GPE Financing Conference:
Youth Engagement, Participation and Advocacy
Briefing Note

Pre-Conference Youth Workshop

Ahead of the GPE Financing Conference in Dakar February 1st and 2nd Plan International and the Global Partnership for Education will co-host a one-day workshop on January 31st for youth delegates attending the conference, as well as local Senegalese youth education advocates. The participation of young people is a key factor in fulfilling the right of education for all and must be taken seriously. Evidence shows there are significant gains and improvements when young people, communities and public or private institutions engage collaboratively to improve quality and accountability for results.

The purpose of the preparatory youth-workshop will be to provide an opportunity for young people to discuss and agree on the priority education issues for them to advocate on and to prepare them for their roles at the conference. The workshop will also enable the youth delegates to develop an influencing and engagement strategy to use over the two-day conference and develop a youth solidarity statement with asks to world leaders. The youth solidarity statement will be formally shared during the opening plenary of the conference. The conference will also integrate issues within the CSO Compact on Domestic Financing.

Workshop agenda, is set to include:

- What is GPE and how can we engage this week? What is education financing and why should it matter to young people, particularly girls and young women?
- Stakeholder analysis and advocacy asks during GPE Replenishment
- Development of the youth solidarity statement development
- Telling your story
- Talking to decision-makers
- Roles and responsibilities during GPE

Youth delegation

Youth delegates attending the workshop are the following. They will also attend the GPE Financing Conference.

1. Marie Augustine, 20, Senegal, Plan International
2. Abigail, 22, Ghana, Plan International
3. Fatu, 18, Sierra Leone, Plan International
4. Mazidath, 17, Benin, Plan International
5. Mohamed, 25, Sierra Leone, GPE
6. Edith, 27, Ghana, GPE
7. Salimatou, 24, Gambia, GPE
8. Peace Ayo, 15, Nigeria, Malala Fund
9. Nana, Mali, ONE
10. Wadi, 20, Nigeria, ONE
11. Pierre, 21, France, ONE
12. Beyan, 22, Liberia, FAWE
13. Juliet, 28, Kenya, FAWE
14. Monique, 18, Senegal, IDDC
15. Sobel, 27, Senegal, UNICEF
16. Ousmane, 26, Senegal, UNICEF
17. Thierno, 26, Senegal, UNICEF
18. Mariam, 23, Senegal, UNICEF
19. Joy, 25, Zimbabwe, UNICEF
20. Gloria, 20 Rwanda, UNHCR
21. Ange, UNHCR
22. Daniel Antwi, 30, youth friend of GPE – attending the conference only

Youth Bios and Speaking Roles at the GPE Financing Conference

Bio details and the speaking roles each youth are likely to have at the conference is in **Annex 1**.

About the Youth Statement

The youth solidarity statement will provide the youth delegates with an opportunity to speak and share their thoughts and recommendations with world leaders and the global education community.

The youth statement will be developed by a group of around twenty young people, ranging from the age of 15years to 29years old. The young people make up the youth delegation for the 2018 Global Partnership for Education replenishment conference and represent over fifteen countries from all corners of the globe. The young people have been selected, through civil society partners and youth networks, due to their ongoing education advocacy and campaign work in their countries. This work includes leading a youth take over at the Ministry of Education in Benin, Senegal and Uganda to organizing an annual youth led education summit in Liberia. They come with a wealth of experience in how to take action and be a part of the solution to the education crisis.

The statement will be developed based on youth inputs into an online survey in advance of the conference and then during a pre-replenishment conference youth workshop. During the workshop the young people will determine the details that

will include both highlighting how they can be a part of the solution as well as a call to action and their solidarity to world leaders to urgently increase and deliver on their financing of education, while also ensuring to engage young people in education planning and policy.

Two youth advocates, Edith, 27, Ghana, GPE and Mazidath, 17, Benin, will deliver the statement on behalf of the young people during the opening of the Global Partnership for Education replenishment conference on February 2nd. The statement will available on the GPE website shortly after it is delivered.

There is a 5-minute slot to read out the statement, Edith and Mazidath will be introduced onto the stage by the UN Youth Envoy and after they read it out (in English and French) they will hand it over to Ministers of Education.

