



FOREWORD

Education is the cornerstone of economic and social development, and equitable growth. It forges resilience in the face of hardships and unlocks innovation and opportunity. Now more than ever, at a time where we face multiple and profound challenges such as conflicts, climate disasters and record levels of displacement, the world needs strong and resilient national education systems.

In Global Partnership for Education (GPE) partner countries, education is in crisis and progress toward national targets remains slow, constrained by economic challenges and the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. One in five children is still out of school in lower-income countries and seven out of ten 10-year-olds still cannot read and comprehend a simple story.

Despite these challenges, GPE is making an impact, delivering record levels of financing and rallying partners behind country-led education reforms. At the same time, GPE has made strides in becoming a more effective, efficient and innovative partner based on country feedback and its two decades of experience.

RECORD GRANT APPROVALS AND REACH

GPE grant approvals reached a record US\$1 billion in fiscal year 2024, with disbursements also surpassing \$1 billion. GPE grants were bolstered by an additional \$3.8 billion from 64 cofinanciers leveraged through GPE's innovative financing mechanisms.

GPE's results in this strategic period have already exceeded those of the previous five years. Since 2022, GPE grants have reached approximately 253 million children, with more than two-thirds living in countries affected by fragility and conflict.

With GPE support, partner countries have distributed almost 169 million textbooks, trained 1.9 million teachers and built or rehabilitated 36,000 classrooms. Nearly 90 percent of closed grants under the current plan met their stated objectives.

PRIORITIZING GENDER EQUALITY AND LEARNING

GPE's strong focus on gender equality is yielding results. Nearly 90 percent of partnership compacts are informed by gender data and analyses, and two thirds of all system transformation grants approved since 2022 focus on gender equality—twice as many compared to the previous period.

Nearly all partnership compacts focus on improving learning. However, data on learning remains sparse. To help address this, all partnership compacts under GPE 2025 incorporate a focus on improving learning assessment systems as part of their priority reforms, and 65 percent of active GPE grants support country learning assessments.

GPE is also supporting countries to increase the number of qualified teachers and improve teacher training quality—the most important factor in improving learning.

LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO MATCH COUNTRIES' AMBITIONS

Transforming education requires more than financing, as reflected by GPE's diverse offerings to partner countries. In fiscal year 2024, both the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) and our fund for advocacy and social accountability, Education Out Loud, exceeded their targets.

We also saw the successful uptake of demand-driven technical assistance initiatives that are supporting governments to incubate context-specific solutions to address climate change, student safety, gender equality and school nutrition.

CONTINUALLY ADAPTING TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

For partner countries to accelerate progress in transforming their education systems, it will be essential to address sector-wide data challenges and to link reforms more closely with results.

Going forward, GPE will continue to support and incentivize partner countries to strengthen learning assessment systems and to report their learning data internationally. A renewed focus on monitoring the implementation and impact of systemic reforms supported by GPE will also help governments to sustain momentum, adjust their approaches and ensure mutual accountability for results.

RESPONDING TO THE EDUCATION CRISIS AT THE SCALE IT DESERVES

Education drives innovation, catalyzes inclusive growth and equips people with skills to grasp new opportunities. Research shows that a 1 percent improvement in learning can increase economic growth by 7 percent, while one extra year of schooling increases earnings by 10 percent. As new technologies, including renewable energy and artificial intelligence, reshape labor markets, workers who are better educated will be able to learn the new skills they need to succeed.

The results achieved through GPE's partnerships and funding clearly demonstrate that progress is possible. However, much more is needed to confront the scale of education challenges in GPE partner countries.

We must urgently step up efforts to ensure all children go to school, complete their education and learn what they truly need to thrive in their economies and societies. Without action to accelerate progress for children in lower-income countries, a generation of children and young people risks being left behind. The world cannot afford to let that happen.

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