Implementation Plan Update - August 2013

- The Technical Focal Points from within the GPE Secretariat have been identified for each Strategic Objective outlined in the Implementation Plan.
- These Technical Focal Points have begun working closely with external partners involved in supporting the implementation of various Strategic Objectives.
- Communities of Practice are also being established for each Strategic Objective to help forward the associated Implementation Plan activities.

Strategic Objective 1: Fragile states

- The GPE’s Operation Framework for Fragile and Conflict Affected States will be finalized and made available on the GPE’s website, shortly. Further reflection is also ongoing to ensure that other, relevant guidelines are aligned with the Framework.
- The GPE Secretariat is actively involved in the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Advocacy Working Group on the Education Cannot Wait Initiative and the follow-up meeting which is planned during the UNGA week in New York. Together with the INEE Working Group on Education and Fragility and its members, work is been undertake to integrate and encourage the use of the Guiding Principles for Conflict-Sensitive Planning.
- In collaboration with USAID, a study has been launched to review current approaches, methodologies and tools used to conduct conflict and fragility analyses (including but not limited to education). The aim of this effort is to develop a methodology that incorporates fragility and conflict assessments into education sector analyses.
- Furthermore, the GPE Secretariat is currently working with the Local Education Groups in Somalia (South Central Somalia) and Central African Republic to finalize their request for accelerated funding for emergencies and early recovery.

Strategic Objective 2: Girls’ Education

- France and UNGEI have expressed interest to lead the Girls Education Community of Practice and take forward associated Implementation Plan activities.
- A letter of intent was signed between GPE and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) in May, 2013 to work together on Girls’ education and gender equality at global and country levels. This message was communicated to all the Coordinating Agencies in GPE partner countries.
- GPE worked closely with UNGEI to develop TORs to recruit a consultant. The role of the Consultant will be to produce an effective and practical gender analysis tool that may be used by Local Education Groups in the development, revision, and monitoring of their education sector plans.

- Liaised with various organizations to develop synergies on work related to girls’ education.

**Strategic Objective 3: Learning**

- GPE in collaboration with Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Education, Science, and Culture Organization (ISESCO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank are co-hosting an All Children Learning Workshop in the Middle East and North African region in **Rabat, Morocco from December 2-5, 2013**. This workshop aims to respond to country demand for support to rapidly initiate and improve learning outcomes in early grades through the sharing of best practices in specific thematic areas of reading and numeracy.

- GPE is developing capacity to monitor and measure learning outcomes through the development of an early grade reading country tracker, as a follow up to the All Children Reading regional workshops in Kigali and Bangkok. This tracker is meant to capture the current status of early grade reading at the country level, highlight gaps, and determine the type of assistance that may be relevant. In additional to this follow up exercise, there have been ongoing discussions with key partners about country level follow up workshops from Kigali and Bangkok in early 2014, as well as a follow up regional numeracy workshop.

- GPE participated in the planning of the Francophone Regional Workshop “Moving the ECD Agenda Forward in Africa: From Policy Analysis to Implementation” on **May 7-10, 2013 in Dakar, Senegal**. This workshop was convened by the World Bank and supported by UNICEF and UNESCO. Participants included delegates from eight countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo), and representatives of partner organizations (UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank).

- **On 5-6 June 2013**, GPE and the World Bank co-hosted a meeting on the Early Childhood Development (ECD), which was convened by the ECD Consultative Group with participation from UNESCO, UNICEF, Save the Children, USAID, Open Society Foundation, Plan International and other key organizations to better promote Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) within the Post 2015 UN Agenda. The participants reviewed their engagement in the post-2015 process and provided updates, discussed existing ECCE indicators and benchmarks and shared information on UN parallel groups work and agreed on next steps and priority areas of action.

- GPE through the Global Regional Activities (GRA) is supporting the Pacific Early Age Readiness and Learning (PEARL) program, focused on school readiness and reading instruction in the contexts of great population dispersion and rich linguistic and cultural diversity within and across countries.
**Strategic Objective 4: Teachers**

- The teachers Community of Practice will be established shortly. Education International and VSO have expressed interest in leading this group. The main aim is to bring different stakeholders with relevant expertise, enhance coordination and knowledge sharing.
- Liaised with various organizations to develop synergies on work related to teachers.

**Strategic Objective 5: Financing**

- A working group on financing will be established shortly. Australia has expressed interest in leading this group. The primary objective of this group will be to find better ways of harnessing education financing to deliver better outcomes.
- The Pledge Monitoring Report is completed and available on the GPE’s website.
- Work is underway in developing the replenishment strategy, which will be presented to the board in November.
- GPE Secretariat is organizing two Sector Monitoring Initiative Regional workshops to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation aspects of the implementation of Education Sector Plans. These two workshops will be held between August 14- 19 in Bangkok, Thailand and August 21-26 in Dakar, Senegal. Representatives from around 30 developing country partners, country level development partners and CSOs will participate in this workshop.