Contact persons

To learn more, contact the following GPE Secretariat staff:

- Victoria Egbetayo, Advocacy and Partnerships Officer, GPE – vegbetayo@globalpartnership.org
- Sirtaj Kaur – Advocacy Officer, GPE – sirtajkaur@globalpartnership.org

Please keep in CC:

- Emily Laurie – Advocacy Consultant, GPE – elaurie@globalpartnership.org

Annex 1: Information on the youth delegates

GPE Financing Conference, Dakar 2018
& Pre-Conference Workshop
Youth Delegate information for Media

Name[1], Age and Country	Organization Affiliation	Role at conference	Background/Experience	Contact
MARIE, 20 Senegal	Plan International	Speaker on panel on gender based violence in and around schools	-**Girls' and young women's rights advocate** - Began her journey as an activist after hearing the story of a girl who lacking a **birth certificate** and realising how importance of being registered to having an identity and being able to claim your rights. -Mayor of her Municipal Council for Children and Youth and the Vice-President of the Advisory Council for Children and Youth of Senegal	georgia.booth@plan-international.org annemichelle.ekedi@plan-international.org
ABIGAIL, 22 Ghana	Plan International	Speaker on a panel about ending child marriage and talking on gender equality panel	-She works with girls in her district on preventing early pregnancy and the links to **child marriage.** -She is an **accountability advocate**, part of a team of three who have generated **data** on young people's access to information and services on sexual reproductive health. - She is a facilitator for the a Girls Program in her district which bring together adolescent girls in her town to provide them with **health and leadership skills**	georgia.booth@plan-international.org annemichelle.ekedi@plan-international.org
FATU, 18 Sierra Leone	Plan International	Speaker on an girls education in crisis panel	-Her passion for girls' education drives her to work with schools and communities on the importance of **keeping girls in school.** - After the **mudslides** in Sierra Leone, Fatu worked as a volunteer at the Interim Care Camps in Freetown, providing psychosocial support to children -On the International Day of the Girl, Fatu took over the **position of the Minister of Education,**	georgia.booth@plan-international.org annemichelle.ekedi@plan-international.org

[1] Only first names are shared for child protection reasons.

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			Science and Technology which built up her aspiration to become a minister herself.	
MAZIDATH, 17, Benin	Plan International	Deliver, with Edith, the Youth Solidarity Statement during the high level pledging session on February 2nd and interviewing Rt. Hon Michaëlle Jean, Secretary-General, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie	- She is a spoken word poet and actress. - Maaz works on children's rights in her community and nationally. She was elected as Secretary General of the National Consultative Council of Children (former children's parliament of Benin children), while at school.	georgia.booth@plan-international.org annemichelle.ekedi@plan-international.org
Mohamed, 24, Sierra Leone	GPE	Key note speaker on Financial pledging day (February 2nd) and opening youth speaker on partnership day (Feb 1)	-At age 5, Mohamed witnessed his entire family being murdered and was forced to become a **child soldier.** - At the age of 14, Mohamed ran away from JFK airport in New York in search of peace, education, and life in a community that wouldn't judge him on the atrocities of his past, but rather help him to achieve his future aspirations. He now **dedicates his life to ensuring educational access** to all children regardless of where they were born. -At 24 years old, Mohamed has emerged as a leader in the human rights field. He currently helps run a program in his home country of Sierra Leone that is sending over 100 students to school and serveed as a Youth Panelist on the **Education Commission on Financing Global Education**	vegbetayo@globalpartnership.org ahumme@globalpartnership.org ahumme@globalpartnership.org
EDITH, 27, Ghana	GPE	Inter	- Edith Esinam Asamani (age 27) is passionate about and has worked in volunteerism and **youth and women's rights advocacy.** -Edith has worked with the **Ghana Education**	vegbetayo@globalpartnership.org ahumme@globalpartnership.org ahumme@globalpartnership.org

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			Service, Ghana Health Service, National Youth Authority, National Population Council, and the Ghana AIDS Commission among other government institutions in the formulation, **revision or implementation of policies to benefit young people** - She a member of the Young African **Feminist Dialogue**, and an advisory member of the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.**	
SALMATOU, 24, The Gambia	GPE	Interviewing the Chair of GPE, Julia Gillard, in front of a live audience. on partners day about her opinions on the global learning crisis	-Founder/CEO of **Salimatou Foundation for Education (SaFE).** -She campaigns for **quality education** for children in her community, with a focus on Gender Equality. - She was nomination for the African Youth Award under **"Advocate of the year"** in 2016	vegbetayo@globalpartnership.org ahumme@globalpartnership.org ahumme@globalpartnership.org
Peace, 15, Nigeria	Malala Fund	Introducing a letter from Malala and shares her personal story, during high level plenary on Day 1	- Peace leaves in Waru Village, a local **indigenous settlement** on the outskirts of Abuja, Nigeria. -When she saw girls her age in her community getting pregnant, she put her energies into community advocacy work. - **She focuses on the importance of girls' education and the challenge of teenage pregnancy** as a barrier to girls completing their schooling	lisa@malalafund.org
Beyan, 21, Liberia	FAWE	Giving a TEDTalk about what young people need to learn in school to transition to work	- He is a Liberian advocate for global education, was born in the slums of Konyamah, Guinea, during a period of **civil war in his country** **-Courage became his inspiration as an agent of change in his community.** In 2013, Beyan formed his own youth-led education NGO, called YOCEL, dedicated to empowerment through **universal education**. - In 2016, Beyan launched the Annual Youth	jkimotho@fawe.org

