

Education counts more than ever!

Help to get all children the education they need to live productive lives.

Education is vital to ensure that children grow up to be independent and productive members of society, able to find decent work and thrive in a globalised world. Yet in many poorer countries, children don't get even a basic education. There are currently 263 million children and young people out of school worldwide, and hundreds of millions lack basic literacy or numeracy skills. As it stands, the world will not meet Global Goal 4 ("ensuring inclusive and quality education for all") this century. With a shortfall of US \$39 billion annually and inequality in access to education rising, it is often the most marginalised and vulnerable that are left behind. While the numbers of children out of school has reduced in recent decades, far too many children still don't get an education, particularly girls, children with disabilities, and those caught in crises. Failing to invest in education today could slow economic growth, worsen social tensions and increase insecurity for generations to come.

Around the end of this year or early next year, the world community will come together to pledge its support for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a vital multilateral body that funds many global education programmes. A strong UK funding commitment is needed to help ensure that GPE can reach its target of US \$3.1 billion for the period 2018-2020. Together with other international development organisations, RESULTS aims to build parliamentary and public support for a substantial UK contribution of \$500 million (currently £392 million).

The UK has been the leading contributor to GPE since its establishment, and at the last GPE replenishment conference in June 2014, the UK made a commitment of up to £300 million, of which £210 million has been dispersed. To reach Global Goal 4 by 2030, the UK and other donors must place a much higher level of priority on education. This month, we are asking you to arrange to meet with your MP to explain the vital importance of education for overcoming poverty and meeting the Global Goals.

The vital importance of education

Education is vital to enable children to grow up to be independent and productive members of society, who can find decent work and thrive in a globalised world.

As well as being a Goal in itself, [education is essential to meeting all the Global Goals](#), and is intrinsically related to other aspects of poverty alleviation. As the Chair of Parliament's International Development Select Committee Stephen Twigg MP said in their recent [enquiry into global education](#): "It improves life chances, has a positive impact on health outcomes, helps prevent conflict, increases a country's human capital and contributes to economic development."

Yet education systems around the world face serious funding shortfalls, which deny millions of children their right to a high-quality education.

There is high-level global agreement on the need for greater investment in education. In 2016, the 'International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity', led by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, published [The Learning Generation: Investing in education for a Changing World](#), making a compelling case for investing in education now:

"Education and skills are essential for the realization of individual potential, national economic growth, social development and the fostering of global citizenship. In the coming decades, as technology, demographic change and globalization reshape the world we live in, they will become ever more important."

Why are children out of school?

There are many reasons why children are out of school, which vary greatly from country to country. Parents may rely on their children for labour, or the walk to school may be too long or dangerous. For many, school fees are a barrier to accessing education, and for almost all countries, the lack of facilities for students with disabilities is a huge problem, with some 90% of children with disabilities out of school across the developing world. In some countries, education for girls is not valued or understood, and pregnancy, sanitation and gender discrimination keep girls out of the classroom beyond primary school age.

What progress is being made?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) resulted in a big increase in the number of children receiving a basic education. However, 263 million children and

young people are still out of school across the world, with hundreds of millions more in school but not learning the basics in reading and mathematics.

The Global Goals go further than the MDGs, requiring that we “leave no one behind”, reaching the most marginalised, and the most remote communities.

The Global Partnership for Education

Globally, most education funding comes from domestic resources, but a critical part comes from bilateral aid from donor countries, and from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Established in 2002, GPE is the only multilateral partnership devoted to improving provision of education in the world’s poorest countries. Bringing together governments, international organizations, foundations, the private sector, and civil society, it deploys resources in the areas of greatest need. GPE encourages countries to increase their spending on education, and education spending in GPE countries is growing faster than in countries where GPE doesn’t operate. Partnership with GPE also results in greater gains in enrolment, completion of education, and gender parity.

In April this year, GPE made 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, will build 23,800 classrooms, and will see 204 million textbooks distributed worldwide. As well as directly funding education programmes, part of this money will be used as a ‘leverage fund’ to increase other sources of financing for education such as in-country resources, to have increased impact.

The UK’s record on supporting global education

The UK can be proud of its work on global education, and the Department for International Development (DFID) is a leading donor to the education sector. From 2011 to 2014, the UK was the largest donor to GPE, giving £270 million, around 23% of the total. At the last replenishment in June 2014, the UK committed up to £300 million for the 2015-18 period, with conditions

to ensure that GPE continued to strengthen its operational model and encourage other donors to contribute, limiting the UK contribution to 15% of the total. The UK has in fact disbursed £210 million.

An education funding crisis

While the aims of Global Goal 4 have broadened, aid for education has been drastically declining. The annual financing gap between what governments have available to spend on education and what is needed to reach Global Goal 4 is estimated to be around US \$39 billion between 2015 and 2030.

With the proven effectiveness of GPE’s approach and the decline in aid for education, GPE is an increasingly vital part of the overall funding for education globally, particularly with its focus on unlocking other sources of funding such as domestic funding.

Filling the funding gap

As part of the Global Campaign for Education UK, RESULTS is campaigning for a strong replenishment of GPE. With replenishment of GPE likely to happen later this year or in early 2018, this is a critical moment for donor countries and institutions to demonstrate that they are serious about achieving “inclusive and quality education for all”.

The Chairman of the International Development Committee recently called on the Government to increase its development spending on education from just over 8% to 10%, and for the UK to fund GPE at current levels or above. RESULTS is calling on the UK Government to build on its previous commitments [by pledging \\$500 \(currently £392 million\) to the next GPE replenishment](#), meeting its promise to achieve Global Goal 4. Now is the time to build the public and parliamentary support to ensure that these promises are delivered. The next few months will be a critical time to gain support from MPs, so they can encourage the Government to pledge high between now and the replenishment moment (the date and location of which have not yet been decided).

Take action

- 1. Please visit your MP to explain the vital importance of education for overcoming poverty and for meeting the aspirations of the Global Goals. Please mention the Global Partnership for Education, and ask them to support the campaign for a strong UK contribution to GPE’s replenishment target.**
- 2. Ask them to write to the Secretary of State, Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP, urging her to think big when it comes to the UK pledge to GPE later in the year.**
- 3. Ask your friends and family to [take our e-action](#) and share it via social media.**