reforms to advance equity and inclusion, particularly by expanding access to early childhood education for the most vulnerable learners. Using a $12 million GPE Multiplier grant, the government leveraged $160 million in financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)—a leverage ratio of 1:13—to improve learning for more than 850,000 students. The investment expands early education access, trains nearly 30,000 teachers and school leaders, and strengthens inclusive education for children with disabilities. It also supports the reintegration of 2,000 returning migrant students through targeted programs and teacher training, helping young people reenter school, reconnect with their communities and build brighter futures.



Students at Centro Escolar Olof Palme in San Martin proudly show their work. In June 2022, El Salvador became the first GPE partner country to access funding from GPE's Girls' Education Accelerator. Credit: GPE/Julio Roberto

3.2 BUILDING RESILIENT, FUTURE-READY SYSTEMS

In a world facing overlapping crises—from conflict and climate shocks to forced displacement and pandemics—education is a critical investment in resilience and one that helps future-proof societies. It equips children not only with foundational literacy and numeracy but also with the skills, adaptability and innovation needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

BRIDGING RELIEF AND RECOVERY FOR CRISIS-AFFECTED LEARNERS

The number of crises around the world has surged over the past decade, with devastating impacts on children and their education. Today, more than 234 million children are affected by crises and 85 million are out of school completely.[41] More than half of GPE partner countries are affected by conflict or fragility, and 70 percent of children reached by GPE implementation grants live in these contexts.

GPE brings over two decades of experience working with partner countries to sustain learning against all odds, often as the only partner providing reliable, long-term funding to keep education systems from collapsing. When disaster strikes, GPE provides accelerated funding—up to 20 percent of a country's maximum grant allocation within eight weeks—to protect education continuity. In protracted crises, GPE works with governments and humanitarian partners to align immediate response with long-term reform priorities. Building on this track record, GPE 2030 will step up its support to strengthen countries' capacity to prepare for, withstand and recover from shocks, from conflict to climate impacts.

With GPE partner countries hosting nearly 4 million refugee children—almost half the global total—GPE 2030 will also expand support to help governments move beyond short-term humanitarian provision toward long-term, systemwide solutions that integrate refugees and displaced learners into national education systems.



"Education is the cornerstone of just and peaceful societies. It empowers individuals, strengthens communities and drives sustainable development. At the Global Campaign for Education, we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn, thrive and shape their own future. Investing in inclusive, free and quality public education creates lasting change—transforming not only individual lives but entire nations. Partnerships like GPE are essential to meeting these challenges and strengthening governments' capacity to fulfill their commitments. Now more than ever, we must reaffirm our commitment to making education a universal right, not a privilege."

Refat Sabbah
President, Global Campaign For Education



Ukraine: Investing in education to restore hope

The conflict in Ukraine has disrupted learning for over 5 million children.[42] In response, the government—with support from GPE and partners—launched a program in Odesa and Zhytomyr that trained over 7,400 educators and reached 38,000 students with learning and psychosocial support. A $25.5 million contribution from Google, Microsoft and UNESCO unlocked a matching GPE Multiplier grant, with additional support from UNICEF. The initiative is now expanding nationwide, with more than 61,000 teachers registered for online training and 39 new digital learning centers helping displaced children continue their education and access critical support.

Yaroslava Kot, a teacher of Ukrainian language and literature, at the destroyed School No. 18 in Chernihiv, Ukraine. Credit: GPE/Dmytro Maksymenko





Myanmar: Sustaining education through crisis

Following the military takeover in Myanmar in 2021, most development funding to the country was paused and the education system faced unprecedented disruption, with schools closed and millions of children at risk of being cut off from learning. In a context where engagement with de facto authorities was not possible, GPE's partnership model brought the development community together around a joint response plan to sustain education. In coordination with Education Cannot Wait, international and civil society organizations, local education providers and nongovernmental actors, GPE delivered vital education programs that ensured continuity of learning. GPE mobilized its funding flexibly, reprogramming a US$50 million grant implemented through multiple local education providers to provide safe learning spaces and reach the most vulnerable children across different regions in the country affected by conflict—particularly girls and boys from ethnic minorities. Working tirelessly to sustain support for education, GPE has partnered with multiple donors, raising more than $20 million in cofinancing from Australia and the UK while providing an additional $28 million in grant funding—showing the strength and flexibility of the partnership in the face of a complex and fragile situation.



