

Global Partnership for Education Backgrounder

The Global Partnership for Education replenishment time is now. Together with the CIEPWG (Canadian International Education Policy Working Group) coalition, GRAN is advocating for the Canadian government to commit \$260 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for the replenishment period of 2018-2020.

The GPE is the only multilateral partnership and fund dedicated to education in the world's poorest countries. The GPE works in over 60 countries, of which 38 are located in Sub-Saharan Africa. **In fact, 77% of their funding goes to Sub-Saharan Africa.** The GPE has the capacity to reach the most marginalized children, especially those in the most difficult conflict-affected states. Sixty percent of GPE's spending is in countries affected by fragility and conflict.

Some of the reasons that GRAN supports the GPE are:

- A key objective of the GPE is to ensure that more girls enroll in school and receive a quality education.
- The GPE fosters an inclusive and participatory approach, bringing all partners at the country level together in a focused and coordinated way.
- The GPE has the capacity to help build strong national education systems. Their innovative approach aims to empower developing countries, encouraging them to commit to increasing their domestic education budget which can lead to lasting change and aid independence.
- The GPE realizes the importance of quality education. Although huge strides have been made in access to education, the GPE helps shape country policies and programs that will lead to significant improvements in learning outcomes (by providing adequate resources, quality teacher training, and new forms of assessments).

The Global Partnership for Education achievements include:

- 64 million more children in primary school.
- Primary school completion rate increased from 63 to 73 percent
- Primary school completion rates for girls increased from 56 to 71 percent.
- Lower-secondary school completion rates increased from 38 to 50 percent.

One Example – Ethiopia has received a total of \$337 million since 2004. With this money:

- 100,000 primary teachers and 17,000 secondary teachers upgraded their qualifications from a 1-year diploma to a 3-year diploma.
 - The percentage of qualified in-service teachers increased from 3 percent to 44 percent in grades 1-4 and from 53 percent to 92 percent in grades 5-8.
 - The ambitious target of 1:1 student-textbook ratio was reached.
 - Quality standards of textbook content were established and textbooks and teacher guides were produced in 7 languages.
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The Global Partnership for Education is seeking to replenish its finances with the goal of enabling the Partnership to deliver better learning and equity outcomes for 870 million children and youth in 89 countries by 2020.

To learn more about the GPE's plans and goals and to read more stories from Sub-Saharan Africa, browse through their new document "*A Case for Investment*" at <http://www.globalpartnership.org/funding/replenishment/case-for-investment-2020>

New evidence shows that failing to invest in education today could slow economic growth, worsen social tension and increase insecurity for the next generation. Spectacular gains have been made in global health in the past 15 years. It is now time to invest in education. Canada needs to show a new commitment to the children of the developing world and in so doing commit to global security and prosperity. **Now is the time.**