

## key messages on Global Partnership for Education

COVID-19 has created an unprecedented crisis in education, affecting both the funding and the delivery of education globally, with the world's most marginalized children and youth disproportionately impacted. The [Global Partnership for Education \(GPE\)](#) Replenishment Conference on July 28-29, 2021 offers the opportunity for Canada to build on its legacy of support for global education for the world's hardest to reach girls and boys. Education is one of the most cost effective and efficient ways to lift people out of poverty and reduce inequality.

**The ask:** Canada must invest CAD\$500 million over 5 years in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) so that children around the world have access to quality education during and after the pandemic.

**The action:** Please send a letter of support for global education and GPE to the Prime Minister

### The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

The Global Partnership for Education is the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in low-income countries. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together low-income countries, donors, international organizations, civil society including youth and teacher organizations, the private sector, and private foundations.

The [investment case](#) for the 2021-2025 replenishment is \$5 billion which will leverage resources and have an impact beyond its direct investments. Not only does investing in GPE get more children learning, it also has positive impacts in other areas of life by boosting economies, contributing to gender equality, and helping create more sustainable, peaceful, and resilient societies in the long run.

- The 90 countries and territories eligible for GPE support in 2021-2025 are home to more than [80% of the world's out-of-school children](#)
- A fully funded GPE will help partner countries [build 78,000 classrooms, buy 512 million textbooks and train 2.2 million teachers](#) as well as enable [175 million girls and boys to learn](#)

- GPE supports educational continuity. More than 50% of GPE's partner countries are classified as fragile and/or conflict affected states and more than 60% of GPE's disbursements support education in volatile regions

## Canada and GPE

Canada is a founding member and active partner of GPE. Since 2002, Canada's total investments in GPE have contributed to seeing 160 million more children in school in GPE partner countries, doubling the number of girls on the path to equality through education, and saving \$6 billion through efficiencies in education spending of partner country governments. During the 2018-2020 replenishment, Canada pledged CAD\$180 million which represented a 5.52% share of the total 2018-2020 pledges.

In 2018, Canada made the historic commitment to education with the [Charlevoix declaration](#) to support access to quality education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations. This marked Canada as a global leader in education for the poorest and hardest to reach children.

In February 2021, Canada launched a 3-year [Together for Learning](#) campaign promoting quality education and lifelong learning for children and youth that are refugees, forcibly-displaced, or affected by these circumstances.

## Key facts on education

- A staggering [258 million children and youth](#) were already out of primary and secondary school before COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, it is estimated that [1.6 billion learners in 199 countries](#) worldwide were affected by school closures.
- Globally in 2020, an estimated [39 billion in-school meals have been missed during school closures by the 370 million children](#) who were benefiting from school feeding programmes pre-crisis.
- Before COVID-19, the world was already tackling a learning crisis, with [53% of children in low- and middle-income countries living in Learning Poverty](#) — unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of 10. Unless drastic remedial action is taken, the effects simulated here will likely create a substantial setback to the goal of halving the percentage of learning poor by 2030.
- Girls account for the majority of children and youth who are not receiving formal education. An estimated [129 million girls worldwide](#) were already out of school before the pandemic; an additional [20 million secondary school girls](#) could be out of school following the pandemic.

- Girls face greater barriers to education and are more vulnerable to abuse such as domestic/gender-based violence when not in school.
- Universal girls' education would practically end child marriage, more than halve infant mortality, and drastically reduce early childbearing, overcoming some of the main drivers of gender inequality.