

April 8, 2019

Hon. Nita Lowey
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations and
Related Programs
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Lindsay Graham
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations and
Related Programs
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Lowey and Graham and Ranking Members Granger and Leahy,

We, the undersigned organizations, thank you for your steadfast commitment to fighting extreme poverty and supporting education for children in need around the world. We urge you to fully support the International Basic Education account in the fiscal year 2020 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill by providing at least \$925 million for Basic Education programs, including strong funding for bilateral education programs and \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education. In addition, we urge Congress to specify funding for Education Cannot Wait from development and humanitarian accounts to help children affected by crisis and conflict.

Full and inclusive U.S. funding for the above programs have enabled remarkable progress toward the goal of education for all. Since 2000, the total number of out-of-school children and youth has dropped by over 111 million and global primary school enrollment has grown to 91 percent. However, we have more work to do. 262 million children and youth are out of school globally and nearly 40 percent of primary school age children are not acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills. In conflicts and crises, these numbers are even higher. Nearly one in four children living in areas affected by conflict are missing out on their education. Far too often, hardships such as poverty, displacement, disability, and discrimination inhibit children's ability to access a quality education.

U.S. bilateral basic education programs focus on increasing equitable access to education, providing early learners with foundational skills, and preparing youth for a successful career. With the support of your Subcommittee, USAID reached over 109 million learners in more than 50 countries from 2011-2017, including 22.6 million children living in conflict or crisis settings.

Advancing inclusive quality education through U.S. bilateral programming is critical to achieve sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation, social stability, and participatory democracy.

U.S. support for international organizations, including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), complements our bilateral programs and leverages additional resources for this important work. U.S. investment in GPE has contributed to the enrollment of 64 million more children in primary school and a 10 percent increase in primary school completion rates. Additional funding for GPE will enable over 80 countries to provide 25 million more children access to quality education. U.S. investment in ECW has helped provide 765,000 children and youth in 19 crisis-affected countries with quality education. Continued support for ECW will ensure that resources are available to provide 8.9 million children and youth in conflict and crisis settings with access to education by 2021.

We value the impact made by global basic education programs and urge your Subcommittee to fully fund the Basic Education account in the Fiscal Year 2020 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

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ADRA International

Africa Schoolhouse

Albanian Coalition for Education

American Hindu World Service (AHWS)

Building Tomorrow

ChildFund International

Childhood Education International

Columbia Public Policy Review

Columbia Law School

CreateCATT

Croatian Union of Associations for Autism

Division of International Special Education and Services-Council for Exceptional Children

Early Childhood Development Task Force (ECDtf)

Educate the Children

Enrichment Center for the Disadvantaged (ECD)
Food for the Hungry
Francis Young International
Girl Up
Global Campaign for Education – US
Global Citizen
GlobalPartnersUnited
iACT
Impact Network International
Inclusion International
International Partners Cassie Stern Memorial
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Kenya Education Fund
Libraries Without Borders
Light for the World
Magis Americas
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
Partnership for Early Childhood Development & Disability Rights (PECDDR)
Professional Development and Research Centre International
RESULTS
RISE Institute
The United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
TRIHMS, India
UNICEF USA
United States International Council on Disabilities
World Learning