

PLEDGE FROM WORLD BANK GROUP
GPE Second Replenishment Conference
June 26, 2014

Learning is the gateway to ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The World Bank Group is committed to continuing working closely with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to ensure that the current generation of children and young people learn to read and do math and acquire other necessary skills for life and work through universal access to quality basic education.

The World Bank Group is proud of its long-standing partnership with GPE since its establishment in 2002 as the Education for All Fast Track Initiative. Since then, we have supported GPE as an active Board member, host of the Secretariat, trustee, and supervising partner for the vast majority of GPE projects.

Our commitment to basic education has always been, and remains, very strong. Over the decade from 2004-2013, we provided US\$17 billion in financing for basic education worldwide, of which US\$10 billion came from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank Group's fund for the poorest countries.

For 2014, the World Bank is pleased to announce US\$1.6 billion in new IDA commitments for basic education in the poorest countries. Together with our support for basic education in lower middle-income and middle-income countries – where a majority of the world's poorest children live – World Bank financing for basic education in 2014 will total US\$2.3 billion. We expect our investments in basic education to remain strong in 2015 as well.

Thus far, about one-third of IDA financing for education in GPE countries has been linked to GPE grants. Looking forward, we will continue to look for opportunities to align and leverage IDA and GPE resources at country level and build on our financing synergies.

The World Bank Group joins our GPE partners in addressing the factors that limit the learning opportunities for the poorest and disadvantaged children, particularly girls, ethno-linguistic minorities, children with disabilities, and children in fragile and conflict-affected states.

We welcome the new GPE funding model requirements on data and solid country analysis, as this underpins effective policies and programs. We will continue to work with countries on improving national data capacity and learning assessment systems, while at the same time we launch a new effort to improve research in fragile, conflict- and violence-affected countries.

We look forward to working closely with our GPE partners to deepen our complementarity and help developing countries mobilize and leverage all of the resources at their disposal to ensure sustainable financing for quality, basic education - toward our shared goal of Learning for All.