Syria: Keeping education going after earthquake devastation

in 2023, a devastating earthquake disrupted learning for 7 million children in Syria and damaged nearly 3,000 schools.[43] GPE, in close coordination with humanitarian partners including Education Cannot Wait, swiftly mobilized $3.75 million in emergency funding, partnering with UNICEF and Save the Children to establish 61 temporary learning spaces reaching over 16,000 children, including those with disabilities.[44] An additional $15 million was later allocated to repair schools, provide school supplies and restore learning. This response demonstrates GPE's ability to deliver fast, flexible support in crises while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilient education systems.

GPE and Education Cannot Wait: Two complementary global funds responding to the global education crisis

GPE and Education Cannot Wait converge in fragile and protracted crisis contexts, supporting the continuum between humanitarian and development programming and accelerating progress to realize Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education for all.

GPE's work with governments to prepare for and respond to crises and minimize their impact on education systems complements Education Cannot Wait's work on financing rapid, multiyear education responses in crises through the humanitarian system. By leveraging each fund's added value, Education Cannot Wait and GPE's strengthened collaboration maximizes funding for education and helps better meet the full scope of needs.

BUILDING CLIMATE-SMART EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Climate change is disrupting education worldwide, damaging infrastructure, displacing learners and deepening inequalities. Between 2022 and 2024, more than 400 million students experienced school closures because of extreme weather,[45] demonstrating how inadequately prepared many education systems are for climate impacts. Yet schools can be powerful platforms for resilience: they keep children safe during disasters, equip communities with climate knowledge and support recovery. Despite this potential, education receives just 1.5 percent of global climate finance.[46]

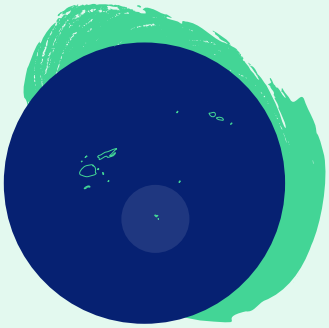
GPE is uniquely positioned to drive climate adaptation and action through education. Already, 64 percent of GPE grants include support for climate resilience. GPE 2030 will scale up support for partner countries to embed climate risk into education sector planning, financing and delivery, in line with national adaptation goals. At the same time, building on a groundbreaking partnership with the Green Climate fund, GPE will deepen partnerships with climate actors to unlock new and greater climate finance for education and support governments to build a pipeline of climate-smart investments that will help keep children learning in a changing world.

Breaking down barriers to scale up cross-sector investments

In 2023, GPE and the Green Climate Fund—the world's two largest funds for education and climate—joined forces to safeguard the learning of millions of children against the impacts of climate change. Launched at COP28 and implemented by Save the Children, the Building the Climate Resilience of Children and Communities through the Education Sector (BRACE) initiative provided an unprecedented $70 million investment to build climate-resilient schools in vulnerable countries, marking the first major investment of climate finance in the education sector.



Students gather outside the renovated Esinumbi Primary School in Kindu, Democratic Republic of Congo. With GPE funding, school buildings have been built or repaired with sturdy materials to withstand the elements. Credit: GPE/Elvix Kwanu



Tonga: Resilient learning in a changing climate

As one of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, Tonga faces frequent cyclones, tsunamis and rising sea levels that threaten schools, disrupt learning and put children at risk. For a small island state, the challenge is clear: how to ensure education continues despite recurring disasters, and how to prepare the next generation with the knowledge and skills to adapt to a changing climate.

The government of Tonga has made resilience a national priority, working to safeguard education infrastructure, integrate climate change into curricula, and ensure teachers and students are equipped to cope with shocks. With support from GPE and partners—including through a $5 million Multiplier grant for safe and resilient schools and additional resources in the pipeline from the joint GPE–Green Climate Fund BRACE initiative— Tonga is strengthening its education system so children can keep learning during crises and schools can serve as safe spaces for communities.

