

January 9, 2024

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 globally, particularly in light of worldwide humanitarian crises. **As you work to finalize the FY2024 State and Foreign Operations bill, we urge you to provide at least \$970 million for International Basic Education, including \$130 million for the Global Partnership for Education and \$30 million for Education Cannot Wait, as included in the House bill. In addition, we support the House level of \$32.5 million for the Vulnerable Children account, which is vital to support early childhood education.**

While support for these accounts is always important, the need for international education assistance has increased exponentially in the last two years. Now is not the time to regress on the U.S.' commitment to providing robust resources for the education of children in need. [224 million children globally are currently affected by crises and in need of urgent educational support](#); this figure has nearly tripled from an estimated 75 million children in 2016. Humanitarian crises have exacerbated these issues and the need for education in these emergencies.

USAID's partnership and support has been critical to mitigating learning loss and adapting educational programming and resources such as the [Returning to Learning Toolkit](#) to promote equity, inclusion and safety. Even with these interventions, additional support is needed now more than ever. Around the world, girls, children and youth with disabilities, young people in crisis and emergency settings, and historically marginalized groups are facing interruptions in their education that could lead to devastating generational losses to come.

According to a report published by the World Bank, USAID, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and others, [learning poverty has increased by a third in low and middle income countries](#). Approximately 70% of children age 10 are unable to read and understand a simple written text. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 89% of ten-year-olds are unable to read and understand a simple written text. These alarming numbers will only continue to increase if education is not prioritized in funding.

U.S. bilateral international 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. USAID has [reached more than 28 million learners in FY2022](#) through a variety of in-person and distance learning approaches. Efforts include partnering with ministries 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 populations. In FY2022, education programs across U.S. government collectively reached more than [32.7 million learners in 97 countries](#) to improve measurable learning outcomes and expand access to high-quality, inclusive education. A proposed ⅓ cut in U.S. Government International Basic Education Funding would leave approximately 11 million of these children without access to school. These numbers display the detrimental effects of allocating fewer resources to education.

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 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. In 2020, GPE mobilized over \$500 million for education grants to ensure continued learning, school reopenings, and recovery. This funding has supported governments in 66 countries to sustain learning for 355 million children.

Education Cannot Wait delivers rapid, collaborative responses to the educational needs of children and youth affected by crises. In 2022 alone, ECW supported more than 4.1 million children and adolescents across 30 crisis-impacted countries in accessing quality education and achieving better learning outcomes.

We look forward to working with you as the FY2024 appropriations process moves toward completion this year to ensure that strong funding is appropriated for the vital programs detailed above. We value the impact made by global basic education programs and **urge you to provide at least the House-approved level of \$970 million for International Basic Education, including \$130 million for GPE and \$30 million for ECW, and the House-approved level of \$32.5 million for Vulnerable Children in the final FY2024 State and Foreign Operations bill.** Robust funding will address critical international education needs and help mitigate the harmful effects of ongoing and escalating global 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 children and youth.

Sincerely,

1. Adama Women with Disability Association, Ethiopia
2. Amal Alliance
3. APFDC - BENIN
4. Armenian Constitutional Right - Protective Centre (ACRPC) NGO
5. Asdown Colombia
6. Association d'Aide à l'Éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)
7. Association For Progressive African Youth AJAP-NIGERIA
8. Association Nationale d'Inclusion sociale et éducative - ANIS-
9. Association d'Aide à l'Éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)
10. Association pour la Promotion Féminine et le Développement Communautaire (APFDC-BENIN)
11. Austin Global RESULTS
12. BAS Consultancy
13. Basic Education Coalition
14. BRAC
15. Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative (BBYDI)
16. Building Tomorrow
17. Café Learning
18. CARE USA
19. ChildFund International
20. Childhood Education International
21. Church World Service
22. Coalition Education France
23. Concern Worldwide
24. DAFIKESO
25. Deafblind International DbI

26. Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Stanford University
27. DIESU/DEPP Ministère de l'éducation nationale
28. Disability Inclusive Development Programs and Services (DIDEPAS)
29. Disability Rights International
30. EDU
31. Education and English for You (EEFY)
32. Education Development Center
33. Education for All Coalition
34. Embassy of Finland in Nepal
35. Engaging Diaspora for Research and Education Advancement through Partnership (ED-REAP)
36. Enrichment Center Ethiopia (ECE)
37. Every Child Deserves Rights
38. Fidelitas Scientific Execution Facility
39. Finn Church Aid Americas
40. First Focus on Children
41. Food for the Hungry
42. Fourth Wave Foundation,
43. GCE-Netherlands
44. Girls Advocacy Development Network
45. Global Action Nepal
46. Global Campaign for Education-US
47. Global Childhood Academy
48. Global Citizen
49. GlobalPartnersUnited
50. Green Street Partners, Inc.
51. HakiElimu
52. Humanity & Inclusion
53. ICEVI
54. Inclusion International
55. International Development Institute (IDI)
56. International Parliamentary Network for Education
57. International Rescue Committee
58. Independent Learning Organization Sierra Leone
59. IREX
60. Irish Forum for Global Education (IFGE )
61. Japan NGO Network for Education
62. Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
63. Kenya Education Fund
64. Legacy Tigray
65. Light for the World
66. Literate Pakistan Programme
67. Lubuto Library Partners
68. Magajin Gari Youth Community Development Association
69. Magis Americas
70. Malala Fund
71. Maestral International
72. MALAWI Union of the Blind
73. MONTAGNARDS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
74. National Autonomous Trade Union of Secondary Education (SNAES)
75. New Generation Outreach

76. NGOs Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi Cantt Pakistan
77. Odeniyi Venture
78. OMOSEFE ODIGHIBOR FOUNDATION
79. ONE Campaign
80. Orphan and Vulnerable Academy
81. 100 Million Campaign USA
82. 1000 SHADES OF WOMEN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL
83. Partnership for Early Childhood Development & Disability Rights (PECDDR)
84. PDRC International
85. Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere, Inc. (P.E.A.C.E.)
86. Planet Aid, Inc.
87. Pleading for the Widows Foundation International
88. Prime Goals Initiative
89. Pure Earth
90. Raees Child Education Initiative-RCEI
91. Red Regional por la Educación Inclusiva - Regional Network for Inclusive Education
92. RESULTS
93. Réseau Maùritanien éducation pour Tous
94. Rights for Disability Development Foundation (RDDF)
95. Right To Play-USA
96. Right To Play International
97. RISE Institute
98. Rukmini Foundation
99. Save the Children
100. School-to-School International
101. She's the First
102. Sightsavers
103. Sir Syed Foundation, Aligarh, India
104. Special Olympics International
105. THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN ADVANCEMENT SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
106. The Borgen Project
107. The Delia Foundation
108. Tigray Disaster Relief Fund
109. TRIPPINZ CARE INC
110. Together for Girls
111. Tusekwile Imiti Ikula Foundation
112. UNA-USA
113. Unbounded Associates
114. UNICEF USA
115. United Nations Association of the USA Human Rights Affinity Group
116. Village Care Initiatives Sierra Leone
117. VISÃO PARA AJUDA HUMANITÁRIA
118. Winrock International
119. World Learning
120. Worldreader
121. World Education
122. Youth Alliance Working Group of the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative
123. Youth and Women For Opportunities Uganda-YWOU
124. Youth Power, Patuakhali
125. Zimbabwe National League of the Blind