

Write to Learn

One final push ahead of GPE replenishment



The Global Partnership for Education replenishment campaign is coming to a head. After six months of hard work by RESULTS UK grassroots, and our partners in RESULTS Australia, Canada, and the US, as well as our civil society partners here in the UK, we're in the final stages of the campaign.

We've done well so far, thanks to all of our joined-up work on the issue, and we hope the UK will make a strong commitment to the GPE, potentially transforming the lives of millions of children worldwide.

But we can't get complacent – we've done a lot of the hard work behind the scenes, pushing the UK to make an ambitious pledge, building champions in Parliament, and engaging with DFID Ministers on the GPE.

Now we need a big public push to create the positive environment for the UK Government to make the announcement and to show that the public and civil society is behind them all the way if they do so.

This month we launch Write to Learn, a brand new joined-up campaign which seeks to do exactly that.

The Global Education crisis

We are facing a global education crisis. We've made substantial progress, thanks in no small part to UK aid, but there are still 57 million children out of primary school, 69 million children out of secondary school, and 250 million more who are not learning the basics in school at all – and global funding for education is going down. **But it's not too late to turn that around.**

The GPE

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the only global fund for education that brings together 59 developing countries with donor governments (like the UK), civil society, international organizations, students, teachers, foundations, and the private sector to achieve coordinated action to develop better education systems in the poorest countries. How does it work?

Donor governments, like the UK, provide funds to the GPE that then gives grants to its 59 developing country partners to support their national education plans. This is a really effective way of providing aid to education, as it means all work is carried out according to an individual government's priorities. A country can only receive funding if it has a national education plan that has been agreed with the GPE and if all partners in the country (like donor agencies, NGOs and teachers) agree to support the national plan to get children into school and learning.

The GPE also supports members to consider certain areas as priorities, such as ensuring that more girls access education, when developing their plans. The GPE's major focus areas are girls' education, children with disabilities, and education in conflict affected and

fragile countries, as well as supporting teachers to improve the quality of education.

GPE replenishment campaign

The GPE replenishment campaign will come to a head on 26th June with a pledging conference being held in Brussels and attended by world leaders.

At the event the Global Partnership are hoping to raise \$3.5 billion in new funding to support their work through 2015-2018. If they reach this target, they'll be able to help get a further 29 million children a good education in 66 partner developing countries.

Building global momentum with RESULTS partners

As many of you will know, we have been working on the GPE replenishment for nearly six months. Working closely with our RESULTS partners in Australia, the US and Canada, we have been carefully building the case among decision makers, and taking coordinated and effective action through our grassroots campaigners.

In the USA, RESULTS have been driving a nationwide media campaign, working through their grassroots to place pieces of media about the crucial importance of the GPE and making the case for a strong US Government commitment. They have also been working hard to get members of Congress to sign a letter to the President calling for support to the GPE. They have 77 signatures so far.

In Canada, RESULTS have been working on getting their new minister for development to take up the issue of GPE replenishment.

In Australia, RESULTS has been writing to their minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, calling on her to make a pledge of AU\$500 million to the GPE.

Here in the UK we have been working to tackle the issue from as many angles as possible.

- In January, we helped coordinate a visit to the UK by Abdul Rahim Wardak the Afghan Minister for Education. During his trip Minister Wardak met with [senior MPs](#), shadow ministers, and the UK press, including the [BBC](#) and [Guardian](#);
- Then in February we [mobilised you all](#) to call on Lynne Featherstone MP the DFID Minister to make the case for an ambitious replenishment target at the GPE board meeting;
- In March, working with our RESULTS partners, we launched our report titled '[Greater Impact Through Partnership: 8 Reasons to Invest in the GPE](#)' which set out a clear case for GPE investment and [detailed the asks](#) we were making of our respective Governments;
- Also in March we helped run a [global webinar with Alice Albright](#), CEO of the GPE, which was joined by over 200 grassroots campaigners from around the world;
- Later in March we helped coordinate a [Parliamentary event](#) on GPE replenishment which featured Alice Albright, the Deputy Prime minister of Ethiopia, Baroness Northover, the DFID spokesperson in the house of Lords, and Aaron Oxley, ED of RESULTS UK;
- In April we launched our second [monthly grassroots action](#). Now that we had the UK ask of £525 million finalised we asked you to call on your MPs to make the case for GPE with Justine Greening MP, the Secretary of State;
- Then in May, Julia Gillard, the former Prime Minister of Australia and now [Chair of the GPE](#), came to the UK for a visit. During her trip we helped arrange meetings with a group of [UK Chief Executives](#) including those from Save the Children,

Plan UK, RESULTS, and ActionAid. While here she also met with Justine Greening.

So it is fair to say that DFID and the UK Government know what we want – together with our partners we have made the case clearly, and in several different forums.

Now we need to create the space and momentum for them to come and show their commitment, not just to GPE, but to the education of millions of children worldwide. The UK has been a leading donor to education, and now we need them to demonstrate that leadership to the world.

Write to Learn

In order to help create the energy and momentum needed to get the UK to make a strong pledge, we have teamed up with the Global Poverty Project and Plan UK on a campaign called **Write to Learn** that runs through the final weeks to the replenishment and will generate the broad public support that we need.

Write to Learn is an online campaign being executed using the GPP's 'Global Citizen' platform. Global Citizen is an online campaigning platform that allows users to learn in depth about the issues they're interested in at the same time as taking effective, coordinated action. Using the platform we'll be contacting DFID and Justine Greening and showing them the swell of public support that exists in the UK.

#BecauseOfSchool

#BecauseOfSchool is a social media campaign we have designed to run alongside **Write to Learn**. The idea of the campaign is to challenge people to think about all of the things in their lives that they could only have achieved 'because of school', and to share them on social media, making a link back to the GPE replenishment. **For more on Write to Learn and #BecauseOfSchool, see Background sheet 1.**

Take action

1. If you haven't already done so, head over to www.globalcitizen.org/writetolearn and take action now. Email Justine Greening MP, calling on her to make a pledge of £525 million to the GPE. Share the action among your friends.
2. If you're not on Global Citizen, and don't want to be, then simply send a letter or an email to Justine Greening MP (pssofs@dfid.gov.uk), explain to her the importance of global education, and call on her to make a UK Pledge of £525 million to the GPE fund at its upcoming replenishment.
3. Take the #BecauseOfSchool action and tweet it to DFID, Justine Greening MP, and Lynne Featherstone MP. Check Background Sheet 1 for full details of #BecauseOfSchool.