

TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION



A 5th grade student revises her lesson on a laptop under the supervision of her teacher at the Balta Lyceum No.1 in Odesa Region, Ukraine. GPE/Oleksandr Techynskyi

Technology is a powerful tool to enhance learning and it has the potential to remove barriers to education for all children. When supporting countries' use of technology for education (Tech4Ed), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) maintains a focus on equity and bridging the digital divide.

THE CHALLENGE

- ▶ The **fast pace of change** in technology is straining how education systems adapt and equip students with the skills they need to navigate an increasingly digital world.
- ▶ There is a **global digital divide** in terms of access to technology and the opportunities it can bring. This divide is especially challenging for learners who are girls, living in rural areas and/or with disabilities. Two thirds of the world's children (**1.3 billion**) do not have internet access at home, preventing them from using certain technology.
- ▶ New technologies such as artificial intelligence can improve education, but **risk increasing learning inequality** without regulatory frameworks, research evidence and staff training to digitally transform education systems. Technology is often brought in without considering its **long-term costs** for national budgets or safeguards to ensure equitable access.
- ▶ Two-thirds of **teachers feel they do not have the skills** to teach with technology.
- ▶ Providing technology **hardware alone** (such as computers or tablets) to schools **does not improve learning**.

GPE RESULTS



US\$111.4 MILLION

across 84 grants since 2021 to support the use of technology for quality learning.



OVER \$12 MILLION

invested through the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) toward Tech4Ed innovations to improve learning quality and access including a gaming technology-based learning system for children living as refugees and who are displaced.



\$5 MILLION

to the **Tech4Ed technical assistance initiative** to use technology to make education systems more efficient and to improve learning.

WHY TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION MATTERS

With the right teacher support and considerations for accessibility, technology can accelerate transforming education systems to be more efficient, resilient and able to equip learners with the skills they need for a rapidly changing, digitalized world.

Tech4Ed:

- ▶ Allows for learning that uses different modes of instruction (such as a video combining music, speech and text) and low-tech solutions (including radios, SMS messaging and television) that can support learning outcomes for students who are disadvantaged, especially those living in rural areas or are vulnerable.
- ▶ Offers the option of personalized content to match specific student learning needs and backgrounds.
- ▶ Provides an alternative means of communication for learners with disabilities, access to educational resources in a more convenient way and enhances motivation to learn.
- ▶ Ensures continued learning during emergency school closures (as evidenced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic), in contexts affected by fragility and conflict, and in response to climate shocks.

GPE APPROACH

Education interventions that use technology should be designed so that they can **reach all children** and meet their learning needs, address **local** education goals and be used **at scale**. GPE uses the more encompassing concept of Tech4Ed that speaks to the responsible, informed as well as strategic deployment and use of technology and artificial intelligence (AI) tools in education.

GPE's publication "[Making Technology Work for Education Transformation Goals](#)" outlines the partnership approach to delivering quality Tech4Ed interventions that are: led by country context, driven by evidence, designed for all children, safe and secure to prevent harmful behaviors online and protect children, and ensure sustainability and cost-effectiveness. It builds on the [common framework to digitally transform education systems](#) of the Digital Transformation Collaborative, developed in partnership with UNESCO, the International Telecommunication Union, UNICEF and GPE.

GPE Tech4Ed support focuses on equity by **bridging the digital divide** to build stronger and more resilient education systems and to improve education access, learning and system management. In addition to grants for Tech4Ed, GPE offers **technical assistance** to partner countries including targeted expertise, tools and solutions for child well-being. Responding to partner country demand, GPE launched the **Tech4Ed initiative** implemented with support from UNICEF and EdTech Hub to strengthen the planning and programming capacity of education ministries to use technology to improve learning and education system efficiency.

GPE also launched the **Global Reference Group on Technology for Education**, bringing in governments, civil society, foundations and the private sector to offer advice and identify opportunities for GPE to enhance its work and partnerships in Tech4Ed.

TECH4ED IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

In **Ukraine**, GPE's partnership with Microsoft, Google, UNESCO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education delivered over \$53 million in funding and equipment to ensure continued access to education by setting up digital learning centers as well as psychosocial support for children affected by conflict by financing teacher training.

In **Zambia**, a \$10-million GPE grant was used to distribute solar radios to vulnerable students, including girls and children from low-income households so that they could access distance learning. In addition, teachers were trained in using different technologies to monitor student performance, identifying children who may be at risk of dropping out of school and promoting engagement during distance learning.

In **Malawi**, the government used a \$15.2-million GPE Multiplier grant that leveraged an additional \$15.2 million in cofinancing from private partners to scale a tablet-based education program to all public primary schools to improve foundational learning and numeracy skills. The tablets do not require any connectivity, allowing for continued learning for children living in lower-income households with limited access to electricity.