

## – Frequently Asked Questions –

### What is KIX?

The GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) is a joint endeavor with the International Development Research Centre to connect expertise, innovation and knowledge to help developing countries build stronger education systems and accelerate progress toward SDG 4.

With a budget of US\$63 million, KIX is the largest funding mechanism solely dedicated to addressing gaps in global public goods in education.

Through the sharing and funding of proven solutions and innovations, KIX will ensure that evidence-based solutions get in the hands of national policy makers and directly feed policy dialogue and planning processes.

### How does KIX work?

KIX consists of **regional KIX hubs**, where partners come together to share information, innovation and best practices, and a **funding mechanism** that provides grants at the global and regional levels to invest in knowledge generation and innovation, and to scale proven approaches. The two components will be supported by an **online platform**.

### What will KIX do?

KIX will:

- Find, fund and **scale up proven solutions** to address the key educational challenges identified by partner countries, and ensure these solutions feed into their education sector policy and planning processes.
- **Fund new research** to fill gaps and generate innovative solutions to issues identified by partner countries
- **Deepen our understanding** of successfully scaled innovations such as products, processes, strategies or approaches to make education systems more effective
- **Expand the ‘learning ecosystem’** by developing the capacity of southern-based organizations to learn, innovate, build and use evidence
- **Strengthen the capacity of governments to innovate** and generate and use evidence and data
- Drive **alignment and relevance** of education knowledge and innovation funding between international actors.

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### Why is KIX important?

With hundreds of partners around the world, GPE has access to an enormous body of knowledge that can help inform and strengthen national education systems. KIX's goal is to make this knowledge systematically available to other countries and organizations and transform the education knowledge and innovation ecosystem.

### Why is KIX different from other knowledge initiatives?

KIX is unique because it is driven by the priorities and needs of partner countries, following the GPE principle of national ownership. KIX fits within the GPE country-level approach by connecting policy actors to knowledge and innovation directly during the policy and planning cycles.

Where gaps exist, KIX will fund new research to fill them and generate innovative solutions to the issues identified by partner countries.

Every product developed by and funded through KIX is a global public good that can be used and adapted for other contexts and therefore drive better learning outcomes and increased equity and inclusion.

### What do we expect KIX can achieve?

By the end of the first phase (2019-2024), we expect the following outcomes:

- A deeper understanding of tested, adapted and scalable **innovations** relevant to key education policy challenges
- **Strengthened capacity** among developing country partner and research organizations to produce, integrate, and scale knowledge and innovation in education
- **Thriving learning environments** within and across GPE partner countries, driven by regional learning exchanges and supported by the digital platform
- KIX-supported evidence and innovation that informs partner countries education **sector policy dialogues**.

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### What type of activities does KIX fund?

KIX will allocate grants for knowledge generation and exchange, as well as for research in six thematic areas globally and regionally.

KIX will reinforce and enhance the effectiveness of GPE grants that support education sector planning and implementation (ESPDG, PDG, ESPIG).

#### Component 1: Knowledge generation and exchange

- **USD\$6.5 million** are allocated for knowledge exchange activities:
  - USD\$3.3 million for knowledge mobilization activities including peer exchange visits, scoping, analysis, synthesis and knowledge mobilization events
  - USD\$2.1 million for a global digital learning exchange platform to include a knowledge repository, online forums to support the regional exchanges, webinar and meeting tools, information and newsletters, and learning modules to support uptake of innovations.
  - USD\$1.1 million for an Opportunities and Adaptive Management (OAM) window to include rapid response for policy influence at national level.

#### Component 2: Global and regional grants

- **USD\$35.3 million available for grants**
  - USD\$12 million in global grants in six thematic areas of early childhood care and education, learning assessment, gender equality, strengthening data systems, equity and inclusion, teaching and learning
  - USD\$21 million in regional grants will address identified policy challenges by seeding, testing, adapting, and scaling promising educational innovations. Two types of regional grants will support: grants to scale innovations and grants to seed innovations.
  - USD\$2.3 million for a program of research on scaling innovations

The two components will be supported by a digital platform for knowledge management and collaboration across partners and activities. The platform will serve two main functions: a knowledge repository that supports and a learning platform.

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### What are the regional KIX hubs?

Four regional KIX hubs will be established:

- Anglophone Africa
- Francophone Africa
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Each hub will support six thematic areas:

- early childhood care and education
- learning assessment
- gender equality
- strengthening data systems
- equity and inclusion
- teaching and learning.

The regional hubs comprise government and local education groups (LEG) representatives from each GPE partner country within their regions. LEG members will represent national interests in discussions and act as conduits to inject knowledge and lessons-learned back into country-level policy dialogues. The goal is for the exchanges to contribute to a stronger education policy dialogue in each partner country.

The regional hubs will surface policy challenges and responses and support knowledge mobilization and exchange through webinars and online meetings tools, online and in person communities of practice, automated and e-learning modules, adaptive learning, after action reviews, international benchmarking tours, and expert peer review.

Participation in the hubs is voluntary. National governments lead the process of selecting country delegations to participate in exchanges.

