

Now more than ever

Securing the future for millions of the world's children

RESULTS
the power to end poverty

This year, leaders from around the world will convene at the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Pledging Conference to decide the future of education for children in the most poverty-stricken and conflict-affected countries on the planet. Despite substantial progress in access to education, nearly 40% of children of primary school age (250 million) worldwide either do not reach grade 4 or, if they do, fail to master even minimum levels of literacy and numeracy. The Global Partnership for Education is a unique organisation that is at the forefront of tackling this crisis, and if their replenishment this year is successful, they will be able to support 29 million children to receive a good quality basic education, 23 million of them in conflict-affected countries.

The UK is a major donor to education and a leading supporter of the GPE. We are urging the UK Government to step up its support and make an early and ambitious four-year pledge of up to £525 million to the GPE, as well as committing to maintain its own aid to education. This kind of leadership from the UK can bring other donors on board and secure a successful replenishment and education for millions of children.

Education for all – what progress made?

Vital progress has been made in securing increased access to basic education for children around the world. For instance, since 1999 the number of children out of school around the world has fallen almost by half. Despite good progress, there remain 57 million children of primary school age out of school around the world. 69 million adolescents are out of lower-secondary school. The UN calls this a “*global learning crisis*”. Meanwhile, just when funding for education is urgently needed to accelerate progress, it is instead declining. Total aid delivered for basic education across all donors has dropped for three years in a row, resulting in a 16% reduction between 2009 and 2012 — and rolling basic education aid levels back to where they were in 2008.

Which children are being left behind?

The UN estimates that half of the primary-aged children out of school around the world are living in conflict-affected or fragile countries like Afghanistan or Somalia. Despite progress towards ‘gender parity’ in many countries, girls are still more likely than boys to be out of school - 31 million girls are out of primary school, and of these 17 million are expected never to enter school. Children with disabilities remain perhaps the most marginalised and invisible group of all.

How is the Global Partnership for Education helping?

The GPE is leading a transformation of global support to education in the poorest countries. It is focusing on the most marginalised children, particularly girls, those in conflict countries and those with disabilities. It is pioneering new approaches, and coordinating

resources behind education plans developed by countries themselves, that are enabling developing countries to gradually build their own quality education systems. GPE is a partnership made up of governments, civil society, international organisations, teachers, foundations, and the private sector which helps developing countries access money, and global and local expertise to achieve their education goals.

Since it was established in 2002, the GPE has grown from seven developing country partners to 59 in 2013 and has allocated nearly US\$3.7 billion in support of education. GPE partners have helped to get nearly 22 million more children into school, including 10 million girls. They have helped train 300,000 teachers, built or rehabilitated 53,000 classrooms, and distributed 50 million textbooks.

The GPE replenishment this year

The GPE’s 2015-2018 replenishment campaign will culminate in a pledging event attended by world leaders in June in Brussels. The GPE wants donor countries (like the UK) to collectively contribute US\$3.5 billion to their fund. With this money, the GPE will support 29 million children in 66 partner developing countries between 2015 and 2018. They are also calling for developing country partners to increase their own budgets for education, and urging all donor countries and global organisations (like the World Bank) to increase their own funding for education to the poorest countries.

Making the case for investment around the world

Between the RESULTS offices (UK, US, Canada, Australia) worldwide, we have developed a new

briefing that makes the case for GPE investment. We have eight reasons for investing now.

#1: We cannot end poverty without investing in education.

#2: The GPE reaches those in the greatest need.

#3: The GPE complements direct education spending by countries like the UK

#4: The GPE helps developing countries to invest in their education systems.

#5: The GPE gets results.

#6: The GPE is taking innovative steps to further enhance its performance.

#7: Global support to basic education is drastically declining.

#8: Demand for GPE support from developing countries is on the rise.

Our 'Fund the Future' campaign so far

Hundreds of you took our February action urging the UK to lead the setting of an ambitious overall target for the GPE replenishment. In March, we joined with grassroots advocates in the US, Canada and Australia on a global call with Alice Albright, the CEO of GPE.

Our new joint report contains the specific financial pledges we want the governments of the UK, US, Canada and Australia to make. Meanwhile, we're also joining with other partner organisations like the Global Campaign for Education, the Global Poverty Project and Plan to launch a mini campaign in the run up to the June replenishment.

What do we want the UK Government to do?

We are calling on the **UK Government to make an early four-year pledge of up to £525 million to the GPE Fund**, committing to provide **25 percent of total contributions** if other donors join the UK in ensuring that the GPE meets its replenishment target. We also want the UK to pledge to maintain its current level of its own direct aid to basic education (the UK is the current largest individual donor to basic education).

By doing so, we believe the UK would use its position as the largest donor to the GPE to get other donors to make ambitious commitments. Our figure of £525 million is based on the UK providing 25% of the total replenishment target of USD\$3.5 billion. This is an ambitious ask, but it reflects the historical commitment the UK has made to the GPE.

Thanks to the Government's commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid, DFID has a rising aid budget, and given the GPE's strong results, we believe this would be an excellent, life-changing use of UK aid money.

We believe it is right for the UK to lead in supporting a fully-funded GPE that will ensure that millions more children receive a quality education. **With a successful replenishment, the GPE aims to achieve a turning point for education for all.** They will support 29 million children to receive a good quality basic education, 23 million of them in conflict countries. They aim to increase the number of children annually completing primary school with core reading and numeracy skills by 25 percent, from 16 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2018.

Take action

- 1. Write to your MP, if they took our February action on the GPE, thank them for it. Explain that despite progress, success in achieving education for all has stalled around the world. Tell them that the Global Partnership for Education can achieve a turning point for millions of children in the poorest countries, if it secures a full replenishment. Ask them to write to Rt. Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for International Development, calling on her to:**
 - Make an early four-year pledge of up to £525 million to the GPE Fund, committing to provide 25 percent of total contributions if other donors join the UK in ensuring that the Global Partnership for Education meets its replenishment target. This kind of ambitious pledge will galvanise other donors and has the potential to transform the lives of millions of children and their communities.
 - Pledge to maintain the UK's position as the largest bilateral donor to basic education.
- 2. Read Background Sheet 1 for a summary of our new joint report, and then choose one of the "8 reasons to invest in GPE" and Tweet it to @DFID_UK, @JustineGreening and @lfeatherstone**
- 3. Join us for the RESULTS UK National Conference on the weekend of 10-12th May, where you will hear more about the Global Partnership for Education, and have the opportunity to meet with DFID officials to ask them about the replenishment, as well as hearing from key development professionals and learning about cutting edge issues in international development. See background sheet 2 for full details and info on how to book.**