DRIVING CHANGE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Children's ability to learn is shaped by far more than what happens in the classroom. GPE helps governments design and implement reforms that tackle complex, cross-sector challenges that impact education outcomes, while strengthening national leadership and multi-sector coordination. Partner countries can tap into the expertise of the partnership and mobilize resources and technical assistance to reinforce capacities to link education with health, nutrition, climate resilience, child protection and digital inclusion depending on the context.

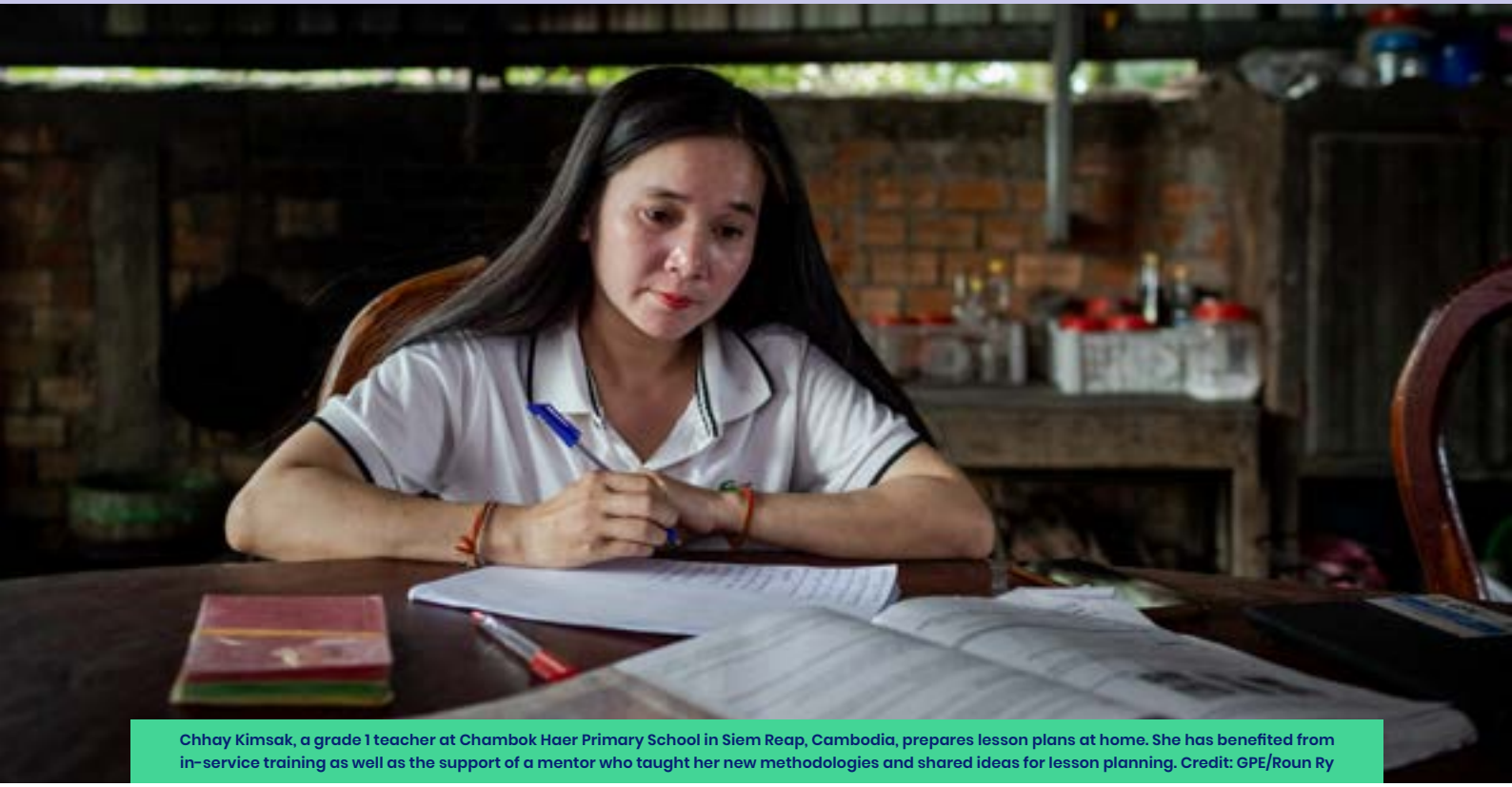
GPE 2030 will expand this work, fostering deeper partnerships across sectors and supporting integrated approaches to make education systems stronger, more inclusive and better equipped to deliver for every child.

