

# ➤➤ THE PRIVATE SECTOR, PHILANTHROPY ➤➤➤➤ AND THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

## A bold ambition and unique opportunity

The private sector and philanthropy are key partners in the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) efforts to support systemic and transformative education reforms. As GPE enters its next strategic cycle (GPE 2030), from 2026 to 2030, this is a defining moment for education to address global challenges such as conflict, climate change, inequality and rapid technological change, while preparing youth to acquire the breadth of skills needed for tomorrow's livelihoods. A fully funded GPE 2030 starts with a US\$5 billion replenishment. This core investment will catalyze an additional \$10 billion in cofinancing from development banks, the private sector and philanthropic partners. When leveraged alongside domestic

and international resources, this investment will help get 204 million more children into school. Over time, the gains from improved education could add as much as \$840 billion to partner countries' economies (0.5% of GDP)—making GPE one of the best investments in development.

GPE's fifth financing campaign arrives at a moment of growing demand for smarter, better-aligned investments—financing that is anchored in national systems, grounded in fiscal realities, and designed to strengthen country leadership in education for sustainable change. The private sector and philanthropic partners play a unique and critical role in this effort.

## The GPE commitment: Partnerships that drive systematic change

GPE combines the strength of a multi-stakeholder partnership with the resources of a global education fund, aligning financing behind national priorities and driving system-level reforms. GPE strengthens national systems, putting public finance at the center and builds on a track record of leveraging diversified, concessional, philanthropic and private capital, to support countries to move from short-term, fragmented external assistance to long-term, sustainable investments that reinforce education systems and deliver lasting impact. GPE prioritizes innovative financing such as

education impact bonds and guarantees and can further expand our impact and create additional opportunities for investment from both the private sector and foundations. These efforts are contextualized to country education and fiscal realities to unlock, de-risk, or sustain systemic investments and deliver impact. Over 20 years, GPE has fine-tuned its model, achieving greater value-for-money and efficiencies to scale impact: from 2026–2030 GPE will improve education for almost 750 million children with \$5 billion in funding.



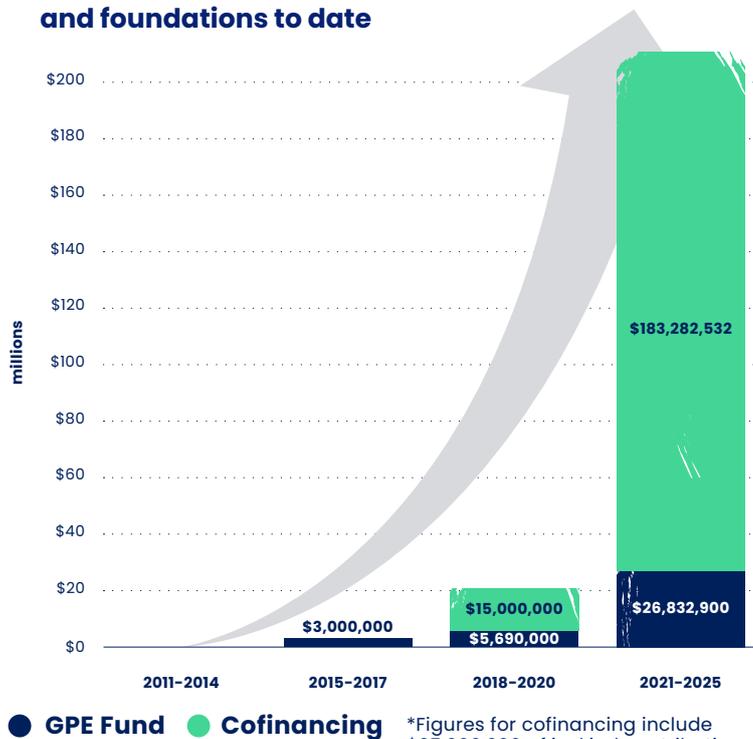
***“Core education delivery is at stake around the globe, so this is the time to step up, including for philanthropy. Why is GPE so attractive to us as private funders? I believe collaboration with GPE offers so much more than just cofunding—it offers global reach and keeps actors and partners accountable for creating a fair, more equitable world so that children can learn without obstruction. Put simply, if GPE didn't exist, it would need to be created today to address the challenges we are facing in education.”***

Simon Sommer  
Co-CEO, Jacobs Foundation

GPE offers a powerful platform for private and philanthropic actors to amplify investments through collective action. The private sector and foundations are represented on GPE’s Board of Directors alongside governments, civil society, donors and multilateral agencies. Through partnership compacts at the country level, GPE brings together governments and diverse stakeholders to define priorities and coordinate financing across the full investment cycle—from planning to implementation and results. This approach allows private sector and philanthropic actors to engage directly in national reform efforts, align with government priorities and define measurable, sustainable results. The GPE model ensures that equity and country leadership remain at the heart of every partnership.

