MULTIPLY » POSSIBILITY

GPE Case for Investment 2026-2030

Summary



GPE Transforming Education



"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 in sub-Saharan Africa.[1] Meanwhile, technological shifts like artificial intelligence and the accelerating impacts of climate change are transforming how we work and live.

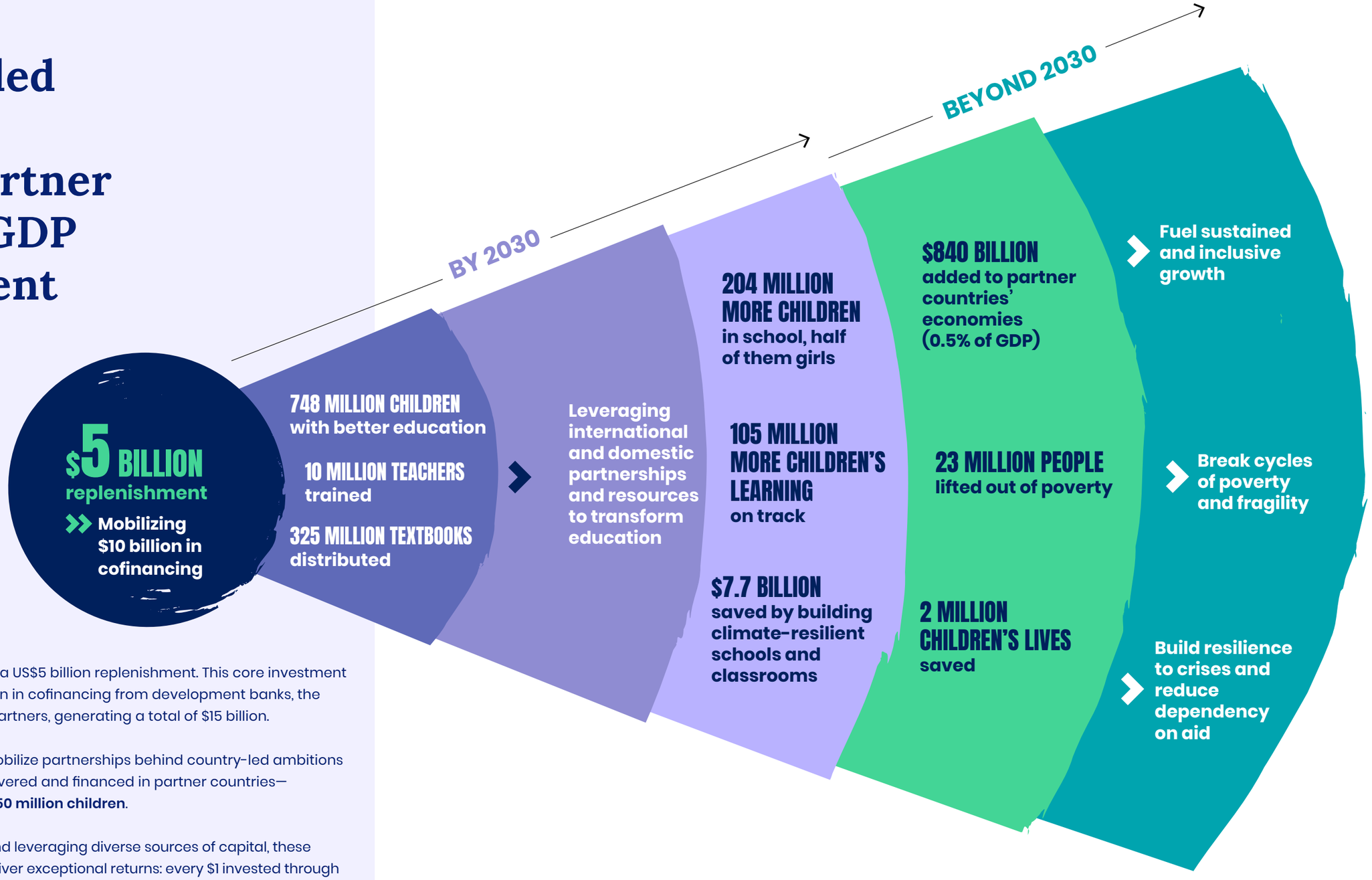
A quality education holds the key to unlocking this generation's potential to seize opportunities and overcome 21st-century challenges. Yet education systems are under immense pressure—strained by conflict, climate shocks and pandemics; overstretched and chronically underfunded. International assistance, 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. The consequences are felt across borders—in instability, displacement and unsafe migration.

