

ACTION SHEET

The Global Partnership for Education Changes Lives

With the start of a new year, many of us are asking ourselves what we can do to make the world a better place for more people in 2018. Most of us know from our own experiences that education is perhaps the best path to improving lives and providing opportunity. So, 2018 would be to great year honor the sixty-year anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among other important rights outlined in the declaration, it states that, “Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory.” Fifty countries signed the declaration in 1948, including the United States.

Every parent wants their child to go to school, learn to read, and use their education to create a bright future. The right to education for children is not just supported by international law and declarations – it is supported by common sense. Education offers children the opportunity for healthier, safer, more prosperous futures. It lifts individuals, families, and nations. Even one additional year of school can help a child increase their lifetime earnings by 10%.

Unfortunately, around the world, a staggering 263 million children and youth are out of school, and tens of millions more can’t read a single sentence, even after some schooling. In places like South Sudan, a young woman is more likely to die in childbirth than she is to graduate high school. Out-of-school girls are three times more likely to be infected with HIV than girls who remain in school. The human potential we are missing is a loss to the entire world.

But the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) makes education a reality for more children. Uniting government leaders in lower-income countries with international donors, the private sector, and communities, they develop, fund, and build lasting national education plans and systems to educate the most vulnerable children, from preschool through high school. About 60% of GPE support goes to countries affected by fragility or conflict, where about two-thirds of out-of-school children live.

If the world comes together around GPE’s 2018-2020 plan, 19 million more children will complete primary school, 6.6 million more will complete lower secondary school, and 1.7 million more teachers will be trained. The world needs this.

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December 1948

- (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
- (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Why the Global Partnership for Education?

GPE is the only organization of its kind dedicated exclusively to education in the world's lowest-income and most fragile countries. The effectiveness of GPE has meant 72 million more children are now in school in GPE partner countries as compared to 2002. GPE works collaboratively and strategically across key stakeholders and requests that developing country partners allocate a full 20% of national government expenditure to education annually. Donor financing helps bridge critical remaining gaps.

Some 263 million children and youth are out of school, according to new data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). This includes 61 million children of primary school age (6-11 years), 60 million of lower secondary school age (12-14 years), and 142 million of those of upper secondary school age (15-17 years).

U.S. Leadership is Vital

With RESULTS' advocacy, the U.S. government has made increasing annual investments in GPE since 2011, helping drive GPE's success. Now we must generate greater knowledge and support for GPE in Congress and with the Administration so that the U.S. is prepared to make leadership commitment to GPE at a pledging conference to be held on **February 2, 2018**. The bipartisan GPE resolutions, H.Res. 466 and S.Res. 286, acknowledge the importance of global education and the great work of GPE. It is our vehicle for educating members of Congress and getting them on record in support of GPE. Can you ask your legislators to cosponsor?

Use EPIC to Request Cosponsorship of H.Res. 466 & S.Res. 286

Instructions: Personalize the message below by sharing why you care about global education and include a personal story about how education has benefited you.

Engage: Education has been critical in my life, and I think every child should have a right to education.

Problem: So, it's hard to believe that 263 million children and youth around the world who should be in the classroom, are not.

Inform: Since 2011, the U.S. government has invested in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), helping tens of millions of children access a quality education. Now GPE is launching an ambitious new plan to accelerate progress on global education and put an additional 25 million kids through school between 2018-2020.

Call to Action: Please show your support for educating children living in poverty, and for the Global Partnership for Education by cosponsoring the GPE resolution (choose H.Res. 466 or S.Res. 286 depending on who you are writing to).

Data sources: The Global Partnership for Education – www.globalpartnership.org, UN - <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

Leading with Action: Advocacy Workshop Agenda

Below is a sample agenda and script that you can use to put people in your community into action. We know that when people take action they get inspired. The agenda below would require a meeting of roughly 60 minutes. Adapt the elements to fit your style and timeframe.

I. Setting the Stage – 15 Minutes

2 min: Welcome and acknowledge people for being there.