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			Education & Empowerment Summit to support youth engagement and participation in education	
Juliet, 28, Kenya	FAWE	Interviewing Katja Iverson, CEO, Women Deliver in front of a live audience	- At the age thirteen she was appointed a child ambassador on the fight against **Female Genital Mutilation** in her community Kianyaga J- uliet has been actively engaged in documentation of various local and international projects on **School Related Gender Based Violenc**e, Economic Empowerment for girls and women, sexual reproductive health and Gender Responsive Pedagogy at national and regional level	jkimotho@fawe.org
Nana, Mali	ONE	Speaker on high level education dialogue on learning	-Nana is passionate about raising awareness and ensuring that young people are informed on issues of **peace and security.** - She is a researcher and author of texts on issues of Governance, Violent Extremism, Peace and Security	tiamiyou.radji@one.org tradji@gmail.com
Victoria Wadi, 20, Nigeria	ONE	Will interview Jo Bourne Global Chief of Education at UNICEF in front of a live audience on Day 1	After struggling with her own education, due to low self-esteem from a bad burn and family **financial struggles**, she founded Wadi Ben-Hirki Foundation who run three major projects: Street2School which helps in providing free and quality education for less-privileged children, GirlsNotWives which is a platform where we advocate against **child marriage, female genital mutilation, rape and child trafficking**	tiamiyou.radji@one.org tradji@gmail.com
Pierre, 21, France	ONE	Will give a TEDTalk on the role of youth advocates in achieving education for all	- Pierre has been particularly active and invested and took part in numerous actions raising **awareness on girls' access to education** through ONE's international campaign #GirlsCount. -He secured meetings with **French and European members of Parliament** to remind them of the current global crisis letting 130 million girls out of school and the urgent need to take action. With his fellow Ambassadors, he underlined the necessity of protecting aid budgets targeting education programs.	tiamiyou.radji@one.org tradji@gmail.com
Sobel, 27, Senegal	UNICEF	Moderating UNICEF session	Leads the UNHCR youth delegation to the conference. For 5 years, Sobel has been the **Head of**	sngom@socialchangefactory.org

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		all children with disabilities	**Africa hub for Changemakers**, a program of the renowned NGO Ashoka. His mission was to **build an entrepreneurial mindset amongst a network of over 2000 young people from Africa** and facilitate their access to life changing opportunities. In 2014, he founded Social Change Factory, a **civic leadership center redefining civic participation** among African youth and strengthening their leadership and entrepreneurship capacity. Social Change Factory covers 5 African countries to date.	nwhite@unicef.org rvojvoda@unicef.org
Ousmane Younoussa,25, Senegal	UNICEF	NA – Just a delegate	He works toward **citizen leadership** by supporting young students to develop their personal abilities and implement sustainable solutions for their community.	nwhite@unicef.org
Thierno Ousmane, 26, Senegal	UNICEF	NA – Just a delegate	Born and raised in Dakar, the young man always tries to understand and **help his neighbour.**	nwhite@unicef.org
Mariam, 23, Senegal	UNICEF	NA – Just a delegate	She's a firm believer that **education is the most powerful tool people could use to develop their countries** and that life is only worth living if people communicate and show human empathy and emotional intelligence.	nwhite@unicef.org
Joy R, 25, Senegal	UNICEF	NA – Just a delegate	Joy is presently a member of "Social Change Factory (SCF)" in Dakar, Senegal. The Mission of SCF's is to make **young people aware of their civic, economic and social responsibilities**; involve them in building their community by adding value; strengthen their sense of belonging to their community	nwhite@unicef.org
Daniel, 30, Ghana	Friend of GPE	Interviewing UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay in front of a live audience	-He established People Initiative Foundation (PIF) which is a social enterprise focusing on promoting and **supporting Africa's youth to achieve their goals in life.** -PIF has dedicated its efforts to creating programs that will promote cultural diversity while nurturing and mentoring the vision, talents, and ideas of young people who are positively changing Africa.	daniel.antwi@africainternshipacademy.com

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			These initiatives are geared towards **youth employment, empowerment and job creation for Africa's youth.**	
Gloria, 20, Rwanda	UNHCR	Youth opener during partners day with Alice Albright- importance of education, particularly in crisis and conflict	Youth advocates (details to come)	rohmer@unhcr.org
Ange		UNHCR	Youth advocates (details to come)	rohmer@unhcr.org