GPE Multiplier

The GPE Multiplier is a US$300 million innovative finance window to catalyze more and better investment in education.

The challenge

Investing in education raises incomes, tackles inequality, protects children’s right to learn, and helps achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals.

Unlocking these gains requires robust, consistent support from national governments and donors — including more and better finance. UNESCO estimates the annual external financing gap to provide education to all children by 2030 at US$39 billion.

GPE response

The GPE Multiplier is a new type of grant that enables countries to mobilize additional resources to strengthen their education systems and get more children in school and learning.

Eligible countries access the GPE Multiplier by mobilizing at least US$3 in new and additional external financing for every US$1 from the Multiplier.

Through the GPE Multiplier, individual countries can unlock up to US$25 million in additional funding from GPE.

Almost US$200 million in Multiplier grants are available for eligible countries.

How it works

The GPE Multiplier works alongside other sources of external funding. It can be invested alongside another grant or used to lower the interest rate on concessional lending, for example from multilateral development banks or bilateral donors.

- **Transparent.** For eligible countries, allocations are based on the school-age population.
- **Simple.** Countries secure their allocations by submitting a simple expression of interest. A decision can be available in a few weeks.
- **Flexible.** Funding to unlock the Multiplier can come from a range of sources, including concessional lending from multilateral or regional development banks, grants from donors, and non-traditional sources of development finance like philanthropic capital.
- **Efficient.** Accessing the Multiplier does not create additional requirements for countries that already receive GPE grants. In countries eligible for support from the Multiplier and other GPE grants, including education sector implementation grants, multiplier funding is always supplementary and does not reduce or affect eligibility for other grants.
In Nepal, US$15 million of the Multiplier was mobilized alongside US$64.5 million in co-financing from the Asian Development Bank for comprehensive school safety and US$3.5 million from the US Agency for International Development for inclusive education. The Asian Development Bank further increased its co-financing to Nepal to US$164 million.

In Papua New Guinea, US$3.5 million of the Multiplier was mobilized alongside US$10.6 million in additional co-financing from Japan. The funding will help improve early grade learning outcomes in math and science, particularly in low performing provinces.

In Uzbekistan, US$10 million of the Multiplier was mobilized alongside almost US$60 million in additional co-financing from the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Results-Based Aid. This funding will support reforms to expand Uzbekistan’s early childhood services.