GPE Southern Partners Update

A publication dedicated to Constituency Outreach (South)

Special Edition

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Conference: The GPE Financing Conference 2018 took place Feb 2, 2018 in Dakar, Senegal, and was co-hosted by President Macky Sall of Senegal and President Emmanuel Macron of France.

With ten current and three former heads of state, along with more than 100 ministers attending the Conference, this was the highest-level education financing event of its kind. More than 1200 participants attended including leaders from UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, civil society, philanthropic foundations and the private sector. Rihanna, GPE’s Global Ambassador, also participated.

Donor countries pledged US$2.3 billion in financing to GPE – a substantial increase in funding compared to the $1.3 billion contributed over the past three years. With developing countries at its core, the biggest source of financing pledged was by developing countries themselves. More than 50 developing countries announced they would increase public expenditures for education for the period 2018 to 2020 to a total of US$110 billion, compared to US$80 billion between 2015 and 2017. This is a testament to the partnership’s collective efforts and advocacy!

Civil Society, Partners and Youth: The first day of the Conference – Partners Day provided a platform for civil society partners, multilateral organizations, government institutions and youth delegates to participate in panels and dialogues on a wide range of themes aligned with GPE2020 and SDG4. Sixteen youth advocates, including two GPE Youth Advocates, delivered TED-style talks, interviewed world leaders and participated in panel discussions on Partners Day. Overall more than 30 young people involved in education advocacy and activism in their countries were engaged with the Conference.

An incredible set of youth advocates opened the Conference presenting the Youth Solidarity Statement highlighting the need for education systems to focus on gender equality, youth participation, education in emergencies, disability and inclusion and creation of economic opportunities.

Here are some Highlights from the Conference!

Pre-conference Youth Workshop: Plan International and GPE co-organized a youth workshop preceding the GPE Financing Conference to provide young people a platform to discuss and agree on priority education issues, and formulate the youth solidarity statement presented to world leaders at the GPE Financing Conference. Youth delegates from over 14 countries represented various partner organizations including Plan International, ONE Campaign, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Malala Fund, UNHCR, UNICEF and International Disability Consortium/Humanity International.

GOVERNANCE

A DCP Constituency Meeting took place on Nov 29-Dec 1, 2017 in Paris to discuss and provide input to
several items for deliberation and decision at the December Board meeting.

The meeting was organized as a set of thematic clinics on finance and risk, grants and performance, strategy and impact, and governance and ethics. The new dynamic setting allowed time for in-depth discussion and dialogue, with several actionable recommendations made, including methods to strengthen DCP input in the crafting of Board recommendations, to facilitate DCP engagement in the governance of the partnership, on the role of DCPs as producers of knowledge and on how they can contribute to the knowledge and innovation exchange mechanism.

The next DCP meeting will be held in **May 29-31, 2018 in the Africa 1 region**.

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**GPE AND EDUCATION 2030-SDG4 IMPLEMENTATION**

**Global Level:**

The SDG4 -Education 2030 multi-stakeholder Steering Committee is the main global consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee will convene in **Paris on February 28 - March 2, 2018** to define a strategy for global review, monitoring and reporting process in view of the UN High Level Political Forum 2018 and 2019, and review and validate documents and proposals made by the Steering Committee Working Groups and support the planning process of the World Education Forum 2018.

As Co-Chair of the financing working group, GPE will deliver a presentation on domestic financing to raise awareness and discuss the benefits of allocating sufficient domestic resources to education systems to meet all the SDG4 targets. [More information here](#).

**Africa:**

The last plenary meeting of the West and Central Africa – Regional Coordination Group 4 (WCA-RCG4) was held on January 18, 2018. The meeting discussed its work plan for 2018 and other activities. [Learn more here](#).

As part of Partners Day at the GPE Financing Conference in Dakar, the Education Systems’ Strengthening Task Team of WCA-RCG4 organized a panel on “Financing Education in West and Central Africa,” both in development and humanitarian contexts, and discussed future prospects in light of SDG4-ED2030. The Girls and Inclusive Education Task Team also organized a session on girls’ education in West and Central Africa. [Learn more here](#).
KNOWLEDGE AND GOOD PRACTICE EXCHANGE | ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Knowledge exchange, advocacy and social accountability

Thematic focus areas: The Board approved four initial themes for KIX: Early Childhood Care and Education, Learning Assessment, Gender Equity and Strengthening Data Systems as initial themes, with Teaching and Learning and Equity and Inclusion to be added later in the year.

