PRESS RELEASE

UK Government and Developing Countries Unite to Make Landmark Education Funding Pledge

UK Government pledges £75m a year for 4 years to Global Education Partnership

Brussels, UK, 26th June 2014 – Global education received a huge boost today, as the UK and developing countries united at a conference in Brussels to commit funding for the next four years to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The conference, which marks the beginning of the partnership’s global replenishment period, saw the UK pledge £300 million over 4 years, which is a 50% increase on its previous annual level of support. Developing country governments have also risen to the occasion, making their largest ever contributions to tackling access to education. Today’s announcements will help tackle the global learning crisis, and have been welcomed by UK NGO campaign ‘Write to Learn’ a campaign to secure funding for global education by Global Citizen, Plan UK and RESULTS UK.

The UK Government has shown strong support for the GPE in the past, and is continuing to lead the way. DFID Minister Lynne Featherstone announced that the UK would contribute up to £300 million over the 4 year period, so long as other rich countries also step up. The UK’s leadership is working, and the landmark commitment from the developing world highlights the progress good aid, trade, and local governance is making on reducing global poverty. It signifies an emerging collaboration between rich and developing countries to co-fund the end of extreme poverty.

Stephen Brown, spokesperson for the Write to Learn campaign and Country Director for Global Citizen said: “There’s a global learning crisis which needs tackling immediately. Today’s announcement is a huge boost and could see 29 million more children in education by 2018. We welcome too, the financial contribution of developing country governments who have really stepped up and are now co-funding our ambition of universal access to quality education.”

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the global initiative that has enabled developing countries to get 22 million more children into school and supported an almost 20 per cent (17%) increase in girls completing primary education in the past decade by galvanising partners, resources and technical advice to support nationally-led action for education. Today the UK increased its annual commitment to the partnership by 50%.

Write to Learn spokesperson, and CEO of Plan UK, Tanya Barron said:
“The strong pledge today by the UK Government of up to £75 million per year underlines the importance of getting a quality education for all. In addition, today’s collective commitment to ensuring quality girls education and disability inclusive education means we are on the right path to ensuring no one is left behind.”

Aaron Oxley of the Write to Learn campaign and CEO of RESULTS UK said: “I am pleased with the important leadership shown by Lynne Featherstone and the UK Government today. Together with GPE, the UK is changing the lives of millions of the most marginalised children in our world including those with disabilities. Their commitment today will impact on the decisions of other donors. We urge other world leaders to step up over the coming weeks and months to ensure GPE reaches its target to fund education for a further 29 million children over the next four years”.

Today’s funding announcements represent a big step towards GPE’s funding target for the next four years. If the full replenishment target is reached, the Global Partnership for Education will allow an additional 29 million children to be given access to a good education by 2018. Achieving education for all is central to ending poverty - if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people would be lifted out of poverty by 2018, which is a 12% reduction in global poverty. With the UK’s boldness and vision on show, more countries are expected to announce funding for the GPE in the coming months.

You can get involved and learn more about how GPE will end poverty by visiting www.globalcitizen.org/writetolearn. You can also show your support by tweeting about the impact that education has had on your life using #BecauseOfSchool.
will improve the lives of the world’s poorest people. Our advocacy focuses on areas we believe have the most potential to make a difference, including global education, financial services for the poor, health, and child survival.

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