**About the GPE Youth Advocates Group (YAG)**

The purpose of this document is to serve as a topline resource for YAG members but also for anyone interested in learning more about the YAG.

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**What is the GPE’s YAG?**

In June 2017, the Global Partnership for Education convened a group of 7 youth advocates to further champion the voice of young people in the partnership, including GPE advocacy, and advise the GPE Secretariat on how to champion the voice of youth in its youth advocacy and engagement efforts.

YAG members are aged between 18 and 30, and commit up to 2 days a month to engage with GPE Secretariat (through bi-monthly calls, engagement in advocacy activities, in-person meetings, etc.) They bring experience as advocates and activists for education and meaningful youth engagement, and other global development issues at national, regional and/or global levels. More information about GPE’s work with young people is available on the [GPE website](#), and the Terms of Reference for the YAG are available online [here](#).

The GPE Secretariat works with the YAG on a voluntary basis for a term of one year to help further champion the voice of youth within the Partnership; to strengthen youth advocacy and engagement at the global and national level; and achieve the goals set out in the **GPE 2020 Strategic Plan**.

**Why is there a YAG?**

[GPE 2020 Strategic Plan](#) places a strong emphasis on youth with “clear and ambitious goals, which encapsulates what must be done to stop children and youth being left out or left behind because education systems are not working as they should.” Young people, specifically youth advocates for education at national, regional, and global levels, are central stakeholders in the education sector and bring a unique body of experience and key knowledge of local context, and their perspectives are essential.

The world is facing an education crisis. Current trends show that 9 out of 10 children will barely complete primary school education by 2030. More than half of the upcoming youth generation will not be on track to acquire basic secondary education skills and will be shut out of economic opportunities. Without immediate action, 825 million of the 1.6 billion young people in 2030 will be left behind. Children and young people are beneficiaries of education services, and on whom policies impact. Around the world, children, adolescents and young people are standing up for
their right to access to a good quality education. In their communities and countries, young people are demanding better education services, accountability and transparency.

Recognizing that young people's voice matter, the GPE governance structures welcomed youth recommendations and enthusiasm to engage in the Partnership, as expressed at the 2014 replenishment and subsequent meetings of the GPE Board. This decision highlighted key ways that young people can engage further within the Global Partnership to ensure that the voice of youth is championed within the Global Partnership and the Board, including through:

- Engagement within the Global Partnership at both country and global levels;
- Observing meetings of the Board;
- Participation of Youth in the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) constituencies and representation through this constituency;
- Integrating youth engagement activities into existing dialogue with CSOs;
- Communication strategies and dialogue / consultations with youth, especially and including through social media.

The GPE Secretariat is further championing the voice of young people in its work to advance the above.

**What does the YAG seek to achieve?**

The objectives of the Youth Advocates Group (YAG) include the following:

1. To contribute to advocacy and strategic communications that advance the goals and objectives of GPE 2020 and to mobilize young people around the world to engage in advocacy on education;
2. To advise the GPE Secretariat on how to champion the voice of youth in its youth advocacy and engagement efforts;
3. To support CSO led efforts to build and integrate youth representation within the CSO constituency;
4. To identify advocacy opportunities and spaces (including public policy platforms) for GPE to engage young people, and to lend their voice to these spaces in support of GPE;
5. To work with GPE to increase global and national financing for education;
6. To engage in outreach to other youth advocates and youth networks and support GPE to build its youth network, and its dialogue with other CSOs

**How were the YAG selected?**

- Members for the group were identified based on a search and selection process undertaken by the youth engagement team at GPE between December 2016 and June 2017.
● The search and selection process drew from knowledge and lessons learned through GPE’s previous work with youth advocates in education, identifying young people who are actively engaged in education sector advocacy and programme implementation in their own country and community contexts.

● The process identified seven youth advocates in July 2017, based on GPE’s priority countries to form the GPE Youth Advocates Group. YAG members are young people between the ages of 18 and 30, are fluent in English and are leading exceptional work on advocating for and strengthening education in their local contexts.

● As changemakers and youth advocates, YAG members have experience in advocating for education, meaningful youth engagement, and other global development issues at the national, regional, and / or global levels.

● YAG members are able to commit to two days a month of engagement with the GPE Secretariat (through bi-monthly calls, engagement in advocacy activities, in-person meetings, etc.). The group seeks to be gender and geographically balanced in its representation.

● Members will serve a minimum of a one-year term, until July 2018. Upon completion of the YAG’s first term, YAG members and GPE will participate in an evaluation to assess lessons learned and draw recommendations for GPE on advancing youth engagement.

● In the event of an emergency or based on need, the YAB and/or GPE Secretariat may nominate the need to undertake a search and selection process to identify a new member.

Assets and Actions from YAG members so far:

● Youth led social media action (education financing advocacy) - World Children’s Day - Youth are Calling on World Leaders to #FundEducation
● Blogs
● Participation to public policy platforms
● Video blogs
● GPE Financing Conference:
  - Pre-conference youth workshop
  - Speakers, moderators, interviewers, live bloggers
  - Youth Statement 2018
● Brown Bag Lunch presentation to GPE Secretariat staff (December 2017)