

GPE Board approves ambitious new financing and funding framework for global education

28 February – 1 March 2017, Washington D.C., U.S.A



The GPE Board of Directors have approved an ambitious new financing and funding framework for global education. The goal is to substantially increase funding for improving equitable learning outcomes in developing countries, and to channel it in more effective ways.

During its meeting in Washington D.C., the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Board of Directors approved an ambitious new financing and funding framework for global education. The goal is to substantially increase funding for improving equitable learning outcomes in developing countries, and to channel it in more effective ways.

The new financing and funding framework directly responds to the recommendation of the [International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity](#) to significantly scale up GPE.

To help fund [GPE 2020](#), the partnership's 5-year strategy, the Board endorsed:

- The establishment of a **leverage fund that both low and lower middle-income countries could access**. In addition, GPE would crowd more financing into the sector through an increased focus on co-financing, including from multilateral development banks and private investments.
- **Supporting domestic resource mobilisation** – monitoring domestic resource commitments through GPE's operational model is complemented by advocacy for more and better financing at the global and country level. GPE will strengthen its engagement with Ministries of Finance and place a stronger focus on resourcing education sector plans.
- **Enhancements to GPE's core operational model** to improve country-level data to inform national policy and planning and improve domestic finance allocations.
- The establishment of a funding mechanism to support the sharing of **knowledge and innovation** recognising the significant gap in financing for public goods in the sector and the need to find innovative solutions to overcome policy challenges. Southern CSO (CSO2) representatives expressed concern about the possibility of the private sector gaining access to the fund, making the case to be seen as "innovators", and opening up potential for public private partnerships.
- The establishment of a funding mechanism to promote **advocacy and social accountability** for improved policies, practices, inclusive approaches, and more and better financing, at both the global and country level. CSO2 representatives expressed support for this mechanism and emphasized the role that civil society has to play in mutual accountability of the Partnership.

The Board also endorsed a new approach to eligibility and allocation of GPE resources that is needs-based and prioritises the poorest countries with high numbers of out-of-school children, especially countries affected by crisis and fragility. The Global Partnership for Education's approach complements other mechanisms to help mobilise and deliver more effective and significantly increased support for education: the proposed new multilateral development bank investment mechanism and [Education Cannot Wait](#). It is to be noted that the proposed new multilateral development bank mechanism through the proposed International Financing Facility (IFF) has been met with resistance by civil society organisations, notably the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). The GCE has serious concerns over

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a debt-based facility to generate the resources needed for education, conscious as well of the burden of debt-servicing already suffered by many poorer countries, which adversely impact their ability to allocate adequate national budgets to public services including education.

A broad roadmap for private sector and foundations' engagement was presented at the meeting with the goal of the roadmap including a phased approach focused on moving forward with the development of a strategy. The CSO constituency emphasized the importance of the GPE principle of education as a state responsibility and a public good that should be free. They also stressed that the GPE should be vigilant that the engagement of the private sector does not harm public education and that the strategies should be clear that governments are the recipients of grant funding, not private schools, stay coherent with SDG4, and stand against support for profit providers of education.



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Also at the meeting, the Board endorsed the proposed Contributions and Safeguards Policy, requesting the secretariat to develop a list of themes and thematic areas for which targeted funding would be accepted. The current policy allows "notional" geographic and thematic earmarking. Some language was added at the request of Northern CSO representatives (CSO1) to emphasize that most donor contributions to GPE should continue to go into the pooled/unrestricted fund. Furthermore, another concern was that individual donors might invest a large sum in a particular theme or piece of knowledge and innovation work that could distort the overall balance of GPE. CSO2 also raised the point that the orientation of the Partnership not be influenced by this "undue influence" of donors.

In conclusion, the Board Chair provided an update on replenishment. The [Case for Investment](#) will be launched in April 2017 in conjunction with the World Bank Spring Meetings during which some important political supporters for the replenishment effort will be announced, both from donor and developing countries, and will include Gordon Brown as an active champion. The campaign will reach a conclusion at the end of 2017 or early 2018. A range of replenishment levels with different impacts will be proposed that will feed into the Case for Investment.

This write-up is based on inputs from Zehra Arshad, PCE Pakistan and CSO2 representative on the GPE Board, and from the [GPE website](#).

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