As we approach the 2030 deadline to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, low- and lower-middle-income countries need a bold new paradigm to finance and deliver quality education for all. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)'s fifth financing campaign, from 2026 to 2030, is our chance to spark that shift in up to 96 countries and territories.

What we do in the next five years will define the next 50. 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, see: https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/methodology-projected-results-gpe-replenishment

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**.



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,[3] 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.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Over the past 50 years, improvements in education have powered half of global economic growth.[4] Just one additional year of schooling can increase annual income by nearly 10 percent,[5] fueling greater savings, spending and tax revenue, and ultimately supporting economic self-reliance.[6]

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.[7]

PEACE AND STABILITY

One extra year of education can reduce the risk of conflict by up to 20 percent,[8] with particularly powerful effects when girls and women learn equally.[9] Quality learning helps tackle the drivers of violence,[10] build resilience to extremism and foster more cohesive, equal and stable societies.[11]

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,[12] supports recovery from conflict and increases climate awareness by 8.6 percent,[13] 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,[14] be immunized and attend school.[15] 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.[16] For girls, each additional year of schooling reduces the likelihood of child marriage[17] and increases lifetime earnings, unlocking generational gains and expanding women's participation in the workforce, fueling stronger, more inclusive economies.[18]

THE COST OF INACTION: A GENERATION AT RISK

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

By 2040, nearly 900 million young people across 91 current GPE partner countries will enter the workforce[19]. This is an unprecedented opportunity. A quality education can equip these young learners with the knowledge and skills they will need to drive global growth, stability and innovation.

