

April 27, 2022

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, and appreciate the \$950 million appropriated for International Basic Education – which includes \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and \$25 million for Education Cannot Wait (ECW) – in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian crises, we urge you to provide at least \$1.125 billion for International Basic Education, including \$175 million for GPE and \$50 million for ECW, in the FY 2023 State and Foreign Operations bill.

While support for these accounts is always important, the need for international education assistance has increased exponentially in the last several years due to the global pandemic and ongoing humanitarian crises. Now is the time to increase the U.S.'s funding supporting access to inclusive, quality education for children and youth. Two years since the COVID-19 outbreak, [the education of more than 616 million students continues to be interrupted](#). As a result of the pandemic, learning losses have taken their toll, and it is estimated that in low-and-middle income countries, 70 percent of 10-year-olds are unable to read or comprehend a simple text. These learning losses, resulting in lost potential earnings and contributions to GDP, have been compounded by humanitarian emergencies in Ukraine, Yemen, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Afghanistan, and other crises. USAID's leadership has been critical to mitigating the damage of these crises to the extent possible. Around the world, all young people – particularly girls, children and youth with disabilities, young people in crisis and emergency settings, and traditionally marginalized groups – need support for accessing inclusive, quality education now more than ever.

Bilateral U.S. 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. In FY 2020, [U.S. international basic education programming reached more than 25.4 million learners in 57 countries](#), in efforts to improve measurable learning outcomes and expand access to high-quality education for all. Efforts include partnering 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 children and youth.

U.S. support for international organizations, including GPE and 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. GPE mobilized \$500 million in accelerated funding support to help developing countries mitigate both the immediate and long-term disruptions to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting educational opportunities for 355 million children in 67 countries.

ECW delivers rapid, collaborative responses to the educational needs of children and youth affected by emergencies, conflicts, and crises. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, one in four children around the world lived in emergency settings, with 75 million crisis-affected children in urgent need of education support, in danger of, or already missing out on education. ECW has reached over 4.6 million children and youth and trained over 68,000 teachers in 37 crisis-affected countries. An additional 29.2 million children and more than 88,000 teachers in 34 countries have been reached as part of ECW's COVID-19 education emergency response. We also urge the U.S. to make a robust, multi-year commitment to ECW at its 2023 high-level financing event.

We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process to ensure that ample funding is appropriated for the vital programs detailed above. We value the impact made by global basic education and vulnerable children programs and urge you to provide at least \$1.125 billion for International Basic Education, including \$175 million for GPE and \$50 million for ECW in the FY 2023 State and Foreign Operations bill. Robust funding will address critical international education needs and help mitigate the harmful effects of COVID-19 and other ongoing 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 all children and youth.

Sincerely,

ActionFund Africa

African Development Association

African Resilient Initiative for Community & Sustainable Development (AfRICOSUD)

Amal Alliance

Association For Progressive African Youth AJAP-NIGERIA

Association pour l'Integration et le Developpement Durable au Burundi, AIDB (Indigenous Forum with the UN ECOSOC consultative status)

Building Tomorrow

Cambridge Education

ChildFund International

Childhood Education International

Citizens' Right to Qualitative Education

Concern Worldwide

Congo Handicap International

Disability Inclusive Development Programs and Services – DIDEPAS

Early Childhood Development Unit

Educate the Children Inc.

Education for All Coalition

Education Without Barriers-Cameroon

Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities International, Inc.

Global Campaign for Education
Global Campaign for Education-US
Global Citizen
Humanity & Inclusion
ICEVI
Indigenous Peoples Global Forum for Sustainable Development, IPGFforSD (International Indigenous Platform)
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Magajin Gari Youth Community Development Association
Magis Americas
Malala Fund
Odeniyi Ventures
PDRC International
PPME Consult Nig. Ltd
Pristine SACC Education and Technology Initiative
Reseau Mauritanian Education pour tous
RESULTS
Right To Play International
Rights for Disability Development Foundation
RISE Institute
Royal Medico Technical Society Mumbai
Rukmini Foundation
Sage Perspectives
Save the Children
Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability
SI-SA
The Borgen Project
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Tiina Jori Ko Ba: Hope Restored Outreach
Together for Girls
U.S. Africa Institute
Unbounded Associates
UNICEF USA
United World Schools
Webfala Digital Skills for All Initiative
World Learning