

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR
EDUCATION
UNITED STATES CHAPTER

April 17, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned members of the Global Campaign for Education – U.S. chapter (GCE-US), write to urge you to show strong American leadership for children around the world by committing \$250 million over two years to the Global Partnership for Education at the upcoming pledging conference this June in Brussels.

The Global Partnership for Education is the only multilateral organization exclusively dedicated to ensuring all children have access to a quality education and are learning. The Global Partnership's unique model brings together donor and developing country governments, the private sector, and civil society to develop and fund strong national education plans. By focusing on building whole education systems and not just the separate elements that make them up, the Global Partnership takes a long-term approach to educational development that fosters country ownership and donor coordination.

Thanks to the Global Partnership's model, countries like Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are now implementing their first-ever national education plans. In Afghanistan, after decades of war, a lack of service delivery mechanisms, no national curriculum, a large illiterate population, and millions of children out of school, the Global Partnership is helping rebuild Afghanistan through its Interim Education Plan--bringing stakeholders together to establish a coordinated approach to delivering education services.

Through its pledging conference this summer, the Global Partnership for Education aims to raise \$3.5 billion to support education for 29 million of the poorest and most vulnerable children in primary and secondary school. In doing so, the Global Partnership will increase the number of children completing primary school with literacy and numeracy skills by 25 percent in 66 developing country partners by 2018. The Global Partnership is also revising its funding model to maximize the efficient and effective use of its resources toward achieving its mission, more strongly link its strategic goals and objectives to implementation and data-based outcomes, and incentivize and reward the delivery of results.

With donor pledges of \$3.5 billion at the pledging conference, the Global Partnership for Education has the power to leverage an additional \$16 billion in developing country partners' domestic financing for education. On average, domestic financing for education as a share of the GDP in Global Partnership countries increased by 10 percent after joining. Even now, more than 90 percent of education financing comes from developing country governments themselves. It is up to the U.S. and other donors to help bridge the gaps that remain in poor and conflict-affected countries.

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This year's pledging conference comes at a critical time. Despite efforts by the U.S. and the international community, 57 million children still remain out of primary school and nearly 40 percent of the world's primary school-aged children cannot read, write, or count.

We cannot end extreme poverty unless we all step up our efforts to reach the last 57 million children and ensure that all children are learning. Education is fundamental to your Administration's goal to end preventable maternal and child deaths--a child born to an educated mother is more than twice as likely to survive to the age of five. Even at the primary level, education nurtures citizen endorsement of democracy. People of voting age with a primary education were 1.5 times more likely to support democracy than people with no education. Education is also a prerequisite for economic growth, with no country having achieved continuous growth without a literacy rate of at least 40 percent. We must invest in strong educational systems to build the foundation for all other development goals.

A two year, \$250 million pledge from the U.S. government will help the Global Partnership for Education achieve its goals for children, move the U.S. level of support closer to that of other donors like the United Kingdom and Australia, and fulfill calls from not only civil society but also members of Congress, who have continually supported an annual contribution of \$125 million to the Global Partnership. A robust U.S. pledge would also leverage critical bilateral efforts on education, allowing U.S. dollars to reach countries which are falling behind but where U.S. missions are not positioned to lead on education, and to reach sectors that are beyond the focus of the current USAID Education Strategy but are nonetheless necessary for a successful education system.

We applaud the recent designation of the United States as a UN Global Education First Initiative Champion Country. With this designation, it is time for the United States to pledge to do its part, helping build a better educated world by committing \$250 million over two years to the Global Partnership for Education. The pledging conference is a significant opportunity to provide the Global Partnership with the resources it needs to build strong, sustainable national education systems, end the learning crisis burdening much of the developing world, unlock education's transformative powers, and deliver prosperity and stability to the world's poorest populations in a post-2015 world.

Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Edwin H. Gragert
Executive Director
Global Campaign for Education United States Chapter

AND THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF GCE-US:

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Association for Childhood Education International



Batonga Foundation



Building Tomorrow



BuildOn



CARE USA



ChildFund



Child Labor Coalition



Children's Fund



Concern Worldwide U.S.



Connect to Learn



Edge of Seven



Foundation for Learning Equality



Girl Rising



Girls Learn International



The Global Poverty Project



Global Ties-US



International Youth Foundation



Kenya Education Fund



Mali Nyeta, Inc



Mission EduCare



National Education Association

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New Global Citizens



Nobility Project



Oxfam America



Planet Aid

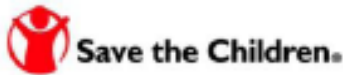


the power of education foundation

Power of Education Foundation



RESULTS Educational Fund



Save the Children



School Girls Unite



Unstoppable Foundation



United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society



United States Fund for UNICEF

cc The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
The Honorable Dr. Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator