

January 18, 2018

Ambassador Mark Green  
Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Green:

As members of the Global Campaign for Education - US, a diverse coalition of organizations working to fulfill the right to a quality education for all children around the world, we are writing to urge you to attend on behalf of the U.S. Government the upcoming Financing Conference for the Global Partnership for Education in Dakar, Senegal on February 2, 2018. **We ask the U.S. to attend the conference in Dakar and provide \$337.5 million over three years to support the 2018-2020 strategy for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).**

For over 55 years, with the U.S. government's global leadership, the world has seen incredible gains in its effort to improve access to quality basic education. Globally the number of primary school children receiving basic education has drastically improved, and the world has reached basic parity in the number of girls in primary school to the number of boys in primary school.

Measurable results and innovative financing remain central to USAID's strategies, and GPE has taken significant strides in these areas. GPE is using its newly developed Results Framework – a comprehensive series of baselines, milestones, and targets for 37 indicators – to monitor and report progress against the goals and objectives of their new strategy. Additionally, GPE has recently established the “GPE Multiplier,” a new funding opportunity for developing country partners that further co-finance their education sector plans with additional external resources, such as those from development banks or other donors. This new fund provides \$1 of GPE grant funds for every \$3 a country secures in additional external financing for education.

GPE has a strong track record of effectiveness and a clear foundation of country-ownership and national-level commitment of partner countries. Recent improvements to the initiative, including more independent and experienced leadership, and greater accountability mechanisms at country level, give us great confidence in GPE's ability to deliver effective results.

Despite efforts by the U.S. and the international community, more than 260 million children and youth are out of school worldwide, with girls still more likely to be out of school than their male peers in most of the developing world. The vast majority of these kids, two-thirds of the world's out-of-school children, live in countries affected by fragility and conflict. Additionally, nearly 40 percent of the world's children of primary school age cannot read, write, or count. We know that we cannot end extreme poverty without education. If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the only multilateral partnership exclusively dedicated to ensuring all children have access to a quality education and are learning. GPE focuses on building strong, lasting education systems. It is the only global entity that brings all partners, including international donors, the private sector, and community groups, together around a single national education plan.

GPE's focus on national education plans ensures alignment with country priorities and helps coordinate donor partner support around a single plan for development of the education sector. With the help of GPE, countries like Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo now have national education plans in place for the first time ever. GPE's approach complements bilateral education strategies, harmonizes support, and reduces fragmentation and duplication of development initiatives. For example, framed within GPE's grant to Kenya, USAID and the UK aid agency DFID funded a literacy program that delivered 6 million textbooks and teacher's guides and trained 60,000 teachers in new teaching methods.

U.S. leadership and financial commitments are critical to fulfilling the Global Partnership's replenishment target of \$3.1 billion at the upcoming Financing Conference. With these resources over the 2018-2020 period, GPE will be able to increase their reach to 89 developing countries and improve the quality of education of 870 million children and youth.

Importantly, contributions from donors, including the United States, have the power to leverage additional billions in developing country partners' domestic financing for education through GPE's co-financing requirements that call for developing countries to commit at least 20 percent of their own government expenditure to the education sector. At the 2014 GPE pledging conference, developing countries themselves committed \$26 billion in domestic resources.

We recognize the challenges of the current budget environment and support funding for the entirety of poverty-focused development accounts, but U.S. leadership is needed now more than ever to ensure a successful GPE replenishment in 2018. With the innovative financing mechanisms, co-financing, and the results-based financing components that are being deployed, GPE's model achieves much that bilateral U.S. foreign assistance alone cannot.

We appreciate your ongoing support of U.S. global basic education programs. The U.S. government has made substantial contributions to GPE in the past. We applaud the recent House Appropriations bill recommendation of \$87.5M to GPE for the 2018 financial year and call for the annual allocation to increase in coming financial years to meet the full \$337.5M asked of the US by 2020. With each additional child accessing quality education, a pathway to opportunity, prosperity for all, and global security are possible.

Now, we call on U.S. leadership to not only continue but step up its support in this time of urgency by attending and making ambitious commitments for the coming and future financial years to GPE at its February 2, 2018, Financing Conference.

In partnership,



**American Federation of Teachers**

**Association for Childhood Education International**

**Building Tomorrow**

**ChildFund International**

**Child Labor Coalition**

**EDGE Institute**

**Edge of Seven**

**Educate the Children-Nepal**

**Global Campaign for Education – US**

**Global Citizen**

**Girl Up**

**International Rescue Committee**

**Light for the World**

**Mfariji Africa**

**National Education Association**

**Oxfam**

**Planet Aid**

**RESULTS**

**UNICEF USA**

**United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society**

**Women Thrive Alliance**