

October 22, 2021

Dear Chairman Coons, Ranking Member Graham, Chairwoman Lee, and Ranking Member Rogers,

We, the undersigned organizations, thank you for your steadfast commitment to fighting extreme poverty and supporting education for children in need around the world, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian crises. **As you work to finalize the FY2022 State and Foreign Operations bill, we urge you to provide at least \$950 million for International Basic Education, including \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education and \$25 million for Education Cannot Wait, as included in [H.R. 4373](#), the House FY2022 State and Foreign Operations bill and accompanying report language.**

While support for these accounts is always important, the need for international education assistance has increased exponentially in the last two years and now is not the time to move back on the U.S.'s commitment to providing robust resources for the education of children in need around the world. During the COVID-19 pandemic, school closures disrupted the lives and education of more than 91 percent of the world's student population. In Haiti, the August 2021 earthquake destroyed 173 schools and severely damaged more than 270 others, delaying the school year. Over the last twenty years in Afghanistan, female enrollment in primary school skyrocketed from zero to over 80 percent. Thanks in part to USAID's partnership, 3.6 million Afghan girls were able to attend school, many for the first time in their lives. There has been progress, but there are still millions of children out of school who need support now more than ever. Around the world, girls, children and youth with disabilities, young people in crisis and emergency settings, and marginalized groups need support for their access to education now more than ever.

U.S. bilateral basic education programs focus on strengthening quality inclusive education, providing early learners with foundational skills, and preparing youth for long-term success. This programming is critical for countries to achieve sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation, social stability, gender equality, and participatory democracy. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID has mobilized over \$900 million for education and reached more than 24 million learners through a variety of in-person and distance approaches. Efforts include partnering with ministries to safely and responsibly open schools, utilizing distance learning platforms (including radio and home learning kits), and providing psychosocial support and protection services, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

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 to address ongoing education challenges. GPE is the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries and operates as a unique, multi-stakeholder partnership. To receive GPE funding, governments must commit to making significant domestic investments in education. In 2020, GPE mobilized over \$500 million for education grants to support the global COVID-19 response and ensure continued learning, school reopenings, and recovery.

ECW delivers rapid, collaborative responses to the educational needs of children and youth affected by crises and its investments have reached more than 4.5 million children and adolescents and almost 69,000 teachers since inception. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ECW also activated its First Emergency Response funding window to re-program current grants and deliver more than \$45 million in new funding to 32 countries.

We look forward to working with you as the FY2022 appropriations process moves toward completion to ensure that ample funding is appropriated for the vital programs detailed above. We value the impact made by global basic education programs and **urge you to provide at least the House-approved level of \$950 million for International Basic Education in the final FY2022 State and Foreign Operations bill.** Robust funding will address critical international education needs and help mitigate the harmful effects of COVID-19 and other crises. Such investments should not come at the expense of other poverty-focused development and humanitarian assistance programs.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request, and look forward to working together to ensure quality, inclusive education for children and youth.

Sincerely,

Amal Alliance

ANIS

Association du Developpement et de la promotion de Droit de l'Homme

Basic Education Coalition

Building Tomorrow

Child's Destiny and Development Organization (CHIDDO)

ChildFund International

Childhood Education International

Concern Worldwide

Disability Rights International

Educate the Children-Nepal

Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

Education Development Center (EDC)

Education for All Coalition

Food for the Hungry

Global Campaign for Education

Global Campaign for Education-US

Global Citizen

Global Partnership for Education

GlobalPartnersUnited

Global Woods, Consulting

Humanity & Inclusion

Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

Luminos Fund

Magis Americas

Malala Fund  
Mott McDonald/Cambridge Education  
NGO Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi Pakistan  
Organization for Quality Assurance in Education  
Pakistan Coalition for Education  
PDRC International  
PPME Consult Nig Ltd  
RESULTS  
Right To Play International  
RISE Institute  
Room to Read  
RTI International  
Save the Children  
School-to-School International  
Teach For All  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Unbounded Associates  
UNICEF USA  
United World Schools USA  
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)  
World Learning  
Youth With Disabilities Empowerment Platform  
Zimbabwe National League of the Blind