

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Board meets in Oslo

14-15 June 2016, Oslo, Norway

By Zehra Arshad and Cheikh Mbow, GPE Board Members representing civil society from the global South

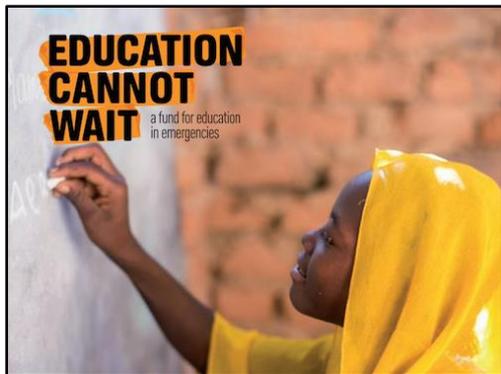
The Global Partnership for Education held its Board meeting in Oslo. The following is a summary of some of the important discussions and decisions taken:

Local Education Groups (LEG) - minimum standards: Efforts were made by the board to improve the standard of LEGs, including representation of local civil society organisations, formulation of Terms of References/MoU's, and dissemination of sector reviews. The Board expressed concerns around accountability and enforceability, especially in cases where standards were not met. They deliberated on how to ensure inclusiveness and openness in LEG processes.



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Replenishment and Strategic Finance Working Group: The Board agreed to continue grants for the implementation of the 2017 replenishment plan, covering the period from 2018–2020 to align with GPE 2020. A replenishment campaign will be undertaken in late 2017/early 2018 which will raise funds for 2018-2020. Grants were approved for the Democratic Republic of Congo (\$100m), Malawi (\$44.9m), and Caribbean states (\$2m).



The importance of 'Education Cannot Wait' was expressed by all constituencies at the GPE Board meeting. The CSO2 constituency suggested adding 'school under attack' as one of the focus areas within 'Education Cannot Wait'.

Knowledge and Good Practice Exchange: The Board approved the overall direction of GPE. Two initiatives on a pilot basis will start in coming months and results will be shared in the next Board meeting. The 2 initiatives are – (1) Early Learning for Development and (2) Assessment for Learning. Both were approved in principle, subject to earmarked funding from interested donors being allocated.

Gender Equality Policy, Strategy and Action Plan: The Board approved the highest resourced allocation, US\$372,000, with a dedicated full time post in the secretariat and consultancy support.

Education Cannot Wait: The importance of 'Education Cannot Wait' was expressed by all constituencies, provided that there is need to prepare a full case regarding hosting 'Education Cannot Wait' by GPE. The 'Education Cannot Wait' governance structure, implications regarding funding mechanisms and decision-making, and capacity of the secretariat were discussed. The CSO2 constituency suggested adding 'school under attack' as one of the focus areas within 'Education Cannot Wait'.



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Results Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: 12 core indicators out of 37 baselines/targets have been developed and were presented at the meeting. The rest of the indicators, baselines, and target will be presented in the November 2016 Board meeting. There was a strong push for demonstrating real ambition with the targets. There was discussion on how to link indicators with the SDGs once they are finalised. Credibility of data, who it was for, and how to disseminate it was also a significant discussion point at the meeting.

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