Request for Expression of Interest

GPE 2030 Evaluation Portfolio — Search for a Grant Agent

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Secretariat invites expressions of interest (EoI) from already accredited GPE grant agents with the necessary experience and track record to implement GPE's corporate evaluation portfolio under the GPE 2030 strategy. Applicants may submit an EoI either as a single organization or as a consortium, if able to present a convincing case that such a consortium will effectively and efficiently deliver the full assignment. **The deadline for submission of all expressions of interest is November 13, 2026 (11:59pm, E.T.).**

A. Background

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the world's largest global fund dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries. GPE operates through a partnership model that brings together governments, civil society, the private sector, and bilateral and multilateral donors to support education reform in over 90 partner countries and territories.

To support accountability, learning, and strategic decision-making under its GPE 2030 strategy, the GPE Secretariat is implementing a Board-approved Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) work program covering the period July 2026 to June 2031. This MEL work program includes a large corporate evaluation portfolio which covers the different aspects of GPE's strategy and operations. This corporate evaluation portfolio aims to demonstrate GPE's value beyond the sum of its individual operations, while supporting oversight and strategic decision-making by the Board and Secretariat and generating deeper learning to improve operations. The portfolio comprises three interconnected evaluation workstreams:

1. Country Learning Study (CLS): A multi-country, learning-centered study covering up to 20 GPE partner countries through to 2031. CLS aims to provide in-depth analysis of the progress of GPE's three strategic objectives (countries' priority reform progress, financing of the reforms, and partnership strength) across different partner country contexts. CLS will also assess GPE's contribution and the value-add of its partnership approach, in addition to any unintended consequences. The study will support real-time country-level learning and generate partnership-wide evidence to inform GPE Board and Secretariat strategic decisions. Anchored in implementation research and delivery science, the CLS will produce individual country case study reports, two major synthesis reports (interim in 2027 and final in 2030), and ongoing learning products. Learn more about GPE's approach to supporting countries' reforms and policy making here.

2. Program Evaluations: These evaluations will provide a holistic view of the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of specific types of GPE programs and financing instruments. This comprises summative and formative evaluations of GPE's global programs and innovative financing instruments, assessing their relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability, as well as their alignment with and contribution to country-level reform. This workstream will include evaluations of:

- Education Out Loud (EOL)
- Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX)
- Technical Assistance Initiatives (TAI)
- Innovative and sustainable financing, covering instruments such as the Multiplier

3. Thematic Evaluations: These evaluations will study some of GPE's work in specific thematic areas that the GPE 2030 strategy emphasizes. They will identify the factors that helped or hindered the design, implementation, and results of the interventions, programs, and policies focused on those specific areas. These evaluations will look across GPE grants, partnership compacts, and other country support instruments. They will rely mainly on desk reviews of existing country-level evidence, with targeted data collection as needed. This workstream will include evaluations of:

- Teachers and teaching quality
- Gender and inclusion
- Partnership

B. Duration, Indicative Budget, and Payments

The evaluation grant agent will be engaged for a period of approximately five years, from mid-2026 to end-June 2031 at the latest.

The maximum total budget for evaluations and reviews under the Board-approved MEL work program is USD5 million (inclusive of grant agent fees and costs) over the full period of performance for this work. This is subject to continued availability of funds, Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for grants in annual installments, and satisfactory grant agent performance.

The grant agent should be prepared to accommodate changes in scope as needs evolve, with any increase in scope reflected in a corresponding increase in funding.

Applicants must provide a competitive, indicative budget envelope in their expression of interest. This includes an approximate calculation approach for and breakdown of the costs for review activities and products (including separate breakdown of administrative costs), necessary to undertake the outlined scope of work. Note that an estimation of reasonable direct costs should be included, and an indirect cost recovery fee (agency fee) of up to 7% of the grant amount will be paid by GPE. Unlike country-level grants where agency fee is paid on top of the country allocation and is not included in the grant budget, agency fee for this grant should be included in the budget as it will be paid from the total grant allocation. For more

information, see here. The EOI should emphasize how economy and efficient stewardship of funds will be ensured by the grant agent, to maximize value.