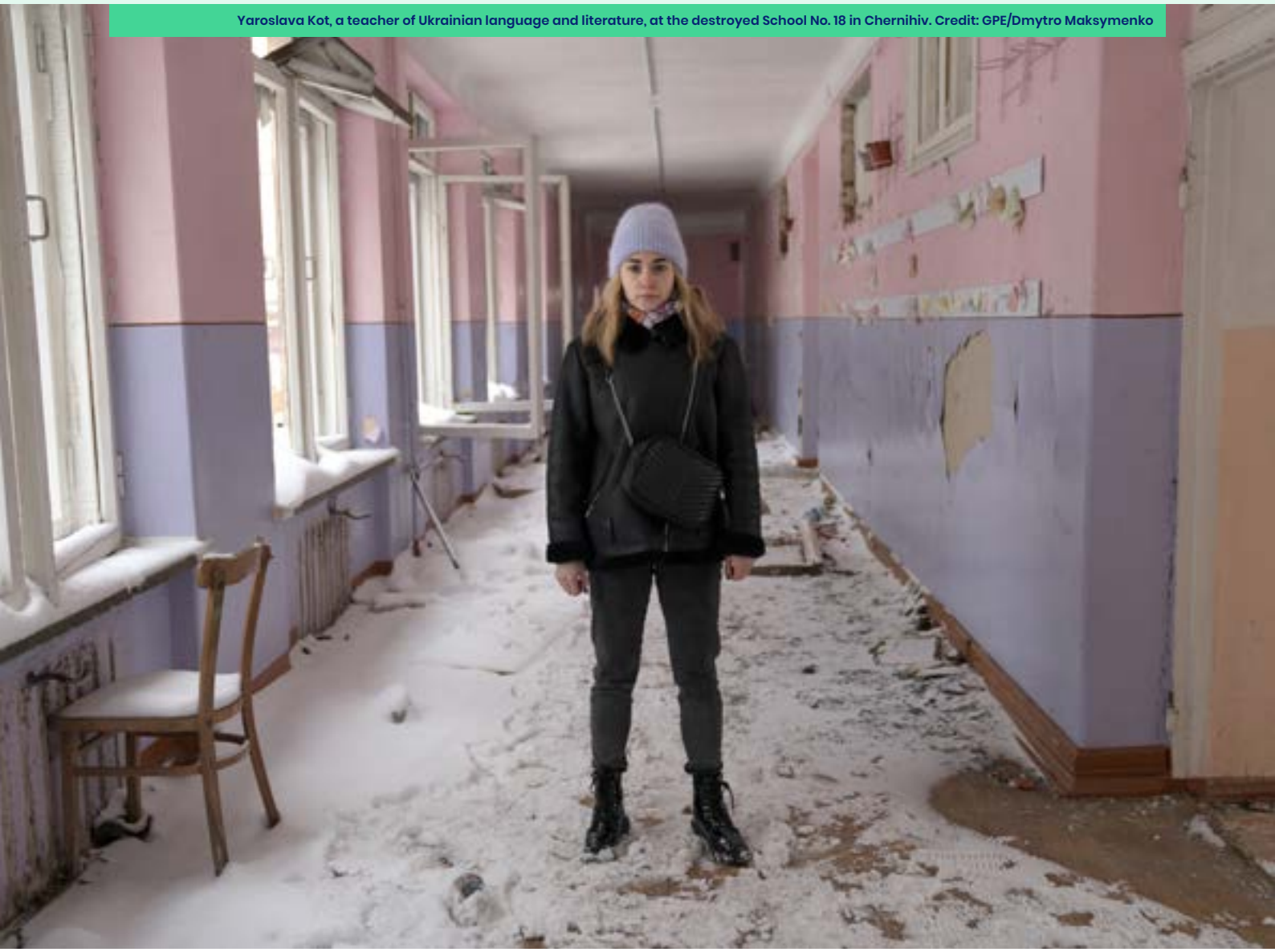
But today, more than 270 million children and youth are out of school.[20] Conflict, instability, climate shocks and hunger disrupt learning for millions. Overcrowded classrooms, inadequate materials, poor infrastructure and a global shortage of 44 million teachers[21] mean that quality education is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

This learning crisis already costs the global economy $3.3 trillion each year in lost productivity.[23] 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.



