

Fund Global Education!

Let's push the UK Government to provide global education funding.

Quality education is an essential building block for children to lead healthy and prosperous lives. Yet despite education being a human right and being recognised in UN Global Goal 4, millions of children are denied schooling. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this, with around 200 million school aged children currently out of school, an estimated 20 million more girls will not return. To ensure all children receive a quality, inclusive and accessible education, governments must put education at the forefront of the global recovery from the pandemic, and invest ambitiously in global education. 2021 is an important year for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), one of the largest multilateral education funds. As the UK is co-hosting the GPE replenishment at the Global Education Summit this year, the UK Government has an opportunity to show leadership and encourage other countries to step up by making a substantial and early pledge. RESULTS is calling on the UK government to pledge £600 million to GPE for its 2021-2025 investment period.

The UK government has been one of the largest donors of GPE and is committed to girls' education. However, proposed aid cuts are a risk to the UK's funding of global education. While your work with MPs campaigning to oppose the UK aid cuts continues, we are asking you to write to the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab MP, to express your support for an early pledge of at least £600 million to GPE by the UK government.

Education, learning and the pandemic

For many children, education is either inaccessible or, if they are in school, they don't have access to high-quality learning. This disproportionately affects girls, marginalised groups, and those from poorer households. It is estimated that [53% of children in low- and middle-income countries](#) leave primary school without basic literacy skills, and among pupils with disabilities, rates of low literacy are even higher. COVID-19 has caused further [disruption to learning](#) and many school aged children report learning little or nothing during the pandemic. As well as the disruption to learning, it is estimated that [20 million more](#) secondary-school aged girls will not return to school. There is a real need to continue advocating for access to quality and inclusive education to make sure all children can keep learning.

Why does education matter?

As well as access to education being a human right, it can also help tackle issues of gender inequality, access to [health](#) and exploitation. Educated citizens learn and develop skills to lead healthy lives and make informed decisions. Research shows that as education among girls increases, [rates of child marriage and early childbearing reduce](#). As girls leave school with

increased knowledge of health and sanitation, they may feel empowered to make informed decisions that benefit themselves and future children. Educated girls are more likely to have better maternal health outcomes and [have healthy, educated children](#), especially when they have access to strong health systems. The positive impacts of education are also seen in terms of employment, with [schooling linked to stable, decent work](#).

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

[The Global Partnership for Education](#) (GPE) is the largest partnership working solely to transform education systems in lower-income countries. The partnership is dedicated to ensuring girls and boys, especially those from marginalised backgrounds, have access to free, inclusive and quality education. To make an effective and long-term impact, GPE has a multi-stakeholder approach which brings together lower-income countries, donors, international organisations, civil society (including youth and teacher organisations) and the private sector. Since 2002, 160 million more children in partner countries are in school and governments have increased their education spending. For example, [in Afghanistan, the number of children enrolled in general education](#) has risen from 0.9 million

(almost no girls) to 9.2 million (39% girls) since 2001, with action by the government and support from partners such as GPE. This year, GPE is seeking to raise at least US \$5 billion for the period 2021-2025 to help get 88 million more children into school. GPE is seeking pledges from donors ahead of, and at the Global Education Summit which will be co-hosted by the UK and Kenya on 28 and 29 July.

Why should the UK Government pledge?

The UK Government is committed to a target of [ensuring girls have 12 years of quality education](#) by 2030. The Prime Minister used [his first speech](#) to underline this pledge which he had made [as Foreign Secretary](#). The Government has shown leadership in girls' education and disability-inclusive education. These priorities, are echoed in GPE's work. GPE works to ensure girls and children with disabilities access quality education and in partnering with lower-income governments, they promote country-ownership. As co-host of the Summit and host of the G7 in June, the UK Government should set an example to other donors to pledge ambitiously, not least because G7 members provide the majority of GPE funding. That is why the UK Government must meet or exceed the call for a pledge of £600 million, a sum that is in line with [previous pledges and the current need](#). Historically, the UK has contributed 19% of GPE's funding. Pledging £600 million to GPE would [represent 16% of GPE's global target](#).

If GPE's target of \$5 billion is reached, the UK will have supported getting [46 million girls](#) on the path to 12 years of quality education by 2025. This is an

opportunity for the UK Government to make a meaningful impact on girls' education worldwide.

How is this linked to the aid campaign?

UK aid has had a hugely positive impact on education worldwide, supporting at least [15.6 million children to gain a decent education between 2015 and 2020](#). The proposed reduction in the aid budget from 0.7% of GNI to 0.5% would mean that [4.5 million fewer children will gain a quality education](#) and UK aid to education will be [cut by a third in 2021-22 alone](#). It is estimated that global aid to education is likely to decrease by [12% from 2018-2022](#) due to the global recession, which is likely to make the global financing gap for education, an estimated [US \\$148 billion a year](#), even bigger. The need for the UK to step up and adequately fund education goes hand in hand with the need to maintain the commitment to spending 0.7% GNI on aid.

Why campaign on this now?

RESULTS advocates have previously campaigned for GPE replenishment and in 2019, we had a campaign win when the [UK pledged £90 million](#) to 'Education Cannot Wait'. This March is a crucial month for the decision on the UK's pledge to GPE and the Foreign Secretary is the main decision-maker. However, the proposed aid cuts from 0.7% GNI to 0.5% jeopardise the impact that the UK government can make on its commitment to girls' education. Action on GPE replenishment is timely and complements February's '[Oppose the aid cuts](#)' campaign. See [Background Sheet 1](#) for ideas for actions, and how the two campaigns could overlap.

Take action!

Please write to the Foreign Secretary, Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP, informing him why you believe new funds for GPE are essential to achieve Global Goal 4 ('quality education') and to meet the Government's commitment to girls' education. Ask that the UK government pledges at least £600 million to GPE ahead of the Summit. [Background Sheet 1](#) will help you craft your letter.

Take action on social media to raise awareness of our call for the UK Government's pledge for GPE and the importance of global education. On [Background Sheet 2](#), we have provided some pointers for social media engagement. International Women's Day on 8 March is also a great hook for this!

Let us know that you've taken action on Global Education funding by emailing Campaigns Coordinator Ruthie Walters at ruthie.walters@results.org.uk