Grant agent payments will be made in tranches, each contingent on satisfactory performance assessment from the previous delivery period, including the quality and timeliness of deliverables.

Before submitting a proposal, applicants should have confirmed internally their understanding of and ability to comply with grant agent arrangements, responsibilities, and disbursement arrangements.

C. Scope

Role of the Grant Agent

The grant agent will be responsible for the design and delivery of the GPE 2030 corporate evaluation portfolio, spanning the CLS, program evaluations, and thematic evaluations. Core responsibilities include developing, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and implementing evaluation methodologies for these three sets of evaluations, ensuring rigor, independence, and relevance across a complex and diverse portfolio:

- Designing and conducting the CLS across up to 20 country case studies, including country case study reports, two synthesis reports, and learning products;
- Designing and conducting evaluations of TAI, EOL, KIX, and GPE's innovative financing instruments;
- Designing and conducting thematic evaluations on teachers/teaching quality; on gender and inclusion; and on partnership;
- Engaging substantively with country-level and global stakeholders, including Ministries of Education and other line ministries, local education groups and key system stakeholders, GPE Secretariat teams, and the GPE Board, to support usefulness and learning uptake while maintaining evaluator independence;
- Providing learning support as appropriate to the country-level stakeholders participating in evaluations;
- Managing subcontractors, local research partners, and any consortium members;
- Translating into French the executive summaries of all evaluation reports, and the full evaluation reports for CLS case studies conducted in French-speaking countries.
- Performing its due diligence as grant agent for the successful fulfilment of this assignment, including providing fiduciary oversight, risk mitigation, and quality assurance; and
- Reporting to the GPE Secretariat, including through periodic check-ins and quarterly performance reviews.

Travel to sampled countries for the Country Learning Study may be expected to collect data and conduct learning exercises, contingent upon the methodological needs, country's situation, and grant agent's duty of care arrangements.

Evaluation Schedule, as per GPE Board-approved MEL Work Program (timelines are tentative)

Deliverable	July 2026-June 2027	July 2027 – June 2028	July 2028-June 2029	July 2029-June 2030	July 2030-June 2031
Country Learning Study	Methodology and piloting	5 country case studies	5 country case studies; 1 synthesis report	5 country case studies	5 country case studies; 1 synthesis report
Program evaluations	-	-	-	- EOL summative - KIX summative - TAI summative	Innovative and Sustainable Financing
Thematic evaluations	-	Teachers and Teaching Quality	Partnership	Gender Equality and Inclusion	-

D. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Applicants must submit an expression of interest using this template.

Step 1: Pass/Fail Eligibility Criterion

Applicants must satisfy this mandatory criterion to be considered. Failure will result in disqualification:

Grant agent status: The applicant must confirm it is an accredited GPE grant agent. Accreditation must be active and in good standing at the time of submission of their expression of interest.

Step 2: Assessment Criteria

Applicants that pass mandatory criteria at step 1 will be assessed by a selection panel against the following criteria:

I. Organization's Objectivity (20%)

Independence: The applicant has a dedicated research, evaluation, or analytical function and dedicated team that is behaviorally and organizationally independent from its operational and program teams (i.e., separate reporting lines and authority to approve findings without clearance from operational teams), and it is this function that will be responsible for conducting all evaluations in this portfolio.

Conflict of interest: The applicant demonstrates without ambiguity that the function and dedicated team within the applicant organization, any proposed consortium/subcontracted entities, or key staff proposed for this work have no perceived or real conflicts of interest (CoI)

vis-à-vis this assignment. A clear and credible approach to CoI prevention and mitigation is proposed, if CoI exists.