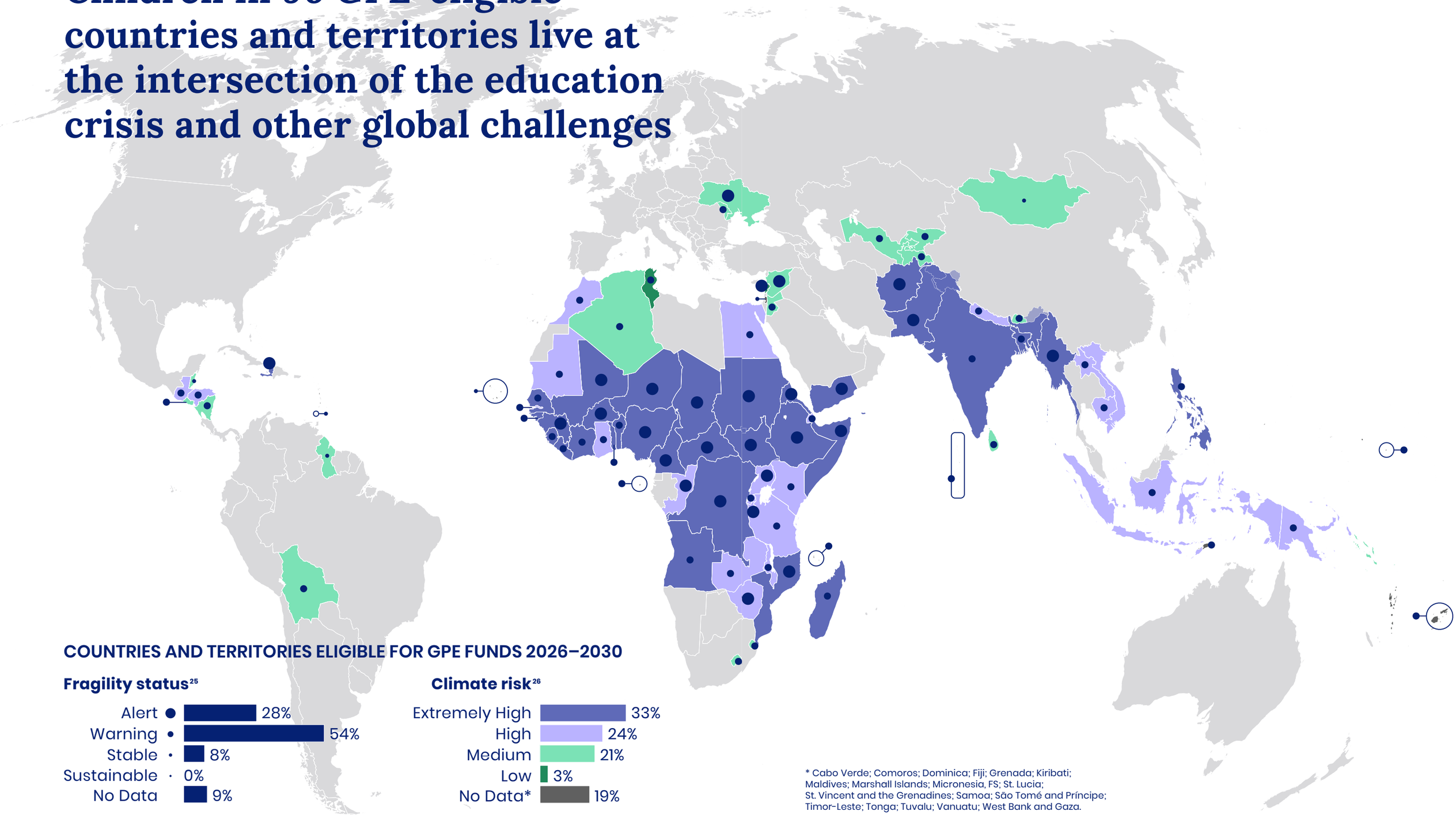
Ukraine: Investing in education to restore hope

The conflict in Ukraine has disrupted learning for over 5 million children.[24] 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. Credit: GPE/Dmytro Maksymenko

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.

GPE: DRIVING TRANSFORMATION AT SCALE

The scale and urgency of today's education challenges demand a coordinated global response that supports countries to move beyond short-term solutions and deliver lasting, systemwide change. GPE is built to deliver that response.

As the only global partnership and the largest fund dedicated exclusively to education, 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.

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.



"As a champion for global education, I've 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 Peace Prize Laureate
and Cofounder, Malala Fund

Our proven approach is:

COUNTRY LED

National leadership is at the heart of GPE's work. We support governments to lead, design and deliver their own reforms, aligning all partners, financing and technical expertise behind national priorities, plans and systems.

SUSTAINABLE

GPE breaks from short-term, project-based aid. We strengthen public systems, policies and capacity, placing domestic financing at the core and leveraging our grants for more equitable and efficient use of public resources to sustain progress.

FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE

GPE delivers across all contexts, from fragile settings to those nearing upper-middle-income status. We match the right reforms with the right funding, and countries select the right delivery partner from our 35 accredited grant agents. When a crisis hits, GPE works with humanitarian and development partners to provide rapid, flexible support to keep children learning while staying focused on helping countries build stronger education systems for the long term.

CATALYTIC AND COST-EFFECTIVE

GPE aligns domestic and international resources and private capital behind country-led reforms to maximize impact. Innovative instruments such as the GPE Multiplier and Debt2Ed crowd in billions in additional financing, making every dollar go further. Through efficient management and constant adaptation, we deliver high impact while keeping overhead costs low.

RESILIENT AND FUTURE READY

GPE helps countries build education systems that can withstand shocks and adapt to evolving challenges, including the impacts of climate change. We support governments to deliver the basics as well as harness opportunities—such as artificial intelligence—to give young people the skills they need to thrive in the future.

