

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON KEY RESULTS 2021-2025

June 2025

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Methodological Note on Key Results 2021 – 2025

This document provides methodological notes including data sources and calculations used to derive the [key results under GPE 2025](#)—GPE’s strategic plan for 2021 to 2025.

1. GPE supported 372 million children with better education through grants and cofinancing from partners.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grant monitoring reports submitted by grants agents¹ projected GPE grant disbursements to countries; cofinancing amounts leveraged by GPE grants.
- › **Methodology:** The result includes actual values reported by grant agents in grant progress/completion reports²—247 million children reached by 165 active GPE grants (education sector program implementation grants [ESPIGs], accelerated funding, COVID-19 pandemic grants, system transformation grants, Multiplier grants) from fiscal year 2022 to 2024—and projected data, with an additional 30.4 million children expected to be reached by the end of calendar year 2025 (the final year of the GPE 2025 strategy) based on the expected grant disbursement over that period.

Additionally, 174 million children are projected to benefit from Multiplier cofinancing (59 grants worth US\$3.8 billion) across 52 countries by the end of 2025. Using progress/completion reports from the programs that were financed through Multiplier cofinancing, the projections through 2025 were estimated based on cofinancing amounts and unit cost per child. The unit cost was determined by dividing the actual number of children reached by the amount of GPE grant funding disbursed. To estimate unit costs across grants, the median cost was used, weighted by the number of children reached. COVID-19 pandemic grants were excluded from the unit cost

¹ Guidance on grant monitoring is also available for grant agents (see [implementation grant policy](#)) and standard monitoring templates (such as the [annual progress report template for system transformation grants](#)).

² See [methodology \(annex B\)](#) of the GPE 2025 results framework for compiling the number of children reached from grant monitoring reports as reported by grant agents.

calculations as these brought down the unit cost drastically³ and would have resulted in an inflated number of total beneficiaries.

To avoid double counting, the highest value at the country level between GPE grants and cofinancing estimates was used and aggregated, resulting in a total of 372.1 million children supported with better education through GPE grants and cofinancing. These results were compared against the school-aged population in partner countries to ensure that the total number of children reached did not exceed the total population of the relevant cohort of children.

- › **Notes:** “Children reached with better education” includes all activities supported by GPE and cofinanced programs which can range from direct interventions (for example, the distribution of textbooks) and other interventions in the education sector (like the establishment of an education management information system [EMIS]).

2. GPE grants and cofinancing have helped train 4.7 million teachers, build or renovate close to 92,000 classrooms and distribute 272 million textbooks.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grant monitoring reports submitted by grants agents; grant funding and cofinancing amounts specifically allocated for teacher development and training, classroom construction and learning materials projected GPE grant disbursements to countries; cofinancing amounts leveraged by GPE grants.
- › **Methodology:** The result includes actual values on the number of teachers trained, construction and textbooks from GPE grants (education sector program implementation, accelerated funding, COVID-19, system transformation, Multiplier) from fiscal year 2021⁴ to 2024 with projections through the end of 2025 for these grants and additional actual data and

³ In COVID-19 pandemic grants, the grant amounts were smaller though a high number of children were reached largely given the nature of the interventions—for instance, radio/TV classes during school closures.

⁴ Data for these indicators have been available since fiscal year 2021 as they were also part of the GPE 2020 Results Framework and incorporated into grant agent monitoring reports. However, the indicator on the number of children reached was introduced in GPE 2025 with reporting by grant agents beginning in fiscal year 2022.

projections for the outputs that will be achieved by programs financed by Multiplier cofinancing in 52 partner countries for the same period.

The projections through 2025 were estimated based on unit costs using GPE grant amounts spent on teachers, construction and textbooks and available data from grant progress reports on the number of teachers trained, classrooms constructed or rehabilitated, and textbooks distributed. For cofinancing projections, spending shares for these categories of interventions from Multiplier cofinancing were derived from the 2024 Multiplier study⁵ and GPE grants thematic allocation data.

To avoid double counting, the highest value at the country level between GPE grants and cofinancing estimates was used and aggregated for each result achieved through GPE grants and cofinancing. Teacher results were compared to the number of basic education teachers in each country, textbook counts were benchmarked against two textbooks per school-age child and classroom figures were compared to the number of school-age children in basic education levels divided by 40 to ensure that the calculated values were reasonable.

