

SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED CONTEXTS



A damaged section of School No. 18 in the city of Chernihiv, northern Ukraine.
AP Images for GPE/Dmytro Maksymenko

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) helps partner countries strengthen and rebuild their education systems before, during and after conflict and crisis so that children's education is not interrupted.

THE CHALLENGE

- Nearly half of all GPE partner countries are affected by fragility and conflict. Displacement and disasters induced by climate change and natural hazards affect many more.
- An estimated 222 million children and adolescents in crisis situations need education support, including 78 million children who are out of school. When a child's education is disrupted, it can cause an adverse impact on their learning continuity.
- Girls are almost two and a half times more likely to be out of school if they live in conflict-affected countries compared with boys. Their risk of early marriage and childbearing increases during crises.
- Ongoing crises and severe and frequent environmental and other emergencies led to an increase in requests for education aid from US\$39 million in 2000 to US\$1 billion in 2019. However, the funding received for education is around half of the amount requested each year.

GPE RESULTS



69%

OF CHILDREN completed primary school in partner countries affected by fragility and conflict in 2018, compared with 66% in 2013.



24 MILLION

CHILDREN were supported by GPE in partner countries affected by fragility and conflict between 2015 and 2020.



21

PARTNER COUNTRIES have accessed a total of US\$277 million in accelerated funding to mitigate the impacts of crises on children's education as of June 2022.

GPE APPROACH

GPE supports governments to prepare for, respond to and recover from crises through technical and financial support to sustain education for crisis-affected children.

- To help countries prepare for crises, GPE supports long-term education planning that provides for keeping children in school during emergency situations.
- Once a crisis hits, partners can draw on various options to adapt GPE support to fit their needs, such as modifying activities of existing programs, applying for accelerated funding or reallocating funds from an existing program to a different one.
- Accelerated funding provides rapid support to ensure that children's schooling continues during crises. It is disbursed within eight weeks for temporary shelters, classroom construction, school meals, school supplies, teacher payments and school grants.
- Education planning maps out a coordinated approach among development and humanitarian partners during a crisis, helping to progress towards a country's long-term education goals.
- In contexts where it is not feasible to work with governments, GPE supports elements of the education system closest to children and schools so that learning can continue.
- By helping to include emergency actors in national planning processes and local education groups, GPE promotes alignment between humanitarian and development approaches. By working with Education Cannot Wait, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, education clusters and other partners, GPE helps partners deliver education effectively during conflict and crisis.

WHY EDUCATION MATTERS IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

- Ensuring that children have access to education during crises protects their rights, instills a sense of normalcy, and fosters resilience, inclusion and

tolerance, supporting the long-term processes of recovery and peace building.

- High levels of education inequity between identity groups have been linked to a greater risk of violent conflict compared with the global average. Equitable and inclusive education policies help ensure that all children enjoy their basic human rights without discrimination.
- Rebuilding education systems after crises can restore hope and rebuild trust and accountability for government.

AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, GPE has made US\$300 million available to support activities within the country's Humanitarian Response Plan and Afghanistan Education Sector Transitional Framework and is working closely with Education Cannot Wait to promote alignment with the Multi-Year Resilience Program. After the ouster of the elected government in August 2021, the Development Partner Group and Education Cluster quickly developed the transitional framework to guide education support, including the use of GPE resources. Preventing the education system from collapsing and safeguarding the right to education for all Afghan children—particularly girls, as they have been excluded from secondary school since September 2021—is a priority for all partners.

GPE has supported activities through the grant Providing Access to Education for Emergency-Affected Children in Afghanistan as a part of a previous Education Cannot Wait program with an initial allocation of US\$20 million approved in September 2020. Originally planned to expire in March 2022, the grant was approved for an extension to December 2022 with an additional US\$2 million. With a focus on community-based education, the grant supported 150,000 students to continue their education.