Boosting school health, nutrition and well-being

Healthy children are more likely to attend school, stay in class and learn—making school health and nutrition essential for both equity and learning. GPE supports governments to integrate priority interventions, including sanitation, menstrual hygiene and psychosocial support into education systems. Partner countries can also leverage GPE's network to forge new partnerships and mobilize additional resources to develop financially sustainable approaches to priority interventions such as school feeding.

Partnering against violence

Safe schools are essential for learning and long-term development. GPE helps countries strengthen education systems, policy frameworks and financing to prevent and respond to all forms of violence in and around schools. This includes school leader training and teacher development alongside community engagement and cross-sectoral responses.



Chhay Kimsak, a grade 1 teacher at Chambok Haer Primary School in Siem Reap, Cambodia, prepares lesson plans at home. She has benefited from in-service training as well as the support of a mentor who taught her new methodologies and shared ideas for lesson planning. Credit: GPE/Roun Ry

PREPARING EDUCATION SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE

Succeeding in today's world demands a broad skill set, from foundational literacy and numeracy to digital skills, creativity and innovation. As societies are reshaped by technology, demographic shifts and climate change, education systems must evolve to equip learners with the skills, adaptability and resilience needed to succeed in the 21st century. Education fuels inclusive growth, strengthens resilience and lays the foundation for a more stable and prosperous world for all.

GPE 2030 will deepen support for country-led reforms that equip learners with foundational learning and 21st-century skills such as creative thinking, analytical reasoning, problem-solving and collaboration, which are essential for today's and tomorrow's jobs.[47] From expanding access to early learning to supporting secondary level skills for work programming, GPE 2030 will expand countries' ability to deliver quality education no matter where children and young people are on their educational journey.

Building on the experience of supporting remote learning in more than 60 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, GPE will also continue to support partner governments to harness the power of digital technologies—including artificial intelligence—for teaching and learning in inclusive, culturally-appropriate, safe and sustainable ways. Drawing on the experience of the partnership, initiatives such as the Global Reference Group on Technology for Education—cochaired by experts from government, civil society, foundations and the private sector—provide strategic guidance to governments as they navigate an increasingly complex landscape of technological solutions.

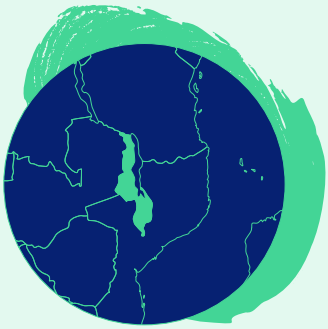


Bangladesh: Equipping out-of-school youth with skills for work

In Cox's Bazar, home to the world's largest refugee settlement, almost half of secondary school-age youth do not attend school. With support from GPE and UNICEF, Bangladesh is expanding access to quality education and skills development for both refugee and host community children, helping thousands of 14- to 18-year-olds who are out of school to develop literacy, numeracy, life and vocational skills. This has resulted in the country's first standardized prevocational courses in high-growth sectors such as information technology, hospitality, light engineering and construction, and the program's success has prompted a national scale-up for out-of-school adolescents throughout Bangladesh.



Lute, an 8-year-old student, with her friends at Mphimbi Primary School, Central Region, Malawi. Credit: Ofred Studio



Malawi: Transforming foundational learning through technology

In Malawi, only 13 percent of children can read by age 10. To address this crisis, the government launched the Building Education Foundations through Innovation and Technology (BEFIT) program to improve foundational learning through digital tools. GPE played a catalytic role in supporting the government's ambition to scale up the program nationwide, providing a $15.2 million GPE Multiplier grant that was unlocked with cofinancing from several philanthropic funders. Implemented by Imagine Worldwide, the program uses solar-powered tablets to deliver offline, adaptive learning aligned with the national curriculum. This innovative approach is boosting foundational learning, reducing learning gaps between girls and boys and strengthening digital capacity across schools.[48] As the first low-income country in sub-Saharan Africa to scale technology for education nationally, Malawi is charting a bold, cost-effective path to improve learning for every child.



