Implementation Plan Update – September 2013

Strategic Objective 1: Fragile states

- On September 23, Education Cannot Wait: Call to Action (in support of the Global Education First Initiative) event was held in New York to discuss opportunities for collaboration with a focus on adopting commitments to accelerate the realization of Education Cannot Wait objectives, in particular to take action to reverse negative trends affecting the provision and protection of education in situations of conflict and emergency. This event was hosted by UNICEF and chaired by UN Special Envoy for Education, Mr. Gordon Brown. Some of the participating organizations included UNICEF, Save the Children, Global Partnership for Education, Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), Education Cluster, UNESCO, UNESCO-IIEP, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, UNHCR etc.

- A first draft on the findings of the study that was conducted to assess current approaches, methodologies and tools used to conduct conflict and fragility analyses was presented to the INEE Working Group on Education and Fragility on September 30 and October 1, in Washington DC.

- South Central Somalia submitted a request for accelerated funding for emergencies and early recovery (US$1.38 million). The request has been discussed during the FAC audio conference on September 12, with the recommendations submitted to the GPE Board audio conference its meeting on October 7.

Strategic Objective 2: Girls’ Education

- A consultant has been chosen to develop a gender analysis tool and recommend approaches to support local education groups in gender responsive education sector planning, implementation and monitoring.

- France is financing four projects aimed at fighting gender-based violence in schools in 4 countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali and Niger. These projects are being implemented by UNICEF. A regional workshop on gender-based violence in schools in West Africa is planned to be held at the end of October in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The objective is to reinforce national capacities by sharing and capitalizing best practices for data collection and policies strategies in different countries at different levels (Ministries, teachers, civil society, and communities) and to agree on a concrete regional strategy and action plan.
Paper from Plan International on *Mapping of opportunities for girls’ education advocacy in West Africa* was shared with UNGEI and GPE to explore areas of collaboration on advocacy work.

**Strategic Objective 3: Learning**

- The Office of the UN Special Envoy for Global Education and GPE organized six Learning for All Ministerial meetings in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from September 23 to September 25 to discuss challenges and concrete steps to accelerate progress toward ensuring that all children have access to school and good quality education. The countries that participated in the meetings were Somalia, Timor-Leste, Chad, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Minister of Education, Minister of Finance and representatives from other line ministries, development partners, CSOs and youth advocates attended these meetings.

- Organization International de la Francophonie (OIF) visited the GPE Secretariat office. Meeting with GPE Secretariat staffs, World Bank (African region) and USAID (Global Office of Education) was held on August 29 and 30, 2013. The main objective of the meeting was to explore the possibility of collaboration and engagement, follow-up on the implementation of the two GPE/GRA (Global and Regional Activities) funded programs on teaching and learning (ELAN and OPERA) to fill knowledge gap and identify comparative advantage of OIF regarding technical issues and identification of good practices (early reading in national languages and in French, teacher skills development using innovative models, the use of impact evaluations etc).

- GIZ in collaboration with GPE will organize a technical workshop on “Pre-school Education in developing countries” on November 26-27, 2013 in Bonn. The workshop will define possible short term goals, priority areas and strategic intervention levels with a specific focus on Early Childhood Education (ECE).

- GPE Secretariat participated in the Early Childhood Peace Consortium launch, organized by Yale University, UNICEF and UNSG on September 20. The purpose of the launch was to bring together partners interested in creating a movement for sustained peace through early childhood. The consortium's objective is a call to action to ensure that the latest knowledge is used to influence peace building discourse and to create sustainable peace and human development.

- On September 13, the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) Network, with support from GPE, launched an international initiative to develop a collaborative research agenda on language and education issues. The goal of this initiative is to provide information, ideas and guidance to researchers, academics, donors and program implementers regarding research needs related to language use in education in policy and practice. More than 30 people from universities (students and faculty), donor agencies, and organizations implementing education programs throughout the world attended a kick-off event held at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. Approximately a dozen people and groups from several countries also joined remotely.
Strategic Objective 4: Teachers

- On October 4, 2013, GPE Secretariat will participate at the World Teachers Day event organized by UNESCO as well as in a Round Table entitled "A call for teachers: Better Quality Education for a Better World". Also, GPE Secretariat will participate in an event organized by Education International “Unite for quality education” on October 4 in New York.

- Similarly, GPE Secretariat’s lead for Teachers thematic group will hold meetings between October 1- October 5, 2013 in Paris and Brussels with UNESCO, International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and Education International to discuss areas of collaboration and coordination to implement activities related to this objective.

Strategic Objective 5: Financing

- The first financing working group conference call was held on September 4, 2013 to discuss the function and objectives of this group. The next steps will be to prepare a work plan and identify areas that would require support, advice and guidance from the members of this group.

- There has been ongoing consultation with GPE Secretariat and key partners to prepare an operational guideline for the Results Based Financing Pilot focused on learning outcomes. Key documents will be presented at the Financial Advisory Committee meeting in October.

- GPE launched its second Replenishment Campaign (in the margins of UNGA) with the aim to mobilize billions of dollars for basic education in the world’s poorest countries. The Pledging conference will be hosted by the European Commission and will be held in June 2014, in Brussels.

- The GPE Secretariat held two Sector Monitoring Initiative Regional workshops for Asia & Pacific and Anglophone Africa from August 14-19 in Bangkok, Thailand and from August 21-26 in Dakar, Senegal. The main objective of the workshop is to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation aspects of the implementation of Education Sector Plans.