3. 187 million more children have access to better trained teachers.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grants and cofinancing results on teachers trained under GPE 2025 (see narrative above).
- › **Methodology:** Calculations use a 40:1 student-teacher ratio as a benchmark for average class size with estimates showing that GPE grants (education sector program implementation, accelerated funding, COVID-19, system transformation, Multiplier) and cofinancing have supported the training of 4.7 million teachers under GPE 2025.

Gender equality

4. 51% of children supported by GPE implementation grants are girls.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grant monitoring reports.

⁵ Available upon request.

- › **Methodology:** Out of 99 implementation grants with monitoring reports from fiscal year 2022 to 2024—including ESPIGs, system transformation grants, Multiplier grants and accelerated funding (excluding COVID-19 grants)—73 reported sex-disaggregated data.

5. 100% of implementation grants approved since 2022 include a focus on gender equality.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grant thematic coding results (see [grant analysis](#)).
- › **Methodology:** In fiscal year 2024, the Secretariat introduced the OECD-based gender marker to assess how grants integrate gender equality (see annex N in [GPE 2024 Results Report](#) for methodology and [section 4 of the GPE 2025 grant codebook](#)). All grants approved under the GPE 2025 operating model include gender equality components—for example, alternative education options for girls, menstrual hygiene support, assistive devices for girls with disabilities, policies and training on gender-based violence, awareness campaigns and the removal of gender stereotypes in learning materials.

6. \$225 million in grants will help 3.6 million girls get a quality education through the Girls' Education Accelerator.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grant program documents that include Girls' Education Accelerator (GEA) funding.
- › **Methodology:** Data represents estimates for 15 partner countries based on their proposed reach of girls by grant completion respectively per the grant's documentation through gender equality targeted interventions. The breakdown includes 12 countries with 13 approved programs (two for Somalia) and 3 countries with programs on pipeline for approval as of March 2025. Activities target marginalized girls—such as those from pastoralist communities—by supporting alternative education, improving school infrastructure, promoting girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, expanding access to digital tools, preventing gender-based violence, providing health education and

assistive devices to girls with disabilities and developing gender-responsive planning to improve education outcomes for all.

GPE's support reached the hardest-to-reach children

7. 70% of children reached through GPE grants are in countries affected by conflict and fragility.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grant monitoring reports.
- › **Methodology:** To determine the share of children reached in countries affected by conflict and fragility, the number of children reported as supported through GPE grants (excluding Multiplier cofinancing) between fiscal years 2022 and 2024 was aggregated. This included ESPIGs, accelerated funding, COVID-19 grants, system transformation grants and Multiplier grants. Grants were then classified based on whether they were implemented in countries affected by fragility and conflict. Of the 247 million children reached through 165 grants active during this period, 95 grants were implemented in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, accounting for over 170 million children—approximately 70% of the total reached.

8. Over 1.6 million children reached are internally displaced; close to 157,000 are children living as refugees; 1.4 million are children with disabilities.

- › **Data sources:** GPE grant monitoring reports submitted by grants agents; projected GPE grant disbursements to countries; cofinancing amounts leveraged by GPE grants.
- › **Methodology:** Values are estimated by applying the proportions of children with disabilities, children who are internally displaced and children living as refugees—that were reached as reported in grant progress reports across GPE grants (education sector program implementation, accelerated funding, system transformation and Multiplier) from fiscal years 2022 to 2024—to the total number of children supported with better education through GPE 2025 grants and cofinancing (372 million), including against disaggregated data by countries in fragile and conflict affected situations (205 million) and in high-

burden refugee-hosting countries in which refugees can access national schools (150 million).

- › Of the 99 implementation grants with monitoring reports from fiscal years 2022 to 2024 (excluding COVID-19 pandemic grants), 64 million children were reported as reached with better education. Among these, only a subset of grants provided disaggregated data: 29 grants reported on children with disabilities (0.4%); 5 reported on children with refugee status (0.1%); 8 reported on children who are internally displaced (0.8%).

Learning

9. 85% of GPE grants that measured learning reported improvement in learning, benefiting 81 million children. Grants targeting literacy resulted in improvements in children's reading equivalent to 3 additional years of schooling.

- › **Data sources:** Grant monitoring completion reports.
- › **Methodology:** Between 2015 and 2023, 84 education sector program implementation grants (ESPIGs) and Multiplier-ESPIG grants closed and 81 of these had completion reports available for analysis. Among them, 33 grants included data on learning indicators. As measured by these indicators, 28 grants showed improvements in learning from baseline at the time of grant closure.

