

April 22, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chair, Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Leahy, Chairman Graham, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, 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. We urge you to provide at least \$975,000,000 for the Basic Education account in the fiscal year 2021 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. This funding level would include strong support for bilateral education programs as well as \$125,000,000 for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and \$50,000,000 for Education Cannot Wait, which provides support to children and youth affected by conflict and crisis.

Full and inclusive U.S. funding for basic education 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 117 million, and global primary school enrollment has grown to 91 percent. However, we have more work to do. Far too often, barriers such as poverty, displacement, disability, gender, and discrimination inhibit children's ability to access a quality education. 258 million children and youth are still out-of-school globally, and 58 percent of children and adolescents are not meeting minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. 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.

U.S. bilateral basic education programs focus on increasing quality, inclusive education; providing early learners with foundational skills; and preparing youth for long-term success. With the support of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, USAID reached over 109 million learners in more than 50 countries from 2011-2017. This programming is critical for countries 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 ten percent increase in primary school completion rates. In addition, GPE has leveraged billions of dollars of increased domestic budget investments in education.

When a conflict or natural disaster occurs, education is usually the first service interrupted and the last to return. Currently, 75 million conflict-affected children lack educational services, denying them their right to an education and making them more vulnerable to violence, trafficking, child labor, child marriage, and recruitment by armed groups. U.S. investments helped ECW reach more than 2.3 million children, youth, and teachers affected by crisis in its first three years of operations. By increasing support for ECW from our development and humanitarian accounts, we can collectively ensure that resources will be available to reach many more who have been left behind.

We value the impact made by global basic education programs and urge you to fully fund the Basic Education account in the Fiscal Year 2021 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill at a level of at least \$975,000,000. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

The logo for 260BY26, featuring the text "260BY26" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "BY" is in a smaller, lighter font and is positioned between the "260" and "26".

260by26

The logo for Africa Schoolhouse, featuring a stylized green and blue house icon to the left of the text "AFRICA SCHOOLHOUSE" in a bold, sans-serif font.

Africa Schoolhouse

The logo for Amal Alliance, featuring a stylized heart icon with a person inside, to the left of the text "AMAL ALLIANCE" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is the tagline "EMPOWERING GLOBAL CITIZENS" in a smaller font.

Amal Alliance



*American Hindu
World Service*



Building Tomorrow

The logo for the Spanish Coalition of Global Campaign for Education, featuring the text "Campaña Mundial por la EDUCACIÓN" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is the website "www.cme-espana.org" in a smaller font.

*Spanish Coalition of
Global Campaign for Education*



The Child Labor Coalition



*Childhood Education
International*



Education Cannot Wait



*The Global Alliance for
LGBT Education
International*



Girl Up



Global Citizen



Global Campaign for Education – United States



*Global March
Against Child
Labour*



*Humanity & Inclusion
International, Inc.*



iACT



Impact Network



*United States
International
Council on Disabilities*



Jesuit Refugee Service/USA



Joy for Children - Uganda



Magis Americas



Malala Fund



NABU



*National Consumers
League*



*Professional Development and
Research Center International*



*Partnership for
Early Childhood Development
& Disability Rights*



Planet Aid



RESULTS



The RISE Institute



Rukmini Foundation



TASH



UNICEF USA