

1. Data Collection Process

1.1 70 Pledge Forms Sent to Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Education

The GPE Secretariat sent an official letter to 70 ministers of finance and ministers of education from GPE's 65 developing country partners (DCPs)¹, asking them to fill in a 'pledge form' that included data on government spending. The letter specified that only recurrent budget targets would be used for the official pledges². Ministries of Education were encouraged to work with the Ministry of Finance in setting their targets and to involve the local education group.

1.2 Data Collected for 2014 throughout 2020

Developing country partners were asked to complete comprehensive pledge forms including (i) actual expenditures for the past period (2014-2016), (ii) budgeted expenditures for the replenishment base year 2017, and (iii) budgeted figures for the years of the replenishment period (2018-2020).

1.3 Comprehensive Pledge Forms including Total Government and Education Expenditures

The pledge forms included two categories of items for which DCPs were requested to provide information: (a) Total Government Expenditure³ and (b) Education Expenditure⁴. In addition, some ratios were automatically calculated, including the 'pledge ratio' of (i) Recurrent Education Expenditure DIVIDED by (ii) Total Recurrent Education Expenditure LESS Interest and Debt Service.

2. Data Analysis and Validation

2.1 Quantitative Analysis of Pledge Data

For each pledge form, Total Public Expenditure (Recurrent and Capital, excluding debt service) was compared to [IMF data](#) 'General Government Total Expenditure National currency' (LESS Interest and Debt Service) for 2016 throughout 2020, by looking at their respective trends. When available, historical execution rates⁵ were applied to convert budgeted to actual data. Secondly, the pledge ratio evolution was scrutinized, mainly to detect significant differences between the trends of Total Public Expenditure and Education Recurrent Expenditure.

¹ Albania and Yemen were not included. Some pledge forms were sent to sub-federal levels, which explains the difference between 70 pledge forms and 65 countries.

² Recurrent spending better captures the volume of a country's domestic discretionary resources committed to education. It gives a clearer picture of how government revenue is being channeled and it typically excludes large donor-funded projects which are usually recorded in the capital/development budget.

³ Total Public Expenditure (Recurrent and Capital, excluding debt service); Total Public Recurrent Expenditure (including debt and service payments); Total Public Capital Expenditure; and Interest and Debt Service.

⁴ Public Recurrent Education Expenditure (with the following perimeter (i) expenditure on education by all ministries, (ii) expenditure on education by local government, (iii) employer's contribution to non-salary social benefits if not charged directly to the education ministry's budget); Public Capital Education Expenditure; and the aggregate of the two former components Public Expenditure on Education (Recurrent and Capital).

⁵ Historical execution rates were an average of the previous period (2014-2016). They were applied for the internal validation stage, but figures externally communicated were not altered.

2.2 Qualitative Analysis of Pledge Data

The trends of each component of the pledge ratio⁶ were analyzed internally. If questions arose related to the data, the Secretariat engaged in a dialogue with the Ministry of Education, either to ask for further data, or to obtain contextual explanations for the data.

3. Data Aggregation

For communication purposes, an aggregate of every country pledge was calculated, expressed in a common currency, the U.S. dollar, in the same unit (million). The conversion from domestic currency to USD was based on a fixed exchange rate date, as close as possible to the conference date (January 31st, 2018).

4. Outcomes⁷

4.1 Total Spending

53 developing country partners pledged to increase public expenditures for education, with an overall spending for the period 2018-2020 totaling 110 billion USD, to be compared with an overall spending for the period 2015-2017 totaling 80 billion USD, an increase of 37% between the two periods.

4.2 Increased Spending

53 developing country partners committed to increase their education expenditures from 31 billion USD in 2017 to 39 billion USD in 2020.

Domestic education financing will increase by 25% over the period 2018-2020.

4.3 Education as a Priority

Close to 90% of pledging partners will be on track to achieve or maintain education spending at or above 20% of total public spending.

In 2020, 45 countries will dedicate more than 15% of their recurrent budget to education, and among them 35 countries will dedicate 20% or more, demonstrating their commitment to education⁸.

5. Monitoring of the Pledges

The GPE Secretariat will work with DCPs to track progress against the projected targets on an annual basis, in alignment with GPE's Results Framework Indicator 10 (which tracks public spending on education as a share of total public expenditure, and is aimed at assessing the proportion of DCPs that have increased their public expenditure on education, or maintained sector spending at 20% or more of total public spending)⁹.

⁶ (i) Total government expenditures, (ii) total recurrent education expenditures, (iii) interest and debt service.

⁷ The outcomes do not reflect an additional pledge form which was received from the country of Zimbabwe, following the financing conference.

⁸ For three countries (Bhutan, Georgia, and Niger), because of lack of data, the pledge ratio denominator was approximated using past figures and IMF projections.

⁹ The monitoring will include disaggregated data for Education Recurrent Expenditure (used for the pledges) *and* Education Capital Expenditure. The data collection process for Indicator 10, which will be outsourced to UIS starting in FY 2018, will allow for pledge monitoring BUT Indicator 10 as a corporate aggregate is not the measure against which the Secretariat will review and monitor pledges.