As never before, global citizens and leaders are raising their voices on the imperative of educating all the world’s children. They point with great alarm to the estimated 263 million girls and boys who are not going to school and, just as distressing, many more children who are in school but not learning. Girls are least likely to start school despite the widespread returns of investing in girls. Hundreds of millions of children struggle to rise out of poverty, but are not equipped with the learning needed for the modern workforce. Their potential contribution to economic prosperity is lost.

The replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is an opportunity to show a new commitment not just to the children of the developing world but to global security and prosperity.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Domestic government budgets are the bedrock of education financing. Global support remains critical for ensuring service delivery in low-income countries. In many lower middle-income countries, this support is valuable as a catalyzer for change. GPE works with developing country partners to produce financially sustainable education sector plans, increase national budget allocations and improve the quality of their education expenditure.

Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of education funding gives finance ministries and external donors the confidence to invest more.

CHAD

Helping educate growing number of refugee children – and its own

Chad is surrounded by conflicts in neighboring countries and still feeling the reverberations of famine and financial crisis that recently swept through the Sahel region. As a result, one of the world’s poorest countries hosted around 400,000 refugees in early 2017. GPE, which allocates over half of its grant funding to support education in countries affected by fragility and conflict, has supported Chad’s efforts to improve a school system that was weak even before large numbers of refugees arrived. In the Lake Chad region alone, where the refugees are concentrated, 62 percent of Chad’s children were out of school, the average primary school class size was 75, and the rate of adult illiteracy 96 percent.

With GPE’s support, Chad is not only addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of refugees but also creating a stronger and more enduring education infrastructure that benefits Chadians and refugees alike. This support includes building 86 classrooms and essential facilities; food and nutrition; 60,000 new, culturally appropriate school books; and training to expand the pool of teachers qualified to ensure children in school actually learn. The GPE grant will benefit 8,500 children in the Lake Chad region.
The GPE replenishment marks the beginning of a new era in education financing.

The goal is for GPE to reach US$2 billion a year by 2020, as recommended by the Education Commission. To reach this goal, GPE is requesting for its upcoming replenishment donor contributions totaling US$3.1 billion over 3 years from 2018 to 2020. An additional US$900 million will be unlocked by the new GPE Multiplier.

Achieving this level of financing will require strong leadership from the world’s major donor countries and new nations to start making contributions. There is also a clear role for other contributions, including philanthropic support. In addition to donating to the pooled fund that enables GPE’s core work, there are now new opportunities for targeting thematic and geographic priorities as well as making investments in knowledge and innovation.

With new donor investments from 2018 to 2020 GPE will:

- Support 89 developing countries to drive improved quality and access to education for 870 million children and youth;
- Provide education plan implementation grants to 67 developing countries, covering 64 percent of out-of-school children;
- Support 30 developing countries to develop new plans for education, covering 40 percent of out-of-school children;
- Develop education sector investment cases to attract additional financing and align it behind education plans, initially in 10 countries and scaling up to all 89 countries;
- Drive increased domestic resource mobilization, building on the success to date;
- Drive quality improvements through learning assessment support and;
- Drive data improvements through strengthened education management systems.

GPE expects the following gains:

- 19 million additional children completing primary school, including 9.4 million girls and over 10.8 million children in countries affected by fragility or conflict
- 6.6 million additional children completing lower secondary school, including 3.9 million girls and 3.9 million children in countries affected by fragility and conflict
- 1.7 million teachers trained
- 23,800 classrooms built
- 204 million textbooks distributed

Achieving these outcomes will require all partners to increase their financing, with

- Donor governments providing US$3.1 billion over 2018–2020
- Developing country governments allocating 20 percent of government expenditure to education
- Philanthropic foundations and private sector donors to step up their targeted contributions
In addition to GPE’s core grants to support education sector plan development and implementation, GPE’s new financing and funding framework includes three new features:

- the GPE Multiplier through which GPE will offer extra grant funds where governments show co-financing from external sources of at least US$3 for every US$1 of GPE funds;
- investments in important global public goods such as tools for innovation and sharing knowledge, which were previously not supported in the education sector;
- promoting political commitment to education through a new dedicated advocacy and social accountability fund.

The framework builds on GPE’s strength in pooling grant financing and opens opportunities for new partnerships bringing previously untapped resources to education from both public and private sources. A refined education sector investment case approach at the country level will also crowd in and better align new resources behind the priorities set out in national education plans.

The framework better targets GPE funds to countries and communities where the needs are the greatest. Allocations are based on primary and secondary school completion rates and economic status (gross domestic product per capita), with an additional weighting for countries affected by fragility and conflict:

- 89 low- and lower middle-income countries are eligible for grants to help analyze and strengthen their education sector plans and can benefit from the new GPE Multiplier
- 67 countries can apply for large-scale grants to help implement their education plans

**COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR GPE FUNDING**

are home to approximately 870 million children and youth and 78 percent of the world’s out of school children
REPLENISHMENT GOAL 2018-2020

Donor finance to GPE (including GPE Multiplier contribution)
- 2018: 700m (50m)
- 2019: 1bn (50m)
- 2020: 1.4bn (200m)
- 3-Year Total: 3.1bn (300m)

Additional funds leveraged
- 2018: 150m
- 2019: 150m
- 2020: 600m
- 3-Year Total: 900m

GPE goal
- 2018: 850m
- 2019: 1.15bn
- 2020: 2bn
- 3-Year Total: 4bn

LEVERAGED FUNDS
DONOR FINANCE

US$2 BILLION
GPE RESULTS

GPE's support has achieved the following results in partner countries:

• 72 million more children in primary school in 2015 compared with 2002
• 76 percent completed primary school in 2015 compared with 63 percent in 2002

• 74 percent primary completion rates for girls in 2015 compared with 57 percent in 2002
• 50 percent lower-secondary school completion rates in 2015 compared with 38 percent in 2002 (and from 35 percent to 48 percent for girls)

ETHIOPIA
Addressing quality in teaching and learning

Since joining GPE in 2004, Ethiopia has received four grants totaling US$337 million to support the country’s General Education Quality Improvement Program (GEQIP). The program is a nationwide reform to improve teaching and learning conditions in 40,000 primary and secondary schools, and boost the education system’s capacity.

Through GPE funding, more than 100,000 primary teachers and 17,000 secondary teachers are upgrading their qualifications from a 1-year certificate to a 3-year diploma. From 2006 to 2013, the percentage of qualified in-service teachers increased from 3 percent to 44 percent in grades 1–4 and from 53 percent to 92 percent in grades 5–8.

GPE funding helped Ethiopia’s government reach its ambitious target of a 1:1 student–textbook ratio by 2013, delivering 146 million textbooks to all primary and secondary school learners in core subjects. The GEQIP program also established quality standards of textbook content, developed 220 new titles, and produced textbooks and teacher guides in seven languages, recognizing that learning outcomes are much improved when instruction is in the mother tongue.