PARTNERSHIP DRIVEN

GPE aligns the expertise and resources of a diverse set of actors behind country priorities, fostering shared accountability and strengthening the broader ecosystem needed for true, long-term transformation—from engaged teachers and empowered communities to vibrant civil society and strong data systems.

Key Results 2021–2025

QUALITY

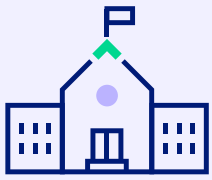


372 MILLION
children supported with better education

4.7 MILLION
teachers trained

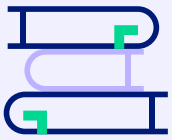
272 MILLION
textbooks distributed

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).

A FUTURE-READY MODEL

Unlocking the potential of a generation in low- and lower-middle-income countries requires two fundamental, interconnected shifts: transforming education systems to deliver quality learning at scale, and rethinking how education is financed to enable long-term, sustainable investment. GPE's next strategic cycle, GPE 2030, is designed to drive both.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FINANCING FOR 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.[27] 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.[28] 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 context. 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

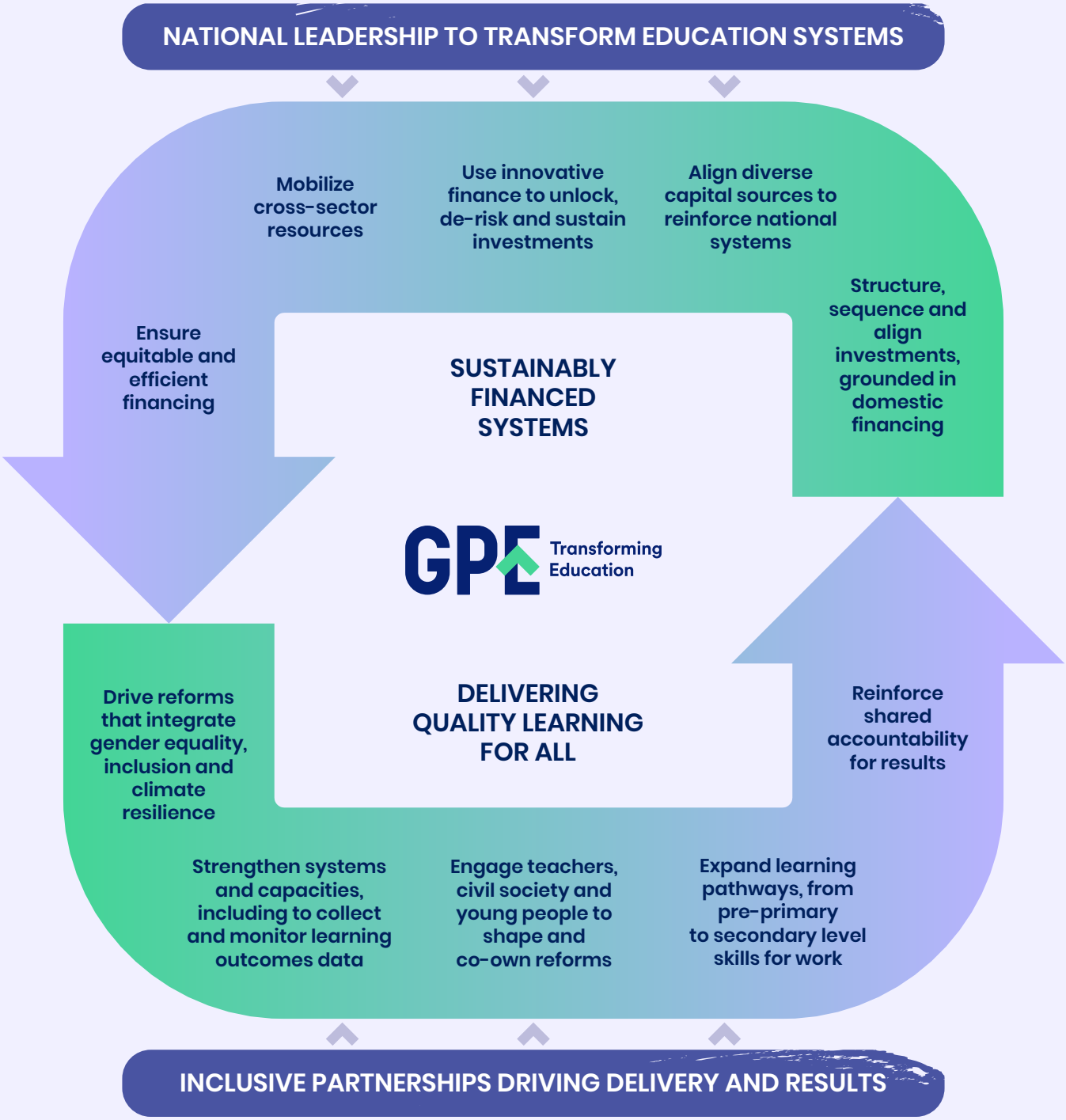
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND ATTRACTING PRIVATE CAPITAL: GPE will expand engagement with global and national private sector and philanthropic partners, drawing in their experience and expertise and crowding in new resources, including through a new Foundation for GPE. As we bring new partners into the sector, 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.



