Education is a force-multiplier for international development with a high return on investment. For every $1 spend on education, as much as $15 is generated in economic growth. Prior to the COVID-19 emergency, 258 million children were out of school. At the height of the crisis, this number increased six-fold.

Now more than ever, we must maintain our existing investments in children and young people around the world while scaling up effective interventions to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and begin to rebuild. Failing to act risks losing decades of progress in global education and severely limiting the opportunities for a generation of young people. In contrast, a unified global effort could not only stave off the worst impacts of the virus, but could lay the foundation for fundamental improvements to education systems around the world, so we all can build back better.

The Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) urges the U.S. government to increase its investments in bilateral and multilateral international basic education efforts. With strong support, USAID and its partners can lead globally in education. Funding for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW) is critical in addition to U.S. bilateral programs and leverages global resources for this important work.