

## The Transformative Power of Education

Education is the opportunity every parent wants for their child, and every child needs in order to build a brighter future. The right to education for children is not just supported by international law – it is supported by common sense. Education offers children the opportunity for healthier, safer, more prosperous futures. **Even just one additional year of school can increase a person's lifetime earnings by 10 percent.**<sup>1</sup>



Photo credit: Global Partnership for Education

Unfortunately, a staggering **263 million children and youth are out of school around the world,**<sup>2</sup> and **tens of millions more can't read a single sentence.**<sup>3</sup> Yet we know the transformational power of education – both on a child and on the world. If all students in low-income countries were to leave primary school with basic reading skills, 171 million people would be lifted out of poverty.<sup>4</sup> The potential that can be unleashed through education remains hidden for too many children and nations.

**This year we can change course by supporting the Global Partnership for Education's new multi-year strategy<sup>5</sup> to get over 25 million more kids in school and learning by 2020.**

## The Role of the Global Partnership for Education

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the only international partnership exclusively dedicated to increasing access to and quality of education in the poorest countries worldwide. GPE makes education a reality for more children by supporting developing countries to build strong education systems.

### **GPE's Impact to Date:**

In over 65 developing countries, GPE works collaboratively and strategically across key stakeholders – including donor governments, international institutions, and local civil society organizations – to develop high-quality national education plans. These plans identify the most important issues that must be addressed to provide quality education to that country, from teacher recruitment and training, to curriculum reform, to improved infrastructure.

Between 2002-2014, GPE-supported country achievements included:

- enrolling 64 million more children in primary school,
- a 10 percent increase in primary school completion rates, with even higher rates for girls,
- a 12 percent increase in lower-secondary school completion rates, and
- decreasing the number of out of school girls by 9.3 million.

GPE also incentivizes developing country governments to increase their own domestic financing for education. This led to developing country partners pledging an astounding \$26 billion toward their own education systems in 2014.

### **GPE's Ambitious New Plan:**

In April of 2017, GPE unveiled a new plan to work with its partners to deliver on three strategic, ambitious goals – 1) **improved and equitable learning outcomes** so all students finish school with the knowledge and skills they came to learn, 2) **increased equity, gender equality, and inclusion** for the most marginalized children, and 3) **more effective and efficient education systems to ensure quality education** for the long term.

In early 2018, in order to fulfill its goals and help accelerate progress for the world's children, GPE will gather donor governments, developing country partners, and philanthropic and private sector donors to pledge a cumulative **\$3.1 billion over three years towards the ambitious three-year plan for 2018-2020**. With this level of funding from donors, GPE can support:

- an additional 19 million children completing primary school
- an additional 6.6 million children completing lower secondary school
- training 1.7 million teachers
- building 23,800 classrooms
- distributing 204 million textbooks

## **Cosponsor the GPE Resolution: H.Res. 466**

Now is not the time for the U.S. to turn its back on the world's children. U.S. leadership will be critical for a successful GPE replenishment. Since first contributing to GPE in fiscal year 2012, the U.S. government has made increasing annual investments in GPE, helping drive its accomplishments. **The bipartisan GPE resolution (H.Res. 466):**

- affirms the leadership and commitment of the U.S. to improving access to quality education for the poorest and most marginalized children and youth worldwide;
- supports the mission and goals of the Global Partnership for Education to contribute to the achievement of equitable, quality education and learning;
- recognizes that U.S. investments in bilateral basic education are complemented by GPE's education systems approach and convening authority; and
- encourages continued commitment and investments by the U.S. to ensure children and youth are attending school and learning throughout the world.

## **To support this bipartisan resolution, please contact:**

Isaac Tobis  
Office of Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA)  
[Isaac.Tobis@mail.house.gov](mailto:Isaac.Tobis@mail.house.gov)

Liz Leibowitz  
Office of Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)  
[Liz.Leibowitz@mail.house.gov](mailto:Liz.Leibowitz@mail.house.gov)

<sup>1</sup> *Global Education Monitoring Report 2016: Education for People and Planet: Creating sustainable futures for all*

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2013/4: Teaching and Learning: Achieving quality for all*

<sup>4</sup> *Education for All Global Monitoring Report: Education Counts: Towards the Millennium Development Goals*

<sup>5</sup> GPE Replenishment 2020 Case for Investment, <https://replenishment.globalpartnership.org/en/case-for-investment/>