

ACTION SHEET

The Global Partnership for Education Changes Lives

November 20 is Universal Children’s Day. It marks the dates of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Declarations of the Rights of the Child in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Both documents declare that every child has a right to a free education. But after nearly 60 years, we have not kept this promise to the world’s children.

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 unleashed through education remains hidden for too many children.

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. Together 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 is in countries affected by fragility or conflict, where about two-thirds of out-of-school children live.

If the world comes together around GPE’s plan for 2018-2020, we will have 19 million more children completing primary school, 6.6 million more children completing lower secondary school, and training 1.7 million teachers over the next three years. The world needs this.

Principle 7 from the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child from 1959

“The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He shall be given an education which will promote his general culture and enable him, on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society. The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents.”

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).

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 64 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.

U.S. Leadership is Vital

With RESULTS' advocacy, the U.S. government has made increasing annual investments in GPE since 2011, helping drive its 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 8, 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: On November 20 we celebrate Universal Children's Day, the day the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child was adopted back in 1959. The Declaration states that, "The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages."

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 poor circumstances, 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 source: The Global Partnership for Education – www.globalpartnership.org

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 an action that will make a difference on that issue. We'll write a letter about the Global Partnership for Education that we'll hand-carry to our representative.
- 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. An example of our success is protecting development assistance for FY2017. We helped secure the highest number of letter signers ever for AIDS, TB, and malaria; global education; and maternal and child health, which helped protect funding, even when the President has proposed a 30% cut to these programs.
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 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/events/childrenday/>
 - *Individual stories:* <http://tinyurl.com/GPEStories>
 - *GPE in Chad:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r--C6L-8LcE&feature=youtu.be>
 - *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 November 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 to tell 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 that you'll report back.
7. Debrief on the action-taking.

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

“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one about RESULTS and taking people through the process of taking action by writing letters like the ones you wrote tonight.

- 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 into to Mark Campbell (mcampbell@results.org). Your new people will receive actions twice monthly.