

# Background Sheet: The Global Partnership for Education

This month we are asking you to write a letter to Rt. Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, the newly appointed Secretary of State for International Development. Please welcome her to this role and explain how the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) helps fund high-quality learning for all children and young children in developing countries, particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups. You may find these talking points and case study helpful for writing your letter. Please add something personal to you about why it is important to ensure children are learning in the classroom.

## Talking points:

- Global education is in crisis, with millions of children not in school, or in school but not learning.
- In low and middle income countries, half of primary school children (274 million) are not learning basic foundational skills and 3/4 of secondary school students (468 million) are not learning basic secondary level skills.
- Girls and children living in conflict or with a disability are the least likely to receive an education and most likely to be affected by a lack of well-trained teachers, inadequate learning materials and unsuitable facilities.
- Up to 50% of children with disabilities are out of school.
- Children in conflict-affected countries are 1/3 less likely to complete primary school.
- Education is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of discrimination and poverty that children with disabilities often face.
- GPE is the world's only multilateral partnership exclusively devoted to supporting basic education.
- GPE has a plan to ensure that children learn the skills they need to live productive lives.
- The UK should continue to play a leading role in global education and contribute US \$500 million to GPE for the period 2018-2020.

## Case Study: Disability and Education in Tanzania

For most children with disabilities in poorer countries, the opportunity to gain a high quality education is very slim. Funding from GPE gives all children the chance to receive an education, including girls, children with disabilities, and children living in conflict-affected regions. It ensures that schools have trained teachers, adequate resources and are safe learning environments.

## January 2018 Action Sheet



Students using Braille machines in Zanzibar, Tanzania

Photo credit: Chantal Rigaud, GPE

A GPE grant in Zanzibar, Tanzania, has supported a more inclusive education system. Through GPE funding, Kisiwandui Primary School in Zanzibar has been able to welcome 50 students with different disabilities. Extra funding has allowed the school to purchase laptop computers and other useful equipment.

Children with visual impairments have been given recording devices, so that they can listen to lessons again at home, as well as braille machines in the classroom. Teachers at Kisiwandui Primary School have completed additional training on how to teach children with disabilities, ensuring that their learning is appropriate and effective.

### Case Study: GPE and Learning in Uganda

In Uganda, the number of children in school tripled from 3 million to 9 million between 1999 and 2010. However, although many more children were enrolled in school, many were still not learning. Thanks to support from GPE, over 22,000 teachers have now been trained in early grade literacy and numeracy teaching techniques. As shown in the below photo, teachers have been trained to develop early grade reading materials.



Kamusenene Primary School, Mubende, Uganda

Photo credit: Fazie Rabbani, GPE

GPE funding has also distributed 7 million textbooks and teacher guides, as well as developing specific training for head teachers and building 83 new schools with adequate facilities. As well as increasing enrolment rates, improved learning outcomes and completion rates give children the life skills they need to live productive lives.

The Overseas Development Institute has shared this additional example of [improved educational opportunities in Ghana](#), thanks to GPE's model of support. This blog post previews research they conducted on the commitment to leave no one behind.