

Help fund education for all

Help to ensure UK leadership and commitment to the Global Partnership for Education.

Today, 264 million children and young people are not in school; and millions more are attending school but not learning. Lack of a high-quality education is preventing millions of people around the world from escaping the cycle of poverty. Weak education systems and poor quality teaching often stand in the way of children learning, and there are huge inequalities in access to education, especially for girls and children with disabilities.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has a key role in ensuring learning for all. It has a strategy to invest in financing higher quality education, and to measure learning outcomes, so that money spent in countries demonstrably benefits children's educational attainment.

At GPE's Financing Conference in Dakar, Senegal on 2 February, political commitment for education must result in funding for this vital work, with US \$3.1 billion needed for the period 2018-2020. This will help transform the lives of over 25 million children. The UK has been the leading contributor to GPE since its establishment, and has helped GPE to focus on the quality of education. This month, please write to new Secretary of State Penny Mordaunt MP, urging her to make an ambitious pledge equivalent to US \$500 million, to help children gain the skills they need for a successful future.

An education crisis

Today, 264 million children and young people are not in school; and millions more are attending school but not gaining the basic skills needed for a successful future. Children in fragile and conflict-affected countries are more than twice as likely to be out of school as those in more stable countries, with girls and children with disabilities being the least likely to benefit. On current trends, by 2030, 420 million primary-age and 825 million secondary students around the world will not be learning.

A major obstacle is lack of funding from both domestic and donor sources. The annual financing gap between what governments have to spend on education and what is needed to reach Global Goal 4 ('ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all') is estimated to be around US \$39 billion between 2015 and 2030.

There is widespread agreement on the need for greater investment in education. Investing in education is key to progress in other areas including health, sustainable growth, job creation and long-term peace and stability. It is critical to the development of any country and its people, and without it, progress on all other aspects of development will stagnate.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

Globally, most education funding comes from domestic resources, but a critical part comes from bilateral aid from donor countries, and via the [Global Partnership for Education](#) (GPE). Established in 2002,

GPE works to ensure that all children get a high-quality education, prioritising the most vulnerable. GPE brings together governments, international organisations, foundations, the private sector, and community groups, to create a single national education plan. These plans identify the biggest challenges to achieving quality education for all and how to address them, from teacher training to building schools. Donors and the developing country government can then coordinate their funds to reach these goals. Thanks to this model, countries like Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are now implementing their first-ever national education plans.

In April 2017, GPE unveiled a new strategy to deliver three ambitious strategic goals: (1) improved and equitable learning outcomes so all students finish school with the knowledge and skills they need; (2) increased equity, gender equality, and inclusion for the most marginalised children; and (3) more effective and efficient education systems. GPE will monitor its performance through a results framework, so that money spent in countries has demonstrable impact on learning outcomes.

In April, GPE produced an 'investment case' for US \$3.1 billion of funding from donors for the period 2018-2020. This will help transform the lives of over 25 million children, will see 1.7 million teachers trained, 23,800 classrooms built, and 204 million textbooks distributed worldwide. As well as directly funding education programmes, GPE has a 'leverage fund' to increase other financing for education, aiming for

developing countries to increase their own education spending to at least 20% of their overall budget.

The Global Partnership for Education's [Financing Conference](#) in Dakar, Senegal on 2 February 2018 will be a chance for donor and developing countries to show their political commitment to education by pledging significant financial support, and delivering GPE's strategy to address the learning challenge.

GPE has increasingly demonstrated significant results, and with more funding, will be able to extend its reach. In GPE partner countries, 72 million more children were enrolled in primary school in 2015 than in 2002. GPE support has enabled some of the world's poorest countries to train more teachers, build more classrooms, and provide more learning materials. By meeting the financing target at this replenishment, GPE can extend its support to 89 countries, which are home to 78% of the world's out-of-school children.

The UK's support for global education

The UK can be proud of its work on global education, and the Department for International Development (DFID) is a leading international donor. At the last replenishment in 2014, the UK committed up to £300 million for the 2015-18 period, with conditions to ensure that GPE continued to improve its effectiveness and to encourage other donors to contribute.

The GPE Financing Conference in February is a critical moment for the UK to demonstrate its commitment to achieving 'inclusive and quality education for all'. RESULTS welcomes the UK Government's ongoing support for high-quality education which focuses on children's learning outcomes. It should now build on its previous commitments by an ambitious pledge of funding for GPE, amounting to US \$500 million (currently around £380 million).

What action will help right now?

The UK's ongoing support for high-quality, inclusive education requires a high level of political will. If you were able to take action in November by asking your MP to sign a cross-party sign-on letter to the Secretary of State, thank you! 55 MPs signed this letter, which was sent to her office just before the Christmas break.

Now, with just a few weeks to go before the Dakar conference, we'd like to show her the public support for her department's strong commitment to global education, that enables children to gain the education they need for a successful future.

Please welcome the Secretary of State for International Development, Penny Mordaunt MP, to her new role, thanking her for the UK's ongoing support for global education. Please ask her to pledge a UK contribution of US \$500 million (currently £380 million) to GPE for the period 2018-20, and to use the UK's leadership role to ensure effective country education programmes that focus on learning. Please add something personal to you about why it is important to ensure children are learning in the classroom.



A pre-primary classroom at Kisiwandui primary school, Zanzibar, Tanzania, April 2017.

Photo credit: GPE/Chantal Rigaud

Take action

- 1. Please welcome the Secretary of State for International Development, Rt.Hon. Penny Mordaunt MP, to her new role, thanking her for the UK's ongoing support for global education. Please ask her to pledge a UK contribution of \$500 million (currently £380 million) to GPE for the period 2018-20, and to use the UK's leadership role to ensure effective country education programmes that support children to learn and to thrive.** Send your letter to her at DFID, 22 Whitehall, Westminster, London SW1A 2EG or email DFIDCorrespondence@dfid.gov.uk.
- 2. Ask your friends and family to [take our e-action](#) to the Secretary of State and share it via social media.**
- 3. Support GPE's [ShapeTheFuture](#) campaign on social media, using the hashtags #ShapeTheFuture and #FundEducation. You can also like and share their [Facebook Page](#).**