II. Organization's Technical Expertise (20%)

Evaluation expertise: Track record of designing and delivering a range of complex evaluations or studies of evaluative nature, including multi-country studies, summative program evaluations, and thematic or cross-cutting evaluations, especially on education reform and policy-making processes, across a variety of GPE partner country contexts (including fragile ones) and across regions.

Thematic expertise: Superior depth of research and/or evaluation expertise on complex or multifaceted themes relevant to the full GPE portfolio, including education reform; inclusive country partnership; teachers and teaching quality; gender, equity, and social inclusion (including disability and intersectionality); climate; fragility; sustainable and innovative financing; and institutional capacity and resilience.

Learning expertise: Substantive learning work with country stakeholders, including government officials, policymakers, program implementers, regional organizations, think tanks, and universities on research sensemaking and evidence-based decision making in context, with concrete evidence that findings were used to inform programs and strategies (not merely disseminated) in a manner that built country-level capacity.

III. Organizational Capacity (15%)

Global reach, networks, and languages: Strong, established, and active networks of researchers and evaluators in GPE partner countries and at regional level, with demonstrated capacity to mobilize local consultants and in-country research institutions across diverse contexts, with language capabilities in English (all deliverables will be produced in English), French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic.

Management capacity: Demonstrated operational experience managing comparable assignments, i.e. high-value, multi-country, multi-year evaluations or research assignments of similar scope and complexity, including subcontractor oversight, workplan and budget management, quality assurance, fiduciary and administrative risk management, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), and data privacy and information security.

IV. Key Staff Profiles (20%)

At EOI stage, high-level staff profiles are sufficient. Detailed staffing plans and full team assessment will take place once the grant agent starts the assignment, if applicable.

Team lead: Evidence that the proposed team lead has led or managed complex multi-country evaluations, with strong methodological grounding, senior stakeholder engagement experience, and the ability to manage multi-disciplinary teams across diverse contexts.

Core team profile: The proposed core team as a whole covers the methodological depth that the full portfolio requires (e.g., gender and inclusion, developmental evaluation approaches,

qualitative comparative analysis, realist synthesis, summative program evaluation), with the ability to draw on thematic expertise in education systems, teacher quality, gender and inclusion, and innovative education financing, and adequate geographic and linguistic range. The proposed team also masters the languages relevant to the countries where the evaluation portfolio will operate: at a minimum English, French, and Spanish; Arabic and Portuguese are desirable.

V. Cost-Effectiveness and Overhead Costs (10%)

Cost recovery: The applicant provides a low rate for indirect cost recovery, with a cap of 7%, and a transparent account of its overhead and administrative cost structures, sufficient to assess whether its approach to cost management is economical and consistent with maximizing the value of funds relative to evaluation outputs.

Cost effectiveness: The overall costing approach is credible in relation to the full scope of the assignment, including the anticipated number of CLS country case studies and synthesis reports, program evaluations of TAI, EOL, KIX and GPE's innovative financing instruments, thematic evaluations, learning events, and ongoing portfolio management, without requiring a line-item budget at this EOI stage.

Co-financing or in-kind contribution: Commitments to provide co-financing or in-kind resources are an advantage but are not required.

VI. Approach Statement (15%)

(Maximum 5 pages)

Detailed methodologies are not requested at this stage as they will be developed after the grant agent selection is complete, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, based on the needs of the specific evaluations.

At this EoI stage, applicants must provide a concise, high-level approach for how they would conceptualize and deliver the GPE 2030 corporate evaluation portfolio. Applicants should demonstrate a clear understanding of the portfolio's complexity and learning objectives – precisely, applicants shall describe:

- The **types of methods** that could be used for the three evaluation work streams.
- How the evaluators would approach **learning** and engage with stakeholders to support **uptake of evidence and in a manner that supports capacity strengthening**.
- How **gender equality, inclusion, and intersectionality** would be embedded throughout the work.
- How the grant agent would organize the **evaluation team(s)**; **ensure quality, timeliness, usefulness;** and **work with the GPE Secretariat.**

D. Submission Instructions

Applicants may submit an EoI either as a single organization or as a consortium, if able to present a convincing case that such a consortium will effectively and efficiently deliver the full assignment.