### Who is managing KIX?

The [International Development Research Center \(IDRC\)](#) has been selected to be the GPE grant agent for KIX. IDRC funds research in developing countries to promote growth, reduce poverty and drive large-scale

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positive change. In addition to a head office in Ottawa, Canada, IDRC maintains four regional offices in Delhi (India), Nairobi (Kenya), Amman (Jordan) and Montevideo (Uruguay).

IDRC's role will be to manage the partners supporting the regional learning exchanges, construct and lead on the global and regional calls for proposals and manage the independent assessment panels. IDRC will also oversee KIX grantees and the technology provider of the digital platform. IDRC will work with the GPE Secretariat to package, disseminate and support uptake of KIX outputs at national level and across the partnership.

### **Who will benefit and who can apply for KIX funding?**

The regional KIX hubs are for national governments and local education groups which typically include development partners, civil society organizations, foundations and teacher organizations. While the principal beneficiaries will be governments, these institutions may collectively benefit from KIX funding that support activities under component one – knowledge generation and exchange – including participation in face-to-face regional exchange meetings. These activities will be developed under each regional learning exchange supported the respective regional learning partner.

A broad range of organizations working in education policy, practice and innovation will be eligible to apply for KIX global and regional grants. They include civil society organizations, universities, regional and national think tanks, networks and associations, non-profit organizations and multilateral agencies.

Governments cannot be direct recipients of KIX grants but can participate in regional initiatives funded by a KIX grant.

KIX grantees may also apply for additional funding through the Opportunities and Adaptive Management (OAM) window.

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### How much are KIX grants?

Individual grants will vary in size:

- Global grants will range from **US\$1 million to US\$2 million** for each thematic area for up to 3.5 years
- Regional grants will range from **US\$0.5 million to US\$1.5 million** for up to three years
- KIX grantees may also apply for additional grants of up to **US\$100,000** from the Opportunities and Adaptive Management (OAM) support window for responding to opportunities at national level or building adaptive management capacity.

### How can I apply for a KIX grant?

#### Global grants:

A call for global grant proposals was issued in July 2019. Grants will be for up to three and a half years and proposals must meet all the following criteria:

- Be cross-regional, spanning at least three GPE partner countries and two regions
- Include several actors, including national organizations
- Include buy-in from relevant national governments in which the initiative or innovation is taking place
- Develop tools and products that support national education systems, or the scaling of solutions/innovations that have already been rigorously evaluated
- Address a knowledge or innovation gap within a KIX thematic area
- Include match funding<sup>1</sup>
- Be gender responsive
- Include a knowledge mobilization and strategy (curation and dissemination) that incorporates the regional exchanges, ensures global availability and described how the knowledge will be taken up and applied.

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<sup>1</sup> The manner and amount of match funding will be determined when the call for global proposals is issued.

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### **Regional grants:**

Two rounds of regional calls for expressions of interest will be issued, one in the Spring of 2020 and a second in Spring of 2021. A maximum of the strongest 20 expressions of interest will be invited to attend a regional grant development workshop. The workshop will enable the development of high-quality proposals and provide support to organizations with good ideas lacking experience in writing grant proposals. The workshops will support the development of methodologies related to evaluations, scaling, and support for research communications, connect applicants from different countries to help build consortiums that can engage in multi-country research along with DCPs, and assist the development of knowledge mobilization and uptake strategies. Participants will then develop full proposals for consideration that must:

1. Clearly address one or more identified regional shared policy challenge(s);
2. Involve multiple DCP-countries in testing, adapting, and scaling of innovative solutions;
3. Be gender responsive;
4. Strategically engage relevant organizations and networks related to the chosen policy challenge;
5. Contain a knowledge mobilization strategy for engaging and sharing knowledge with relevant ministries of education and the RLEX; and
6. Demonstrate equitable partnership with/among national and/or regional-level organizations.

An Independent Assessment Panel will recommend the top proposals for each region. IDRC will provide the grant funding to the winning proposals.

### **How can GPE donors, foundations and the private sector engage in KIX?**

In addition to being part of a national delegation to a regional exchange, donors, foundations and the private sector may provide technical support, expertise and knowledge and innovation efforts to respond to thematic policy challenges. In turn, they may also inform the regional calls for proposals. Financial contributions may also be made to KIX in accordance with GPE's [Contributions and Safeguards Policy](#).

### **Can non-GPE partners participate in KIX?**

KIX knowledge products are global public goods and will be available to all through the online platform, including by non-GPE partner organizations and countries.

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The digital platform will maximize the benefits of open access publishing of both research outputs and data. This includes ensuring open licensing on all knowledge products and encouraging open formats.

### When will KIX be operational?

The call for global proposals was issued in July 2019 and the four regional KIX hubs, the digital platform, and the first knowledge exchange activities will start in late 2019.

### Where can I find more information about KIX?

Information about KIX can be found on the GPE and IDRC websites:

GPE : <https://www.globalpartnership.org/focus-areas/knowledge-and-innovation-exchange>

You may also contact Ian Macpherson at the GPE Secretariat: [impacherson@globalpartnership.org](mailto:impacherson@globalpartnership.org)

IDRC: <https://www.idrc.ca/en/initiative/knowledge-and-innovation-exchange-program>

You may also contact Tricia Wind at the IDRC: [twind@idrc.ca](mailto:twind@idrc.ca)

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