Grants focused on literacy and reporting mean scores demonstrated learning gains equivalent to approximately three additional years of schooling. This estimate is based on an average effect size of 1.23 standard deviations from grants that reported average improvements in standard deviations. Research⁶ suggests that an effect size of 1.0 corresponds to 2-3 years of learning. Thus, the educational interventions supported by GPE have an estimated impact on student learning outcomes comparable to

⁶ J. Hattie, *Visible learning: A synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses relating to Achievement*, 1st ed. (Abingdon: Routledge, 2009), https://inspirasifoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/John-Hattie-Visible-Learning_-_A-synthesis-of-over-800-meta-analyses-relating-to-achievement-2008.pdf.

the progress a student would make in over approximately three years of formal education.

The total number of children benefited (81 million) is based on data reported in each grant's completion report, in line with the results framework, and is derived from the total number of children reached through relevant activities or the overall program. Grant agents report these completion reports to the GPE Secretariat including results framework indicators.

10. Since 2018, GPE has raised \$4.7 billion through innovative financing that may not otherwise have been invested in education.

- › **Data Sources:** GPE grant and cofinancing since 2018.
- › **Methodology:** Total cofinancing reflects the combined sum of the amount leveraged with GPE's innovative financing mechanisms through partners including bilateral donors, UNICEF, foundations (including channeled through nongovernmental organizations), development finance institutions, multilateral agencies or regional development banks and from the private sector. The amount leveraged is the amount committed in expression of interest from the cofinancier to the GPE Secretariat which is subsequently reviewed and approved by the Secretariat.

11. Close to 10 million more children have been enrolled in school in partner countries.

- › **Data sources:** Enrollment data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)—comparison between 2021 and 2023.
- › **Methodology:** 9.86 million (rounded up) includes the additional number of children enrolled in school from pre-primary to secondary since 2021 and is based on enrollment data from UIS. Per UIS definition, it includes the total number of students who are officially registered (including children who were previously out of school) in a given level of education, regardless of age, at the beginning of the school year or during a specific reference period.

12. 64% of GPE 2025 grants support climate resilience.

- › **Data sources:** Thematic coding of GPE grants.
- › **Methodology:** Based on GPE grant data coding analysis (see [section 2 of GPE 2025 grant codebook](#)), 37 out of 58 grants (system transformation, Multiplier, Girls' Education Accelerator and accelerated funding) approved and have been active under the GPE 2025 operating model as of end-2024 support climate resilience. Activities supported in this area can be broadly categorized into three areas: i) constructing and rehabilitating school infrastructure with the installation of renewable energy sources; ii) integrating climate/disaster risks and environmental issues into teaching and learning; and iii) improving system resilience. GPE also provides accelerated funding in response to weather-related disasters that cause disruption to education access.

13. Since 2021, GPE investments in climate-resilient schools have helped partner countries to save \$2.5 billion in potential damages from climate disasters.

- › **Data sources:** Thematic coding of GPE grants.
- › **Methodology:** Of all grants approved in calendar year 2024, 25 active grants (ESPIGs, accelerated funding, system transformation, Multiplier) supported climate-resilient infrastructure (identified through grant coding) and an estimated \$252.98 million was allocated to these activities—representing 21% of total approvals for calendar year 2024. Assuming this proportion of 21% applies across the portfolio,⁷ the estimated total amount allocated to climate-resilient infrastructure under GPE 2025 (2021–2024) is approximately \$621 million. Based on research from the World Bank,⁸ every

⁷ Estimates are based on actual values from active grants and applied to the overall portfolio, including grants that closed earlier.

⁸ S. Hallegatte, J. Rentschler, & J. Rozenberg, *Lifelines: The resilient infrastructure opportunity*, Sustainable Infrastructure Series (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2019), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/111181560974989791/pdf/Lifelines-The-Resilient-Infrastructure-Opportunity.pdf>.

dollar invested in climate-resilient infrastructure yields \$4 worth of savings in avoided loss and damages.

14. 60% of partner countries maintained their education budget at or above 20% of total spending or increased it.

- › **Data sources:** GPE results framework indicator 4i in the [GPE 2024 Results Report](#)—tracks education spending as a share of total government expenditure, excluding debt service.
- › **Methodology:** Of the 74 partner countries and subnational entities with available data, 43 (approximately 60%) either (a) increased government spending on education compared to a baseline year, moving toward the 20% benchmark, or (b) maintained education spending at or above 20% based on publicly available budget and expenditure data from these countries. Also refer to results framework indicator methodology ([here](#)).

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