"GPE has been instrumental in our shared mission to transform foundational learning in Malawi and our other partner countries. We have witnessed firsthand how technology can deliver personalized learning that can bridge educational gaps, democratize content and enable children to realize their full potential. This collaboration between Imagine, GPE, the government of Malawi and our philanthropic partners underscores the power of evidence-based, cost-effective and scalable solutions in reshaping education systems for the better.

Rapelang Rabana
Co-CEO, Imagine Worldwide

4. MULTIPLY THE FUTURE: FUND EDUCATON

What we do in the next five years will define the next 50.

GPE 2030 is a pivotal opportunity to turn the tide on the global learning and financing crisis, and to catalyze a shift toward sustainable investment in quality education as the engine of a better future.

Incremental change is not enough. GPE partner countries need rapid, large-scale education transformation to harness the demographic dividend and build lasting stability, prosperity and resilience. If we fail to invest now, the cost of our inaction will be a future of deepening inequality, lost potential and rising fragility for us all.

With a $5 billion replenishment, GPE will align the power of our partnership behind country-led reforms and unlock billions more in cofinancing and domestic investment to get every child in school, learning and ready to thrive. This catalytic support will help governments chart a path to sustainable financing and long-term self-reliance.

The future depends on the choices we make today.

Invest in GPE and together, we can multiply possibility, unlock opportunity and shape a more resilient, prosperous world for generations to come.

Education multiplies possibility: Young people's call for action

"Dear World Leaders,
Help us build a future where every young person has the chance to thrive, contribute and create a better world, because when you invest in education, you multiply possibility for us all. Investing in education is investing in us—future leaders, innovators and change-makers."

Read the powerful statement from young people calling on world leaders to fund education.



Rachael, a student in Ikyogen, Nigeria, using one of the learner kits distributed at her school. Credit: Save the Children/Pem Musa

Appendix 1.
GPE 2030 Strategic Plan



A quality education for every child



To mobilize partnerships and investments that transform education systems in GPE partner countries, leaving no one behind



To accelerate access, learning outcomes and gender equality through equitable, inclusive and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century



- Country-owned priority education reforms implemented, fully integrating gender equality and inclusion, people with disabilities and refugees, and marginalized groups based on country context
- Domestic and external financing mobilized to support and sustain priority reforms
- Reforms driven and sustained by coordinated and effective partnerships including core system stakeholders

Appendix 2. Transform education, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals



HELPING BUILD STRONG, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS THROUGH GPE WILL ADVANCE EACH OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS):



Halve extreme poverty worldwide, through quality education for all.



Save 1.7 million children from stunting, through nutrition-sensitive schooling.



Save millions of lives, including halving the number of child deaths through educated mothers.



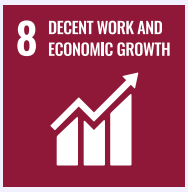
Ensure all women and girls reach their full potential and boost the global economy by a quarter by closing gender gaps in education.



Promote lifesaving hygiene practices through schools.



Increase sustainable energy consumption through environmental education programs.



Achieve at least a 10-fold increase in economic growth for every $1 spent on education.



Build a resilient, skilled workforce adaptive to the rapidly evolving job market.



Harness inclusive education systems to close social and economic equality gaps.



Create sustainable futures for communities through cultivating the skills to shape and sustain green cities.



Substantially increase sustainable consumption and environmental stewardship through climate literacy.



Mitigate climate change and its affects through educational awareness, leading to mass behavior change.



Build early, proactive consensus around marine conservation through school curricula.



Capacitate children with skills in sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity in the most at-risk environments.



Promote peace and tolerance by investing in inclusive and equitable education systems.



By transforming education, GPE creates solutions beyond boundaries. Together, we can create a next generation committed to sustainable development.

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