COVID-19 and an underlying global learning crisis are putting at risk hard-won gains in giving all girls and boys the quality education they deserve. Philanthropic foundations have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to work alongside GPE to transform education and invest in systems fit for the 21st century.

**THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP**

Demographic pressures, chronic poverty and rising inequalities stand in the way of delivering quality education everywhere. At least 24 million girls and boys may never return to school due to COVID-19. Over the next 5 years, as the world’s only partnership and fund dedicated exclusively to delivering quality education, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) will support up to 90 lower-income countries and territories to accelerate progress, transform education systems and invest in the future of more than 1 billion girls and boys.

GPE convenes governments, education and development organizations, private foundations and philanthropic investors, sovereign donors, businesses, around game-changing national education plans. As a partnership, GPE aims to advance effective teaching and learning, design ambitious education plans, mobilize more and better financing, and scale solutions that benefit the world’s poorest and hardest-to-reach children.

It’s about the right investments, in the right places, at the right times.

**CATALYZING INVESTMENTS, COMPOUNDING IMPACT**

Removing education bottlenecks, innovating for quality and effective learning and achieving global education goals require ambition, investments and coordination. No organization can achieve this single-handedly.

GPE is a unique vehicle for the philanthropic community and private foundations to join the education policy dialogue and invest in system transformation at scale

The philanthropic community and private foundations are essential partners whose technical expertise, networks or financial resources can pertinently supplement GPE’s vision and impact.

GPE’s bold new strategic plan 2021-2025 aims to engage like-minded philanthropic actors to achieve change at scale, align and compound investments, innovate and shape education policies.
Compounding investment impact through matched funding

Greater coordination of programs and funding at country level enables impact at scale. This is why, when a foundation or a group of philanthropic funders expand qualifying programs or launch ambitious new ones aligned with national education priorities in partner countries, the GPE Fund can match their investments at a 1:1 ratio through a revamped Multiplier mechanism.

GPE’s 2021–2025 operating model offers focused and ambitious opportunities for philanthropic foundations to compound the impact of their investments.

Renewed ambition is also needed to incentivize and accelerate progress on gender equality and girls’ education. Philanthropic foundations can contribute to a dedicated initiative set up by GPE to get more girls into school and learning in countries where they lag badly behind. These contributions may be matched at a 1:1 ratio up to US $25 million.

Fund & shape innovation in education

National policy makers need access to evidence-based solutions to address education challenges and increased capacity to produce, integrate and scale up knowledge and innovation. GPE’s Knowledge Innovation Exchange (KIX) is an exciting mechanism that does exactly that, through funding and regional exchanges and learning. Foundations can join in, help shape the innovation agenda and drive proven approaches in particular thematic areas to meet the needs identified on the ground.

IVORY COAST

Pooling resources to transform the education system

The Ministry of Education in Ivory Coast is accessing $13 million additional funding from GPE’s Multiplier to match a $39 million investment from the Jacobs Foundation, in cooperation with UBS Optimus Foundation, and 14 private companies from the cocoa and chocolate industry. Resources and expertise from this coalition will be channeled through CLEF – Child Learning and Education Facility, a pool fund which will scale up evidence-based solutions to improve the acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills at primary level as well as learning and expertise from the Jacobs-led TRECC (Transforming Education in Cocoa Communities) program active in the country since 2015.

TRECC is an innovative partnership which brings key private and public actors together in support of stronger public policies, effective service delivery and accountability to 1) improve parents’ and caregivers’ skills in nurturing care in early childhood; 2) make ambitious progress in foundational learning at primary level and 3) support marginalized rural youth with the technical, entrepreneurial and life skills and capital inputs they need to improve their livelihoods.

Invest in education transparency and accountability

Enhanced social accountability and effective governance are key conditions of education systems transformation. Education Out Loud (EOL) is GPE’s unique platform and grant-making facility for transparency, advocacy and accountability efforts led by national and transnational civil society.

Interested philanthropic foundations can earmark specific contributions in support of such initiatives.

The time is now. Raise your hand. Fund education.