

Education counts

Help us launch our new campaign to get all children the education they need.

Education is vital to ensure that children grow up to be independent and productive members of society. Yet in many lower income countries, children don't have access to even a basic education, and there are currently 263 million children and young people out of school worldwide. As it stands, the world will not meet Global Goal 4 ("ensuring inclusive and quality education for all") this century. With a shortfall of US \$39 billion annually and inequality in access to education rising, it is often the most marginalised and vulnerable that are left behind. While the numbers of children out of school has reduced in recent decades, far too many children still don't get an education, particularly girls, children with disabilities, and those caught in crises.

Around the end of this year, the world community will come together to pledge its support for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a critically important multilateral body through which many global education programmes are funded. RESULTS believes that a strong UK funding commitment is needed to help ensure that GPE can reach its target when it is decided later in the year. Working with other international development organisations, we aim to build parliamentary and public support for a substantial UK contribution.

The UK has been the leading contributor to GPE since its establishment, and at the last GPE replenishment conference in June 2014, the UK made a commitment of up to £300 million, and in total, the UK has given £210 million to it since then. Much more is needed from donors in order to reach Global Goal 4 by 2030, and it is clear that the UK and other donors must place a much higher level of priority on education. This month, we are asking you to arrange to meet with your MP to explain the vital importance of education for overcoming poverty and meeting the aspirations of the Global Goals.

The vital importance of education

Education is vital to ensure that children grow up to be independent and productive members of society, able to look after themselves and their families.

As well as being a Goal in itself, [education is essential to meeting all the Global Goals](#). Education is intrinsically related to other aspects of poverty alleviation, such as maternal and child health, gender equality, economic development, national security, and democracy. Yet education systems around the world face persistent funding shortfalls, which are denying millions of children their right to a high-quality education.

There is high-level global agreement on the need for greater investment in education. The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (the 'Education Commission') was set up to make the case for the urgent need to invest in education. It published '[The Learning Generation: Investing in education for a Changing World](#)' in September 2016, making a compelling case for increasing investment in and political commitment to funding education.

Why are children out of school?

There are many reasons why children are out of school or drop out of school, which vary greatly from country to country. Parents may rely heavily on their children for labour, or the walk to school may be too long or dangerous. For many poor communities, school fees are a barrier to accessing education, and for almost all countries, the lack of facilities for students with disabilities is a huge problem. In some countries, education for girls is not valued or understood, and pregnancy, sanitation and gender discrimination keep girls out of the classroom beyond primary school age.

What progress is being made?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) resulted in a substantial increase in the number of children receiving a basic education. However, there remain 263 million children and young people out of school across the world, and hundreds of millions more in school but not learning effectively because of poor standards.

The new Global Goals go further than the MDGs, requiring that we "leave no one behind", reaching the most marginalised, and the most remote communities. Girls, children with disabilities, and those caught up in

humanitarian crises are among those most likely to be excluded from education.

The Global Partnership for Education

Globally, education is funded in numerous ways: through bilateral aid from donor countries, from domestic funding, and via the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Established in 2002, GPE is the only multilateral partnership exclusively devoted to improving the provision of high quality basic education. Bringing together governments, international organizations, foundations, the private sector, and civil society to deploy technical and financial resources in the areas of greatest need, GPE has grown from 7 developing country partners in 2002 to 65 in 2017.

As well as targeting areas of greatest need, such as fragile and conflict-affected states, GPE encourages countries to increase their own resourcing of education. Public expenditure on education among GPE's developing country partners is growing at a faster rate than in developing countries that are not members of the Global Partnership. They are also showing greater gains in areas such as enrolment, completion of education, and gender parity.

The UK's record on supporting global education

The UK can be proud of its work on global education, and the Department for International Development (DFID) is a leading donor to the education sector. From 2011 to 2014, the UK was the largest donor to GPE, giving £270 million, around 23% of the total. At the last replenishment in June 2014, the UK committed up to £300 million over the 2015-18 period, with conditions on the pledge ensuring that GPE continued to strengthen its operational model and encourage other donors to contribute to GPE, limiting the UK

contribution to 15% of the total. The UK has in fact given GPE £210 million over this period.

An education funding crisis

Unfortunately, aid for education has been drastically declining. At the same time, Global Goal 4 broadens the focus beyond primary education to include early learning, primary, secondary, tertiary education and lifelong learning. The annual financing gap between available domestic resources and the amount necessary to reach the new targets is estimated to be around US \$39 billion between 2015 and 2030.

With the proven effectiveness of GPE's approach, the increase in the number of its eligible developing country partners, and the decline in other sources of aid for education, demand for GPE support is outstripping what donors have provided.

Filling the funding gap

As part of the Global Campaign for Education UK, RESULTS is campaigning for a strong replenishment of GPE at a level that will meet the need for education.

With replenishment of GPE likely later this year or in early 2018, this is a critical moment for donor countries and institutions to demonstrate that they are serious about achieving "inclusive and quality education for all". As the world's leading donor to GPE, the UK has a [crucial role in financing quality education for all](#).

Currently the UK only spends around 7% of its overseas development assistance on education. To ensure that the UK further prioritises education, greater parliamentary and public support is needed. The next few months are a crucial time to raise awareness among MPs, so they can encourage the Government to pledge high later in the year.

Take action

- 1. Please visit your MP to explain the vital importance of education for overcoming poverty and for meeting the aspirations of the Global Goals.** Please mention the Global Partnership for Education, and ask if they will be willing to support the campaign for a strong UK replenishment (we will be asking you to contact them again later in the year when the size of the replenishment is known).
- 2. Ask your MP if they would be willing to submit an oral question for the next round of Department for International Development oral questions – if so, please contact us:** naveed.chaudhri@results.org.uk
The question should ask the Government what they are doing to support public education systems through the UK aid programme. The next DFID oral questions are on Wednesday 17th May and the deadline for submission is Thursday 11th May at 12.30 pm.
- 3. Ask your MP to attend an event with GPE Board Chair and former Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard** in the Speaker's House, 12.30-2 pm on Tuesday 23rd May and show their support for GPE by having their picture taken and tweeted.