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.[29] 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.[30] 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 2030: Transforming education financing and delivery for sustainable impact



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

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.

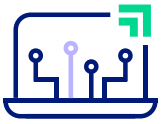
GPE 2030 is a shared commitment to:



DRIVE GENDER EQUALITY: GPE places gender equality at the heart of systems transformation, ensuring national priorities are informed by data, evidence and dialogue on how education outcomes differ for boys and girls. GPE 2030 will support countries to design reforms that tackle the root causes of inequality, responding to overlapping factors like poverty, disability and displacement. In countries where girls lag behind, the Girls' Education Accelerator provides additional funding to remove barriers to their schooling and learning.



SUPPORT LEARNING IN CONFLICT, CRISES AND FRAGILITY: GPE support ensures learning can continue even in the most challenging contexts. In the face of conflict or disaster, GPE provides rapid funding to restart schooling. In complex emergencies, we coordinate with humanitarian and development partners to align efforts with national plans, bridging the gap between short-term relief and long-term reform to build stronger, more resilient systems.



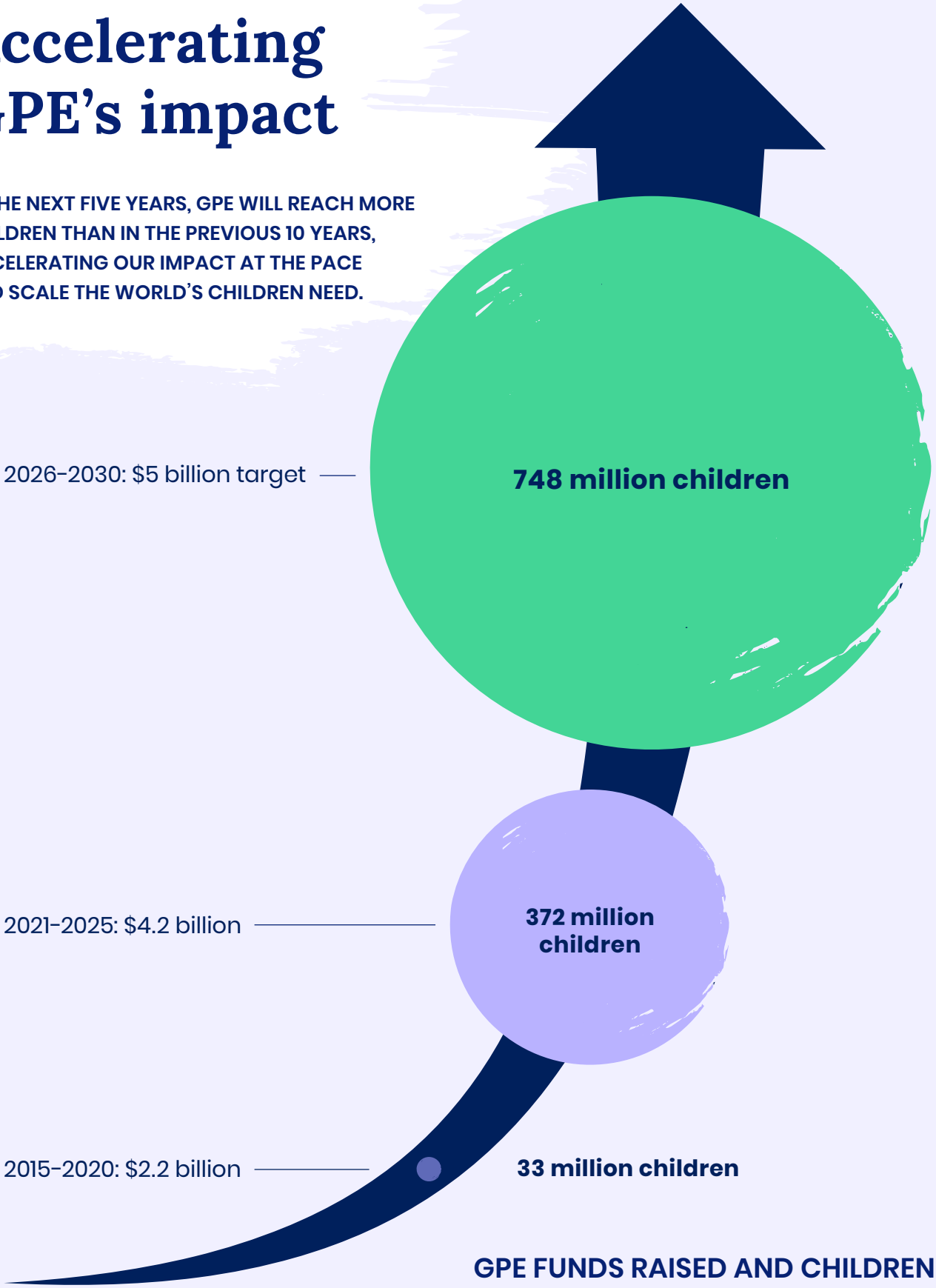
ADAPT EDUCATION SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: GPE supports countries to equip learners with the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world, from early childhood and foundational learning to 21st-century and digital competencies. GPE 2030 will help governments design forward-looking reforms, train teachers and harness the power of technology and innovation—including artificial intelligence—to expand access, improve learning and prepare young people for the world beyond school.



