



The Global Partnership for Education is a Good Investment for Canada

Our Ask: We are urging Canada to increase its investment in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to at least CAD 500 million over the next five years (\$100 million/year) for the replenishment period 2021-2025.

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.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating effect on the African continent, exacerbating the inequalities already faced by **vulnerable populations, particularly adolescent girls**. School closures are leading to increases in gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, child marriage, exploitation and other forms of abuse. Research is showing that with school closures **globally, up to 20 million adolescent girls may never return to the classrooms.**

In sub-Saharan Africa:

- Globally, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest out-of-school rate for all ages.
- 50% of primary classes exceed 50 pupils.
- 17 million teachers will be needed to meet primary and secondary needs by 2030.
- Only one in ten homes has access to the internet.

Canada can make a difference by increasing its support to the **The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** www.globalpartnership.org. Canada is a founding member and active partner of the Global Partnership for Education. The GPE works in over 80 countries. Thirty-eight of these countries are located in sub-Saharan Africa. One of the key objectives 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 2018-19 high-income countries were spending US\$8501 annually for every child or youth's education, compared to US\$48 in low income countries. Now with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, this huge per-capita education gap is only widening between rich and poor nations. Canada's continued strong commitment to education is needed.

GRAN, along with other CSO's, has been asking Canada to invest 1% of its planned COVID emergency response in support of the world's most vulnerable. **\$500 million over five years to the Global Partnership for Education is a significant commitment that will have a long term impact on alleviating poverty, boosting economies, and making sure that girls and women can thrive.**