“Thanks to all of you for coming. There are a lot of ways you could be spending the day, and I want to thank all of you for coming out and learning more about how YOU can play a role in the movement to end poverty. Can the RESULTS volunteers briefly say their name and how many years you’ve been involved? Also, can you all be sure to sign our sign in sheet?”

3 min: State the purpose of the meeting.

“Our purpose today is to inspire you all about the difference you can make, working with others, to create the political will to end hunger and poverty. In the next few minutes, we’ll . . .

- Learn a bit about RESULTS, the group organizing this.
- We will learn about an issue of poverty.
- We will take powerful action on the issue: we'll write personalized letters on the Global Partnership for Education that we'll hand-carry to our representatives in Congress.
- Finally, we'll see who is interested in continuing to make a difference with RESULTS.”

10 min: Center the room and do introductions.

“Let’s see who’s in the room tonight and get in touch with why we are here. Please give us your name and tell us briefly why acting on issue of poverty is important to you.” Other possible questions, “What are you committed to in life?” or “Who do you want to be in the world?”

Afterward, “Thank you all for sharing what is important to you. We have a lot in common.”

II. The Basics of RESULTS – 10 Minutes

RESULTS is...

“So, what is RESULTS? RESULTS is movement of passionate, committed, everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. As volunteers, we receive training, support, and inspiration to become skilled advocates. In time, we learn to effectively advise policy makers, guiding them toward decisions that will improve access to health, education, and economic opportunity. Together we realize the incredible power we possess to use our voices to change the world. “

Show the video if you have time: We Have a Vision:

http://www.results.org/blog/we_have_a_vision/

1. Share an example of success: We protected development assistance for FY2017. We helped secure the highest number ever of congressional supporters for AIDS, TB, and malaria; global education; and maternal & child health, even when President Trump had proposed a 30% cut to these programs and we had a Republican House and Senate.
2. A local example of our role in creating change is: We moved Rep. _____ to sign on to xxx letter as part of this. He/She met with us in _____ (month) of 2017, which was key in getting his/her support.

A few more details if you have time:

- RESULTS partners meet twice per month to plan and take action.
- During one of those meetings, we connect to a national webinar to learn more about an issue, learn to speak powerfully, and take action to communicate with our elected officials by sending them letters.
- We also develop plans for influencing our decision makers through face-to-face meetings, the media, and community action.

III. Issues & Action Component – 30 Minutes

1. Introduce the issue of the Global Partnership for Education with a story or video:
 - *Read from the Declaration:* <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
 - *Individual stories:* <http://tinyurl.com/GPEStories>
 - *Lessons from Tanzania:* <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/95552544-132.html>
 - *GPE Finance the Future Video:* <http://tinyurl.com/GPEFinanceFuture>
 - *Investment in Pre-School Pays:* <https://youtu.be/dFUW8Bdgzv8>
 - *GPE supports countries after disasters:* <https://tinyurl.com/GPEinMadagascar>
 - *Find others here:* <http://www.globalpartnership.org/news-and-media/multimedia>
2. Read the January Action Sheet together, including sample letter.
3. If people don't know their members of Congress, show them how to find their legislators and relevant contact information online.
4. Everyone writes letters. Encourage them to personalize. Remember people to add date, name, address, email, phone.
5. Have people volunteer to read their letter out loud for feedback and encouragement.
6. Let people know how/when you'll deliver their letters and invite them.
7. Debrief on the action-taking—how did it feel to take action?

IV. Invitation to Attend the Next Meeting & Closing – 5 Minutes

“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one to guide people in becoming powerful advocates.

- Who is up for doing this again?
- Who knows other people or groups who might be interested?
- We are also looking for people who want to take the next step in using their voice to work with the media and Congress with our group. Who is curious about what our chapter does and wants to learn more?
- Who is interested in learning more about supporting RESULTS financially?”

Say thank yous, capture contact information: name, phone, email, address. Send contact info to Mark Campbell (mcampbell@results.org). Your new people will receive actions twice monthly.