BUILD RESILIENCE: GPE 2030 will embed climate resilience in system transformation, helping countries adapt their education systems for a changing world and strengthen climate readiness. We will also leverage our convening power to build synergies between education and climate actors, and help governments unlock climate financing to integrate climate change into education systems and support safer, greener and more resilient education infrastructure.

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

SCALING UP IMPACT WHILE KEEPING COSTS LOW

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.

We will do this while continuing to find innovative and strategic ways to improve efficiencies. Despite a 25 percent increase in the number of partner countries since 2021 and inflationary pressures, the GPE Secretariat has 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.

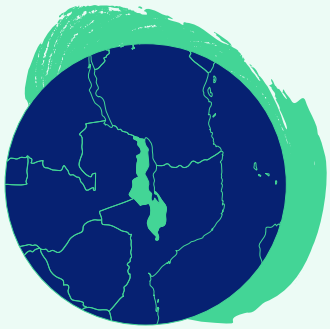
Taking innovative financing further

Since 2018, GPE has used innovative financing instruments—the Multiplier, Debt2Ed, GPE Match, Girls' Education Accelerator and the Arab Coordination Group Smart Education financing initiative (SmartEd)—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.

GPE 2030 will build on the success at crowding in partners and resources that might not otherwise have been invested in education, increasing our impact by scaling up our leverage ratio to 1:5 and piloting innovative approaches, such as education impact bonds and guarantees.



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.[31] 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.

MULTIPLY THE FUTURE: FUND EDUCATION

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 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 the Republic
of Tanzania

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.

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