

CANADA

AND THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION



OVERVIEW

Canada is a founding member and active partner of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) the world's largest education partnership and fund dedicated exclusively to quality education for every girl and boy in lower income countries around the world. For nearly 20 years, Canada has not only offered deep technical expertise in areas such as gender transformative education, but is also among the top donors to the partnership, helping GPE realize its critical global mission.

Since 2002, Canada's total investments in GPE have contributed to seeing 160 million more children in school in GPE partner countries, doubling the number of girls on the path to equality through education and saving \$6 billion through efficiencies in education spending of partner country governments.

CANADIAN LEADERSHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

In 2018, Canada demonstrated remarkable global leadership on education through its G7 presidency in [Charlevoix](#), Québec, bringing together world leaders and partners to support quality education for girls and women, with a focus on those living in crisis and conflict-affected states. Canadian leadership is helping the world's most vulnerable children realize their right to a good quality education.

Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic now threatens to roll back two decades of progress, creating the largest educational disruption in modern history and widening inequities, especially for girls. Because of the pandemic, the number of out-of-school children will grow substantially for the first time in decades, particularly in the most volatile regions of the world.

In response, GPE rapidly dedicated the single largest source of grants to education as part of the worldwide coronavirus relief efforts. By quickly focusing on the right things in the right places and acting at scale, GPE's COVID-19

fund is helping governments sustain learning for up to 355 million children while learning from the crisis to build the resilience of education systems over the long term to withstand current and future shocks.

In Burundi, Madagascar, Mozambique and Senegal, targeted GPE COVID-19 support will help prevent gender-based violence against girls during the crisis. In Guinea, back-to-school efforts will pay particular attention to the inclusion of pregnant girls and children who may have been victims of violence during school closures

But the world needs to do much more, and GPE is launching its global financing campaign to stop the backslide and put us back on track towards the achievement of Agenda 2030 and our global ambitions for education and gender equality. Shocks to education systems – whether war, natural disasters, or COVID-19 require additional resources in order to ‘build back better’ and ensure that education systems become more resilient and inclusive to drive sustainable recovery for all.

GPE has a proven track record in this regard.

GPE is setting a global target of \$5 billion USD over 5 years to realize these goals. A fully funded GPE will deliver results that go far beyond direct investments, reaching 140 million students with professionally trained teachers, lifting 18 million people out of poverty, saving 3 million lives and preventing early marriage for 2 million girls.

A \$5 billion replenishment would represent, on average, 20 percent of total official development assistance to basic and secondary education in GPE’s low-income partner countries. With expanded use of innovative financing tools such as the Multiplier, GPE will use these funds to leverage an additional \$3 billion in funding to drive the implementation of strong co-created education sector plans to realize GPE’s mission and goals. GPE grants are the catalytic force driving system transformation by scaling up innovations and efficiencies in the training and deployment of female and male teachers, building schools where they are needed most and strengthening the availability and quality of curriculum and learning materials for all.

To safeguard the progress that has been made since the 2018 Charlevoix Declaration in light of the COVID pandemic, GPE looks forward to discussions with Canadian partners on a strong commitment from Canada to support our collective aspirations for global education.

GPE'S EDGE

DELIVERING CHANGE AT SCALE

GPE has a unique value-add within the global education financing architecture. GPE focuses on improving and strengthening education at a systems level to leverage the large-scale transformations required to deliver at least one year of preschool and 12 years of quality education for every girl and boy to unlock their full potential.

Yet, GPE is also the cornerstone of support for action and coordination at a local level to drive change from the ground up.

The partnership brings together government, donors, international and local organizations, youth and teacher groups to work in partnership to achieve a country's education goals. GPE has launched the biggest education advocacy fund in the world, [Education Out Loud](#) (EOL), to strengthen national advocacy efforts to protect education budgets and boost accountability for how education resources are spent.

LEAVING NO CHILD BEHIND: REFUGEE AND DISPLACED CHILDREN

GPE supports educational continuity and helps country partners keep their education systems functioning through wars, displacement crises, climate disasters and health emergencies. Together with partners like Education Cannot Wait, GPE works along a continuum in fragile and conflict-affected states to see that no child is left behind no matter how a crisis unfolds.

When a crisis hits in a GPE partner country already receiving long term support, GPE's role is to provide accelerated and flexible support, all the while keeping its focus on the need to rebuild and sustain stronger, more resilient education systems over the long term.

In Uganda and Chad, this cooperation has strengthened the integration of refugees and displaced children into national education systems; in Bangladesh, it has facilitated access to informal education for Rohingya children; and in Nigeria, it has enabled access to education to more children, including IDPs and refugees.

More than 50% of GPE's partner countries are classified as fragile and/or conflict affected states and more than 60% of GPE's disbursements support education in volatile regions.

DRIVING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH EDUCATION

Achieving gender equality is a priority area of focus throughout GPE operations. Two key objectives of the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan are to strengthen gender responsive planning and policy development as well as to strengthen capacity throughout the partnership to drive progress towards achieving gender results at scale.

GPE will introduce a targeted financing mechanism focused on girls' education to help close the gender gap and see that all girls receive the quality education they need and deserve. GPE's new strategic plan will also hardwire gender equality throughout its operating model, funding streams and results framework to leverage attention and action to address gender inequality in education by:

- Identifying the gendered barriers to education for girls and boys in all

contexts and supporting gender-responsive planning to address the barriers and achieve measurable gender results.

- Identifying and elevating the role of partners with gender expertise to support actions and interventions throughout all stages of operations so that the new strategic plan can hit the ground running.
- Increasing emphasis and support for social accountability at the country level through education advocacy on critical issues such as harmful social norms and child marriage.



Credit: Malala Fund

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The COVID-19 crisis is exposing how tenuous education is for millions of girls. With 130 million girls out of school before the pandemic, we know that the number could rise by tens of millions in the next year.

I am asking leaders to renew their commitment to education and invest in the Global Partnership for Education. If we don't prioritize education now, we will risk losing hard-won progress and sacrificing a brighter future for everyone. ”

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE AND CO-FOUNDER, MALALA FUND

BOOSTING AID EFFECTIVENESS AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

GPE focuses on leveraging more and better domestic financing as the most significant and sustainable form of funding for education. Beyond catalyzing these investments, GPE helps governments look beyond how much is spent on education to how well these funds perform.

By monitoring domestic financing through an equity lens and addressing inefficiencies such as high repetition rates and procurement waste, partner countries could save up to one-third of their education budgets, enabling them to invest more in teachers, learning materials and children themselves.

Working with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, GPE created the **Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX)** – the world’s largest fund solely dedicated to creating global public goods for strengthening education systems. By sharing and funding proven innovations, KIX is ensuring that the most promising, evidence-based solutions get in the hands of national policymakers and can be taken to scale across the developing world. KIX grantees include organizations such as NORRAG, IFEF and CONFEMEN featuring Canadian partners.

Together with partners, Canada can play a key role in supporting GPE to achieve its global target of \$5 billion USD and catalyze real change around the world.

Together, we can help transform education systems in up to 87 countries, which are home to 1.1 billion school-aged girls and boys.