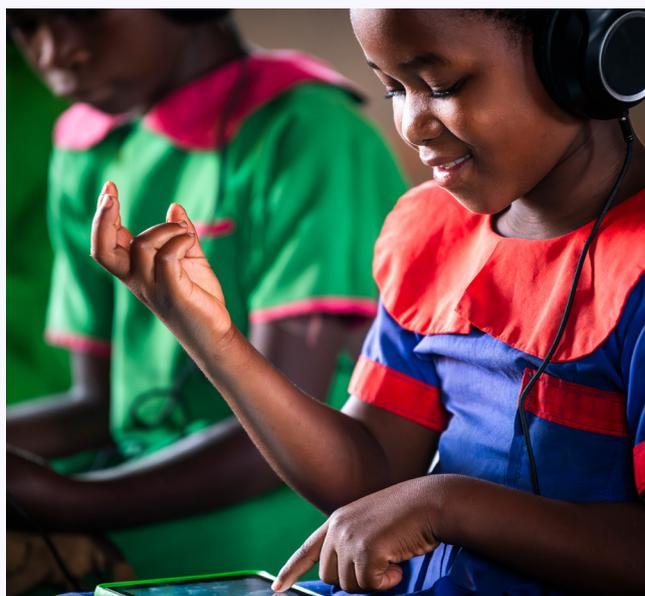
Over the past decade, GPE has developed more than 40 partnerships with private sector and philanthropic actors, mobilizing over \$230 million in new financing and in-kind contributions. The GPE Match is a dollar-for-dollar matching mechanism that incentivizes investments in education from the private sector and philanthropy. Every dollar contributed is matched and can in turn unlock several times more in financing from governments, development banks, and other donors—turning individual investments into large-scale, system-changing action. This is why, in spite of increased pressure on every grant dollar, GPE’s Board of Directors decided to maintain the GPE Match at a 1:1 ratio for private sector and foundations—despite increasing the ratio for other funders.

### Contributions from the private sector and foundations to date



### Philanthropy supports ministry effort to improve foundational learning in Malawi

In Malawi, only 13 percent of children can read by age 10. To address this crisis, the government launched *Building Education Foundations through Innovation and Technology* to improve foundational learning. Implemented by Imagine Worldwide, the program uses solar-powered tablets to deliver offline adaptive learning aligned with the national curriculum to 500 schools, reaching 277,000 students to date. GPE played a catalytic role in supporting the government’s ambition to scale up the program nationwide, providing a \$15.2 million GPE Multiplier grant unlocked with \$15.2 million in funding from three foundations. This innovative approach is boosting foundational learning, reducing learning gaps and strengthening schools’ digital capacity.



Lute counts on her fingers during a math lesson accessed through a tablet-based learning program in Mphimbi Primary School, Central Region, Malawi. This is part of the BEFIT led by the ministry of education that is being scaled up using a GPE Multiplier grant and cofinancing from the private sector. Credit: Ofred Studio

# Tangible opportunities to invest and leverage impact

Powered by the GPE Match, the following modalities offer concrete entry points for private sector and philanthropic actors to leverage their expertise and deploy resources, both through and alongside the GPE Fund, where they will have the greatest impact and reach the most marginalized.

## The GPE Multiplier:

- Financing via the GPE Multiplier allows the private sector and philanthropy to mobilize an additional \$1 for each \$1 invested to achieve impact at scale in GPE partner countries. This co-investment in education programs aligned to national education priorities delivers large-scale education transformation and contributes to building sustainable, self-reliant systems.

## The GPE Match doubles contributions to:

- **Girls' Education Accelerator:** Funders have the opportunity to earmark contributions to a GPE financing mechanism that targets resources to support gender equality in countries and regions where girls' education has been identified as a main challenge.
- **Technical Assistance Initiatives:** GPE offers dedicated financing channels that enable funders to support climate-resilient education systems, school nutrition and the digital transformation of education. The initiatives are designed to strengthen the capacity of ministries and enhance the quality, equity and resilience of education systems.
- **GPE Knowledge Innovation Exchange (KIX) and Education Out Loud:** Targeted opportunities to support action research grants based on established thematic priorities by region and grants to civil society organizations and coalitions to advance advocacy, accountability and transparency.

A new **Foundation for GPE** established in Geneva, marks an additional milestone in engaging the private sector, philanthropy and other non-sovereign partners in support of GPE's mission and objectives. The Foundation will expand, enhance and diversify collaboration with a wider range of funders, to drive innovative partnerships, diverse resources and capabilities, and sustainable financing. The Foundation provides an additional funding avenue for private sector, philanthropy and high net-worth individuals to invest in education and pilot new innovative financing approaches in partnership with GPE.

## Private sector support to education in crisis in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine has disrupted learning for 4 million children. GPE facilitated a partnership between the Ministry of Education and leading private companies to provide distance learning and psychosocial support to conflict-affected children. Google, Microsoft and UNESCO contributed \$25.5 million, including 16,000 in-kind digital devices, unlocking a matching GPE Multiplier grant of \$25.5 million. The partnership trained over 61,000 educators in psychosocial support, 8,000 teachers in digital and blended learning methods, 20,000 teachers in student learning loss recovery and established 39 digital learning centers, enabling displaced children to continue learning.



Scan to view the GPE Case for Investment

## Contact Information

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