

## #RaiseYourHand for education

**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.

### COVID-19: widening inequalities in access to quality education

COVID-19 has exacerbated the existing global learning crisis. As schools closed at the peak of the pandemic in April 2020, a staggering 1.6 billion students were left out of school. With 800 million students out of school today, it is estimated that [9.7 million children](#) will drop out of school forever, with millions more falling behind.

Unlike most children in Canada who are now learning in online environments, children living in low-income countries do not have access to the tools needed to learn remotely. Those who are the [most marginalized](#) are excluded from education systems altogether because of poverty, conflict, displacement, migration, natural disasters, gender, or disabilities - and COVID-19 has further entrenched these inequalities in access to education. The World Bank estimates that [53% of children](#) in low-and middle-income countries cannot read proficiently by age 10.

Girls' education is also being specifically challenged as they are the first to be pulled out of school and put to work to care for younger siblings when families face economic hardship. With schools closed, girls also face a higher risk of violence and are more likely to become pregnant at a young age. Because of these gendered specific experiences, girls are less likely to return to schools once they reopen. It is estimated that [20 million](#) more secondary school girls could be out of school after the pandemic.

Unless action is taken now, the unprecedented crisis in education threatens a loss of learning for an entire generation, causing a devastating impact on a myriad of different elements of their life – including their future earning potential.

### The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

As the world's largest education partnership and fund dedicated exclusively to quality education for every girl and boy in low-income countries around the world, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is uniquely positioned to catalyze concerted global action to address the education crisis.

On July 28-29, 2021, GPE is holding their [Global Education Financing Summit](#), co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and the UK, to stop the backslide and put us back on track towards achieving [Sustainable Development Goal 4](#) and our global ambitions for education and gender equality. A total budget of US\$5 billion is required for the period 2021-2025 to transform education systems in up to 90 countries and territories, where 80% of the world's out-of-school children live. A fully funded GPE will reach 140 million students with professionally trained teachers, get 88 million more children in school including 48 million more girls, lift 18 million people out of poverty, save 3 million lives, and prevent early marriage for 2 million girls. Read more about GPE's global [case for investment](#).

At this time of unprecedented crisis when governments are shifting education budgets towards the health and economic response to the pandemic, Canada must protect education and put it at the very heart of the global recovery effort. Education experts have set Canada's global investment target at CAD\$500 million over five years to maximize the coherence and impact of Canada's overall development portfolio and COVID-19 response.

### Canada's legacy in global education

Canada has a long-standing legacy in support of global education. Canadian leadership is helping children living in the world's most vulnerable situations realize their right to a good quality education. Canada is a founding member and active partner of the Global Partnership for Education. 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.

In recent years, Canada demonstrated remarkable global leadership on education through its 2018 G7 presidency in [Charlevoix](#), Québec, bringing together world leaders and partners to support quality education for girls and women, with a focus on those living in crisis and conflict-affected states.

### What you can do as a Member of Parliament

1. Send a letter of support for global education and GPE to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
2. Become a member of the International Parliamentary Network for Education - email [lindsay@resultscanada.ca](mailto:lindsay@resultscanada.ca) for more information
3. Participate in the [#RaiseYourHand](#) Twitter campaign