

# Education for refugee children

GPE works with governments to include refugees in education sector plans and helps strengthen capacity and resources to meet the education needs of refugee children.

## GPE results

US\$23 million



### IN ACCELERATED FINANCING

to support education needs of Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh, South Sudanese refugee children in Chad, displaced and refugee children in Cameroon, and children from surrounding communities

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### TRANSITIONAL EDUCATION PLANS

have been developed in countries facing crises between 2012 and 2018

## The challenge

- Developing regions host **92% of the world's school-age refugees** (2017).
- **4 million refugee children** were out of school in 2017, an increase of half a million in one year.
- **20 years on average:** length of forced displacement due to crises and conflicts.
- Refugee children are **5 times less likely** to attend school than other children in the countries to which they have moved. Refugee girls are less likely than refugee boys to attend school.

## Education can help

- Ensuring refugee children have access to education in their host countries gives them a **sense of normalcy** in the midst of chaos.
- Educating refugee children gives them **hope for a better future**, thereby giving them higher chances to break the vicious cycle of poverty and conflict.

# GPE approach

- **GPE promotes the inclusion of refugee children in national education systems.** GPE partner countries are home to almost 4 million refugee children, about 45% of the world's refugee children population. Following the guidance from the Global Compact on Refugees, GPE works with governments to include refugees in education sector plans and helps strengthen capacity and resources to meet the education needs of refugees.
- **Collaboration with UNHCR.** In 2016, GPE and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees signed an agreement to support education for refugee children and youth, and raise global awareness of education needs during conflict and crisis.
- GPE's work **builds on the efforts of humanitarian partners** to improve linkages and joint planning between humanitarian and long-term development efforts and to avoid fragmentation of education planning and financing.
- GPE works closely with **Education Cannot Wait (ECW)** to ensure that education can be delivered effectively during conflict and crisis. Funding allocated through ECW complements and extends existing GPE support in Chad, Uganda and Yemen.
- GPE can provide **accelerated funding** to countries experiencing crises in as little as eight weeks, including to respond to the education needs of refugee and displaced children.



Educate a Child

Chad is surrounded by conflicts in neighboring countries and still feeling the effects of famine and other crises that have left it one of the world's poorest countries and host to 400,000 refugees. GPE, which allocates about half of its grant funding to support countries affected by fragility and conflict, is supporting Chad's efforts to strengthen its school system, which was weak even before large numbers of refugees arrived.

In the remote Lake Chad region, where the refugees are concentrated, 62% of Chad's children are out of school. With GPE's support, Chad is not only addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of the refugees but also creating a stronger and more enduring education system for local and refugee children alike. In 2016 and 2017, GPE helped the government build 86 classrooms in the Lake Chad region, launched school meals and nutrition awareness programs, distributed 60,000 new textbooks, and started training programs to expand the number of qualified teachers there. In all, over 8,500 children have benefitted from these interventions.



GPE/Daisuke Kanazawa

In Bangladesh, 1.3 million people, including Rohingya refugees and surrounding communities, require humanitarian assistance. More than half are school-age children with urgent education needs. GPE partners have been working with the government to ensure that these children go to school. A ground-breaking learning framework, which outlines what Rohingya children should learn and how that will be assessed, was developed by GPE partners in consultation with the government – and is now the basis for all education interventions.

GPE approved US\$8.3 million in accelerated financing to Bangladesh in late 2018 to help 80,000 children get an education, most of whom have never been enrolled in school. Two thirds of them are Rohingya refugees located in camps in Cox's Bazar; one third are Bangladeshi children in surrounding communities. About 2,000 teachers will be trained. The funding also supports the building of classrooms in camps and surrounding communities and learning and teaching materials.