



Education Cannot Wait -- We Must Fund the Future

Our Ask: We are urging Canada to commit \$260 million to the Global Partnership for Education for the next replenishment period 2018-2020

- **Education is a fundamental human right** that is being left unrealized in much of the developing world, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and particularly for girls.
- **Education transforms lives.** Education reduces poverty, fosters economic prosperity, reduces exploitation, deepens the foundations of democracy, creates healthier societies, and enables people to reach their full potential. Education can have influence on all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **In Sub-Saharan Africa**
 - 94 million children and youth (ages 5-18) are out of school (49 million are girls).
 - 24 million children are out of school due to conflict and crisis situations.
 - 50% of primary classes exceed 50 pupils.
 - There will be a shortage of 17 million teachers to meet primary and secondary needs by 2030.
 - 123 million women (ages 16-49) are illiterate; there is little data on women 50 years and older.
- **One solution that will make a difference is to increase support to the The Global Partnership for Education (GPE).**

The GPE works in over 60 countries -- 38 of these countries are located in Sub-Saharan Africa. 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 with the goal to strengthen national education systems. In 2016 alone, GPE grants enabled the training of over 240,000 teachers, the distribution of 30 million textbooks, and the building of 3,000 classrooms. Read more about the GPE at <http://www.globalpartnership.org/>
- **We applaud Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy as both visionary and ambitious.** However, true gender equality and the empowerment of women cannot be achieved without education. Investing more in providing quality education for Sub-Saharan Africa aligns with Canada's new development assistance priorities of inclusive growth and governance, human dignity, the environment, peace and security, and helping the most vulnerable populations. *"When women and girls are given equal opportunities to succeed, they can be powerful agents of change — driving stronger economic growth, encouraging greater peace and co-operation, and improving the quality of life for their families and their communities."* -- Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development
- **In the past few years (2010-2015), Canada's support to education in development has dropped by almost half, from \$656 million to \$343 million.** These cuts must be reversed. There are almost 100 million young people who are vulnerable to becoming a 'lost generation', a generation with little hope, who will face a difficult journey through life. **The time is now. Education cannot wait.**

Education, including lifelong learning, is critical for prosperity, economic growth and a peaceful, stable and secure African continent.