

March 24, 2023

Dear Chairman Coons, Ranking Member Graham, Chairman Díaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Lee,

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 \$970 million appropriated for International Basic Education – which included \$130 million for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and \$30 million for Education Cannot Wait (ECW) – in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. In light of urgent humanitarian crises, **we urge you to provide at least \$1.2 billion for International Basic Education, including \$200 million for GPE and \$50 million for ECW, in the FY 2024 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 ongoing humanitarian crises and the global pandemic. Globally – including in Afghanistan, Syria, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen, Ethiopia, Venezuela – [222 million crisis-affected children are in need of education support](#), which is alarmingly higher than a previous estimate of 75 million in 2016. These learning losses, resulting in decreased potential earnings and contributions to GDP, have been compounded by the reverberating impacts of the pandemic. Three years since the COVID-19 outbreak, one billion students in low-and-middle income countries have lost at least one year of in-person classroom learning, [which is estimated to reduce children’s future earnings by at least \\$21 trillion, globally.](#)

As a result of ongoing global humanitarian emergencies and the pandemic, foundational learning losses have taken their toll; 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](#). In the midst of these global education challenges, 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 historically marginalized groups – need support for accessing inclusive, quality education. Now more than ever is a critical time to increase the U.S. government’s funding for International Basic Education.

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, inclusion and participatory democracy. In FY 2021, U.S. international basic education programming reached more than [33.4 million learners in 73 countries, which is an additional increase of 8 million learners from FY 2020](#). Efforts include providing foundational literacy and numeracy skills programming, improving teachers’ professional development and training, and partnering with governments to adopt public sector policies that support increased access to inclusive education.

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. During FY 2022, GPE mobilized [\\$2.9 billion in accelerated funding to help developing countries support educational opportunities for over 107 million students, trained over 675,000 teachers, distributed 56 million textbooks, and built 8,500 classrooms.](#)

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. Today, the number of crisis-affected children in urgent need of education support, in danger of, or already missing out on education, has increased to [at least 222 million children](#). Through ECW's first emergency rapid response, multi-year funding platforms and the COVID-19 education emergency response, [ECW has reached](#) over 38 million children and more than 176,000 teachers in 41 crisis-affected countries.

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 programs that support global basic education and vulnerable children and urge you to provide **at least \$1.2 billion for International Basic Education, including \$200 million for GPE and \$50 million for ECW in the FY 2024 State and Foreign Operations bill**. Robust funding will address critical international education needs and help mitigate the harmful effects of global humanitarian 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,

Amal Alliance

Amplify Girls

Asia-Pacific Regional Network on Early Childhood

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)

Association pour l'Integration et le Developpement Durable au Burundi, AIDB (Indigenous Forum in the UN ECOSOC status since 2012)

Ban Nongnawiang School

Building Tomorrow

Child Labor Coalition

Childhood Education International

Classrooms For All

Edu aas

Educate the Children-Nepal

Education Cannot Wait

Education For All Coalition

Feminist Majority Foundation

Fineagle Institute

Finn Church Aid

First Focus on Children

Fourth Wave Foundation

Gallaudet University International Development Master of Arts Program

Girl Up Soccer Hub Academy Kenya

Global Campaign for Education

Global Campaign for Education-US

Global Partnership for Education

Global Special Education Associates

GlobalPartnersUnited

Humanity & Inclusion  
Impact Network International, Inc.  
Inclusion International  
Indigenous Peoples Global Forum for Sustainable Development, IPGFforSD (International Indigenous Platform)  
International Parliamentary Network for Education  
International Rescue Committee  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
Joy for Children Uganda  
Kenya Education Fund  
Khamis Abdurahman  
Kolawole Olugboye  
Literate Pakistan Program  
Lubuto Library Partners  
Magis Americas  
Maketank Inc.  
Malala Fund  
National Consumers League  
National Statistics Information Authority of Afghanistan  
New Generation Outreach  
NGOs Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi Cantt Pakistan  
Oluwafunmilayo Olalusi  
Open Dialogue International Foundation  
PDRC International  
Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere (P.E.A.C.E.)  
Plants, Inc.  
PPME Nigeria  
Raymadegroup  
RESULTS  
Right To Play International  
Rights for Disability Development Foundation  
RISE Institute  
Rukmini Foundation  
Rural Intervention for Education, Health and Agriculture Development: RIEHAD-Liberia  
School "Zigur Lelo"  
Shivananda Ashram  
Sightsavers  
South Sudan Women with Disabilities (SSWDN)  
Special Olympics International  
The Borgen Project  
Toby Long  
Together for Girls  
UNICEF USA  
United World Schools USA  
World Vision  
Zimbabwe National League of the Blind