Next steps for ASA: The Secretariat will work with the partnership to develop the final operational design for the ASA mechanism in 2018, under the oversight of the Strategy and Impact Committee. The final operational design will include, but not be limited to, grant agent role and selection criteria, the application cycle including call for proposals process, eligibility criteria, and proposal requirements, as well as approaches to embedding learning and capacity development in the ASA mechanism’s operations. It is expected that design options and recommendations will be provided for SIC consideration at its face to face meeting in October 2018. The Secretariat will also establish a Technical Advisory Panel consisting of experts from the fields of social accountability, advocacy and grant making, to support this design process from January to July 2018. In addition, it is expected that the members of the SIC will consult with their constituencies throughout the year to elicit relevant inputs in a timely manner to inform the operational design of ASA.

Next steps for KIX: The Secretariat will contract an external learning and design partner to operationalize the two KIX components – the Learning Exchange and the Knowledge and Innovation Funds. The Learning Exchange will be embedded in the Secretariat and support knowledge mobilization across the partnership with a focus on strengthening national planning cycles and include peer-to-peer learning. Consultations will take place with DCPs in the coming months to identify key policy challenges within each thematic area and develop calls for proposals for Knowledge and Innovation Funds. Additional operational design features will also be completed including a grant management approach and a monitoring and evaluation strategy for KIX. The Learning Exchange and the first round of Knowledge and Innovation Funds aim to be launched in the last quarter of 2018. The Strategy and Impact Committee will retain oversight of KIX throughout the first year of operations.

GPE Webinar Series
A webinar on Disability and Inclusive Education was held in December 2017, which explored evidence, results and practice in education for children with disabilities. GPE shared the results and analysis from its Disability Stock-take followed by presentations from the MoE in Comoros and Kenya. Watch the recordings in English or French. You can also find all the presentations here.

Read the blog for a look back at the 2017 webinar series.

We look forward to new and exciting topics that will be explored with all our partners in the 2018 webinar series. Future topics will include teaching and learning, health and education, SDG 4 implementation, and many more.

GPE GOVERNANCE CALENDAR

 Meetings from February - May 2018
- **March 27, 2018** – Coordinating Committee Meeting
- **April 10 - 12, 2018** – Grants and Performance Committee Meeting, Paris
- **April 17 - 18, 2018** – Governance and Ethics Committee Meeting, Paris
- **April 17 - 18, 2018** – Finance and Risk Committee Meeting, Paris
- **May 02 - 03, 2018** – Strategy and Impact Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
- **May 22, 2018** – Coordinating Committee Meeting

GPE COUNTRY WORK UPDATES

Country Highlights

**Nepal** - The GPE Secretariat joined the Joint Sector Review (JSR) in Kathmandu, Nepal from November 15-23. The mission participated in discussions between the Ministry of Education and Development
Communication  Knowledge  Advocacy

Partners (DPs) on implementation progress of the first year of Nepal’s ESP (the School Sector Development Plan 2016-2023). A GPE ESPIG of US$59.3 million directly supports the SSDP implementation through a pooled fund jointly financed by the ministry and 8 other DPs. The JSR also included discussions on the Variable Part targets achievement, as well as domestic financing with the Ministry of Finance.

**Rwanda** - The Secretariat conducted a mission to Rwanda from November 20-22 to attend the Joint Review of the Education Sector (JRES). The event was attended by main stakeholders in the education sector, and took place when the next education sector plan (Education Sector Strategic Plan III) and the country’s grand development strategy (National Strategy for Prosperity and Transformation I) were being finalized.

**Quarterly Grant Updates:**

**Education Sector Plan Implementation Grant (ESPIG):** ESPIG applications for Burkina Faso, Tanzania Zanzibar and Liberia were approved in the last quarter. Additionally, seven Expressions of Interest were approved for the GPE multiplier during the Board Meeting on December 5-7, 2017. More news about ESPIG approvals is available in the GPE News section.

**Education Sector Plan Development Grant (ESPDG):**

- ESPDGs for seven countries (Lesotho, Maldives, Pakistan (Punjab), Pakistan (Sindh), Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Vanuatu) were approved.
- The Secretariat approved three ESPDG revisions.

**Program Development Grant (PDG):**

- Six PDGs (Bhutan, Burundi, Kyrgyz Republic, Myanmar, Somalia (FGS) and Uzbekistan) were approved.

**GLOBAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIONS AND ACTIONS**

*Support policy and actions on education around the world.*

**Women Deliver** announces their largest and most diverse class of **Young Leaders** to date – 300 changemakers who have dedicated their lives to advancing gender equality. Similar to past years, the 2018 class of Young Leaders will receive training and resources to extend their influence and actively shape programs and policies that affect the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls, women and young people. **Call or Papers!** The Sector Innovation Facility for NGOs (FISONG), managed by the French Development Agency (AFD) released a call for papers to promote innovative practices promoted by civil society organizations (French as well as others). Find out more information here.

Also check out a new initiative to develop **a Global Digital Library** to increase the availability of high quality reading resources in languages children and youth speak and understand. The platform is expected to launch by the end of April 2018.

**Yidan Prize:** The nomination process for the 2nd annual Yidan Prize for Education Research and Education Development is open until March 31. Organizations or individuals interested in nominating a candidate can find additional information at www.yidanprize.org

**Global Consultations:** Support UNESCO and Global Education Monitoring Report’s #WhoseAccountable Campaign calling for all citizens to be able to legally claim their right to education and add your voice!
The Albanian Coalition for Child Education organized activities on the right to education in 2017. It advocated with the Ministry of Education and Parliamentary Committees to increase financing to education, participated in a government-led technical group to integrate SDG4 into the National Strategy for Development and Integration and developed research documents focusing on, among other issues, education financing.

Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education (CLADE) calls for regional mobilization under the slogan "Financing the Fair! Free and public education for all" to strengthen public education systems, ensure free education, have a fair and equitable tax system, and ensure adequate funding for SDG4. CLADE also launched the System for Monitoring the Financing of the Human Right to Education in Latin America and the Caribbean to monitor how Latin American and Caribbean States allocate resources to education.

Mali Coalition-EFA launched an analysis report on the 2016 and 2017 budgets for education, which identified issues with traceability of funds and allocation of funds for education.

The Madagascar Coalition (CONAMEPT) organized a roundtable in November 2017 on the role of government in the implementation of SDG4 and Education 2030 in Madagascar. The roundtable was attended by key stakeholders including representatives from the Madagascar Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister’s Office, international NGOs, CSOs, trade union of Education workers and students.

Check out all the stories from the countries here!

NEWS and MULTIMEDIA

Featured News:

GPE IN THE NEWS

- Donors increase funding to GPE
- Media coverage of GPE Financing Conference in Dakar, Senegal
- GPE aims to improve transparency and monitoring of education funding pledges

**Q&A with Yasmine Sherif: Education is the “foundation” for other aid sectors in crises**

**Featured Multimedia and Infographics:**

- Slideshow: Powerful quotes from the GPE Financing Conference
- Slideshow: Mother-tongue curriculum to improve literacy in Niger
- Video: Interview with Mohamed Sidibay at the GPE Financing Conference

Find more news and multimedia [here](#).

**PUBLICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS**

**Featured Knowledge Products:**

- 2017 Global Youth Wellbeing Index
- Disability gaps in educational attainment and literacy
- Economic Impact of Child marriage
- Policy Brief: How GPE supports teaching and learning

**Featured Blogs:**
What happened at the GPE Financing Conference in Dakar?

Why access to quality education is not a poor country issue

After Dakar, where to from here?

How can philanthropic organizations help address the learning crisis?

At age 15, this Nigerian education activist isn’t waiting to be an adult to lead

Read GPE’s Education for All Blog!

Tell us your story!
The GPE Education for All blog is a platform for all partners to present and discuss their activities, challenges and progress. Write to us with your stories and work. You can find our blog guidelines here. For questions and submissions, please contact Chantal Rigaud (crigaud@globalpartnership.org) and Victoria Egbetayo (vegbetayo@globalpartnership.org).

UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS

Learning series - Ending child marriage: Which laws and policies help or hinder our efforts?
March 01, 2018

World Literacy Summit
March 25 to 27, 2018 | Oxford, UK

2018 CIES Conference
March 25 to 29, 2018 | Mexico City

Learning series - Turning challenges into opportunities: How religious leaders can tackle child marriage
May 01, 2018

DCP FOCAL POINTS UPDATE
A warm welcome to the following new GPE DCP Focal Points:

- Malawi (Africa 1)
- Mongolia (Asia and the Pacific)