

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

The Global Partnership for Education

Over the past two decades, low-income countries have made concerted efforts to abolish school fees, build infrastructure, improve gender equity, train teachers, and pair with donors to reduce the number of out-of-school kids in the world. This commitment is clear; more children than ever before are in school. But now the question is: Are they learning?

FY20 FUNDING REQUEST:

- The Global Partnership for Education at \$125 million

The answer all too often is – not enough. Progress has stagnated over the past several years. Even among those children who do make it into a classroom, a staggering global total of 387 million kids – over half the world’s children of primary school age – cannot read a single sentence. Primary school class sizes are often reported as 70-100 kids in a classroom. Quality primary education is not the only challenge; there are still far too many out-of-school children. About 200 million adolescents and youth are currently out of secondary school, and over 75 percent of children in South Asia are not enrolled in preschool.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the only public-partnership exclusively focused on achieving quality education for all, is working to changing this. Since 2002, GPE has worked with partners to enroll 77 million more children in primary school in the poorest countries. At GPE’s February 2018 financing conference, donors and low-income countries alike came together to fund a three-year strategy that will put 25 million more children in school for the first time. The plan supports over 80 low-income countries to convene education stakeholders to develop, implement, and fund quality national education plans. Strengthening U.S. support for GPE is critical to reaching the goal.

Important in the push for equity in education is GPE’s emphasis on inclusive education for children with disabilities, increasing support for girls’ secondary schooling, and increasing access for early childhood development programs, particularly in the hardest to reach places and areas in conflict. GPE places its low-income country partners at the forefront of the strategy and aligns donors and other partners behind them. With this approach GPE helps build strong, sustainable education systems that will provide children an education for generations to come.

Why Funding Matters

U.S. investments in basic education through both USAID and GPE are giving countries the boost they need provide their most vulnerable children a quality education, helping them become thriving, productive citizens. Measurable results and innovative financing remain central to USAID’s strategies, and GPE has taken significant strides in these areas.

- **As a model of aid effectiveness**, transparency, and accountability, GPE is using its newly developed Results Framework – a comprehensive series of baselines, milestones, and targets for 37 indicators – to monitor and report progress against the goals and objectives of their new strategy.
- **As a leader on innovative finance**, GPE has recently established the “GPE Multiplier,” a new funding opportunity for developing country partners that further co-finance their education sector plans with additional external resources, such as those from development banks or other donors.

This new fund provides \$1 of GPE grant funds for every \$3 a country secures in additional external financing for education.

Inclusive Education in Burundi

In Burundi’s effort to reach universal primary education, a program designed to increase access to equitable education for children with disabilities embodies the old parable “it takes a village to raise a child.” As part of its education sector plan, with the support of GPE grants in 2012 and 2016, the government of Burundi prioritizes increased support for students with special needs by working with NGOs and other partners to establish pilot programs that build awareness and inclusion.



*Fabiola raising awareness at school.
Photo Credit: Humanity & Inclusion*

Fabiola is thriving as a fifth-grade student in Makebukou, Burundi, but her path to school was uncertain. Fabiola was born with cerebral palsy, and her father, Claver, admitted, “At first, I did not know it was possible for her to go to school.” His mind was changed by Regina, a volunteer with the “parent peer education program” sponsored by the NGO Humanity & Inclusion. Regina, who also has children with disabilities, helps parents and teachers shift their attitude and understand the benefits of educating all children. “The parent peer educators have changed our life and that of our daughter and it was changed the community’s view of disability,” Claver explained. In 2016, 1,174 children with disabilities were enrolled in school thanks to their support.

With continued support from the Global Partnership for Education, more young learners in GPE supported countries will have access to inclusive education in their local communities, along with the community support and instruction from trained teachers they need to thrive.

RESULTS’ Request and Funding History

As members of Congress submit annual personal appropriations requests forms, they should protect critical funding for anti-poverty programs in the International Affairs account. They should specifically ask to improve access to education by requesting funding within Development Assistance in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for Basic Education, which includes funding for the Global Partnership for Education.

To do so, please submit a formal appropriations request form for Basic Education and GPE to Senators Graham and Leahy or Representatives Lowey and Rogers as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations. Contact RESULTS staff Crickett Nicovich for support: cnicovich@results.org.

Fiscal Year	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19 Conference	RESULTS’ FY20 Request
Global Partnership for Education	\$70 million	\$75 million	\$87.5 million	\$90 million	\$125 million
Basic Education	\$800 million	\$800 million	\$800 million	\$800 million	\$925 million