Instructions

- Submission format: Applicants must submit their EoI proposal using this template. A single consolidated file is preferred, if there are any annexes.
- **Submission deadline: November 13, 2026, 11:59pm E.T.**
- Length: The proposal should not exceed 10 pages (excluding annexes, which should be used sparingly).
- Submission channel: Email to Anne Guison-Dowdy, Senior Evaluation Officer at the GPE Secretariat, aguison@globalpartnership.org

Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Clarification Call

The GPE Secretariat will hold a one-hour clarification call for organizations interested in applying on **October 26, 2026, from 9:00-10:00am, E.T.** Join the Zoom call by clicking https://worldbankgroup.zoom.us/j/99123695680?pwd=lDSW3BKYasaAbbVLhG2hailJz6SKYf.1. Passcode: RHjg&8TTC3. Meeting ID: 991 2369 5680. If you encounter issued with this Zoom call, please contact Jameela Banu at jameelabanu@globalpartnership.org[1]

E. Evaluation of the EOI

EoI proposals received will be reviewed by a selection panel constituted by GPE Secretariat staff. The panel's assessment will be based on the assignment's eligibility criteria and selection criteria described above. The GPE Secretariat reserves the right to seek clarification from applicants during the review process. All applicants will be notified of the outcome by end-July 2026.

Once the selection panel reviews and ranks all applications received, it will then make a recommendation to the GPE CEO for approval. The CEO will approve the selection and issue a formal letter to the selected grant agent.

[1] **One tap mobile:** +13092053325,,99123695680#,,,,,,0#,,0179330573# US +13126266799,,99123695680#,,,,,,0#,,0179330573# US (Chicago) **Dial by your location:** +1 309 205 3325 US +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 646 931 3860 US +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 305 224 1968 US +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 360 209 5623 US +1 386 347 5053 US +1 507 473 4847 US +1 564 217 2000 US +1 669 444 9171 US +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 689 278 1000 US +1 719 359 4580 US +1 253 205 0468 US +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +359 2 492 5688 Bulgaria +359 3 257 1633 Bulgaria. Meeting ID: 991 2369 5680. Passcode: 0179330573. Find your local number: https://worldbankgroup.zoom.us/u/adRmcOW8ib **Join by SIP:** 99123695680@zoomcrc.com **Join by H.323:** 144.195.19.161 (US West); 206.247.11.121 (US East); 137.66.136.22 (India Mumbai); 137.66.140.8 (India Hyderabad); 159.124.15.191 (Amsterdam Netherlands); 159.124.47.249 (Germany); 159.124.104.213 (Australia Sydney); 159.124.74.212 (Australia Melbourne); 170.114.180.219 (Singapore); 64.211.144.160 (Brazil); 159.124.168.213 (Canada, Toronto); 159.124.196.25 (Canada, Vancouver); 170.114.194.163 (Japan Tokyo); 147.124.100.25 (Japan Osaka); Meeting ID: 991 2369 5680; Passcode: 0179330573.

The GPE Secretariat is not bound to select any applicant and reserves the right to cancel this process at any stage.

F. Indicative Timeline

The GPE Secretariat reserves the right to amend the timeline below as necessary.

Milestone	**Indicative Date**
Call for clarifications held	October 26, 2026, from 9:00-10:00am E.T.
Responses to questions circulated	October 27, 2026 (est.)
EOI submission deadline	November 13, 2026, 11:59pm E.T.
Grant agent selected (GPE CEO decision) and contracting initiated	Early December 2026
Contracting finalized and other applicants notified of outcome	End December 2026
Full evaluation portfolio active	January 2027 to mid-2031