

»» August 2019

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION— A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

GPE works with governments to improve the quality and availability of early education, especially for children most often left behind.

THE CHALLENGE

- ▶ Worldwide, **175 million pre-primary aged children** are not enrolled in pre-primary education.
- ▶ The poorest children are **7 times less likely** than children from the wealthiest families to attend pre-primary school.
- ▶ **40% of countries** with data allocate less than 2% of their education budgets to early childhood education.
- ▶ **Only 1% of aid to education** is invested in pre-primary education.



GPE RESULTS

US\$270 M

INVESTED

to support early education in more than
35 partner developing countries

TWICE

AS MANY CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED
in pre-primary education in GPE partner countries
in 2016 compared to 2002.

2/3

OF GPE GRANTS

to partner countries in 2018 included support for
early childhood care and education

For all sources visit <https://www.globalpartnership.org/data-and-results/education-data>

QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION IMPROVES LEARNING AND MAKES EDUCATION SYSTEMS MORE EFFICIENT

- ▶ In countries where more children attend pre-primary education, more children reach minimum competencies in reading and math by the end of primary school.
- ▶ Children who have attended pre-primary education are more likely to enter school on time, less likely to drop out or repeat grades, and more likely to complete primary and secondary school.

GPE APPROACH

GPE is committed to supporting developing countries to improve access, quality and learning outcomes in the early years.

- ▶ Support analysis, sector planning and exchange of good practice to ensure early childhood education is included in education plans.
- ▶ Funding quality ECCE programs such as improving management and planning; training pre-primary teachers and facilitators; building and rehabilitating ECCE classrooms; establishing early learning assessment systems; distributing learning materials; and supporting parent education and community-based early learning programs. ECCE components in GPE grants range from US\$1 million to more than US\$20 million.
- ▶ Through the Better Early Learning and Development at Scale (BELDS) initiative, GPE builds knowledge and fosters good practice exchange on how to strengthen ECCE within national education systems. In partnership with UNICEF, BELDS currently supports capacity building activities for ECCE planning in 4 pilot countries: Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, and Sao Tome and Principe.
- ▶ GPE's Knowledge and Innovation Exchange will fund catalytic investments to harness successful knowledge and innovation in ECCE policy planning and implementation across the partnership.

SIERRA LEONE

Once known for its high educational standards, Sierra Leone has suffered great blows to its education system due to a brutal civil war and the Ebola crisis. In 2019, the government committed to ensuring all children receive free quality education to drive economic and social progress nationwide.

This includes pre-primary education, which is essential to building a strong foundation for learning.

GPE is currently working with the government to get more children in the country's most vulnerable communities early childhood education both through traditional pre-primary classrooms attached to primary schools as well as through community-based learning centers.

GPE funds will be used for more classrooms, teacher training, and establishing and equipping early childhood development community centers.

This support builds on the successes of a previous GPE grant, which supported the development of an ECCE curriculum as well as pre-primary classroom construction and teacher and caregiver training.

