

EDUCATION: AT THE HEART OF GLOBAL ISSUES

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) helps countries build stronger education systems as a springboard to stronger economies and more stable societies.

Strengthening education systems is the key to progress across most development sectors, from health to climate change to gender equality. Education systems impact and are impacted by many issues managed by actors outside the education sector. GPE promotes collaboration among all actors with a stake in education because this holistic approach helps reach all children and impact learning at scale.

CLIMATE CHANGE

➤ Impact of climate change on education:

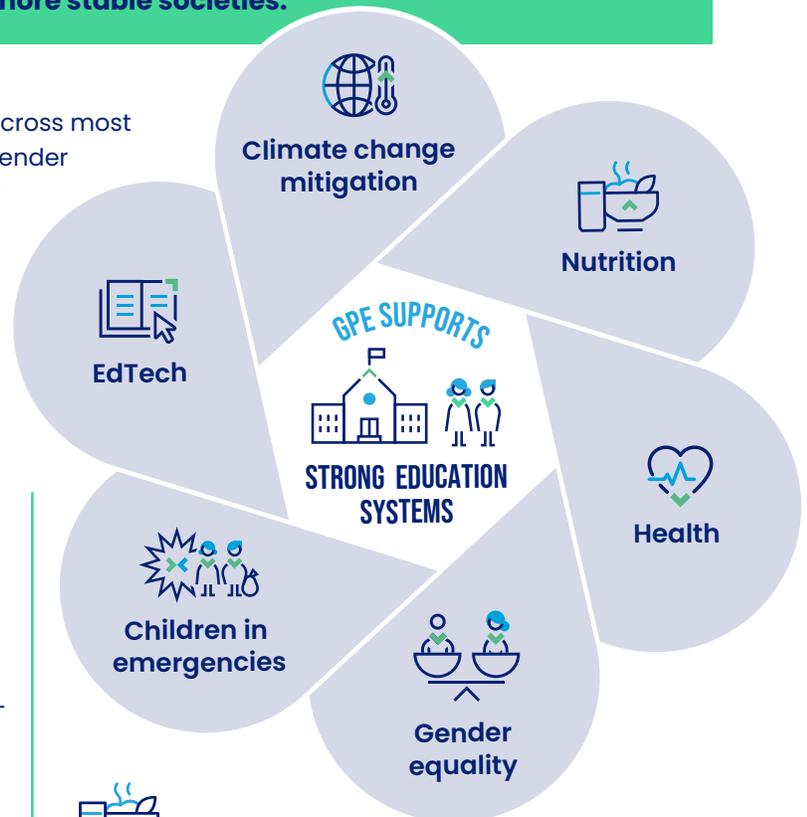
Lower-income countries are facing a combined climate crisis and learning crisis. Environmental changes, including more frequent extreme weather events and water and food scarcity, are threatening children's lives and destroying infrastructure critical to their well-being and learning. Around 1 billion children—nearly half of the world's children—live in high-risk countries on account of climate change. Education efforts will likely fall short or be reversed unless climate change impacts are urgently addressed.

➤ Education to advance climate action:

A quality education can equip people with the knowledge and skills to build green societies. Education is an underestimated but critical pillar of the response to climate change.

➤ GPE support for climate action:

Keeping children in school through climate-related disruptions starts with building resilient education systems. GPE helps partner countries develop risk-sensitive planning, build climate-resilient infrastructure and advance curricula and teacher training on climate and disaster risk reduction. GPE offers partners technical support to include climate risk in their plans, foster cross-sector coordination, and access financing for adaptation efforts.



NUTRITION

➤ Impact of nutrition on education:

Every day, around 73 million children in low-income countries go to school on an empty stomach, affecting their concentration and ability to learn. Malnutrition affects education access, participation, completion and achievement.

➤ Education to advance nutrition:

School-based health and nutrition programs can provide a cost-effective solution. Nearly half of the world's schoolchildren in low- and middle-income countries, some 310 million children, eat a daily meal at school. This food is an important supplement to the meals that their families are able to provide, and for many, it is their only guaranteed meal of the day.

➤ GPE support for nutrition:

Helping all children to reach their full potential means investing in their health, nutrition and well-being, not just in their learning. GPE supports partner countries to integrate school health and nutrition into their education plans so that every child can learn.



HEALTH

› Impact of health on education:

Healthy children learn better and educated children stay healthier through life. In lower-income countries, an estimated 500 million days of school per year are lost due to sickness. Globally in 2016, only 69% of schools had a basic drinking water service and 66% of schools had basic sanitation services: nearly 900 million children worldwide lacked a basic hygiene service at their school.

› Education to advance health:

Schools are the heart of communities and powerful vehicles for health interventions, often delivering healthy meals, life-saving health information and immunizations. A child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of 5, 50% more likely to be immunized and twice as likely to attend school.

› GPE support for health:

GPE provides targeted support to the poorest and most marginalized children through school health activities, such as access to water and sanitation facilities. GPE also strengthens countries' capacity to design and implement comprehensive school health policies.



GENDER EQUALITY

› **Gender equality in education** is about access to, experience within and opportunities through education for every child, regardless of their gender. In low-income countries, fewer than 2 of every 3 girls complete primary school and only 1 in 3 finishes lower secondary school.

› Education to advance gender equality:

Education has the potential to drive gender equality, which is key for creating a more peaceful, prosperous, healthy, and sustainable world. But for education to fulfill its potential, both girls and boys must equally benefit from it. Removing education barriers such as gender-based school dropouts and school-related gender-based violence helps ensure every child has equal opportunities to learn.

› GPE support for gender equality:

GPE helps partner countries diagnose and address gender inequalities so that all children, no matter their gender, have an equal opportunity to get a good education. GPE supports and incentivizes countries in reaching their gender equality goals. More than 80% of GPE grants in 2022 mainstreamed gender equality in one or more activities, such as distributing menstrual pads to school-age girls and collecting gender-disaggregated data.



CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

› Impact of crises on education:

Nearly half of all GPE partner countries are affected by fragility and conflict. Displacement and disasters induced by climate change and natural hazards affect many more. Around 222 million children and adolescents in crisis situations need education support, including 78 million children who are out of school.

› Education to prevent, mitigate and recover from crises:

Ensuring that children have access to education during conflict and emergencies protects their rights, instills a sense of normalcy, and fosters resilience, inclusion and tolerance, supporting recovery and peace building.

› GPE support in crisis-affected contexts:

GPE strengthens the capacity of partner countries to prepare for, respond to and recover from crises, and provides financing to sustain education for crisis-affected children. Where it is not feasible to work with governments, GPE protects the education system from collapse by supporting elements closest to children and schools so that learning can continue.



EDTECH

› Impact of EdTech on education:

EdTech is the use of information and communication technologies in education. When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted learning for children across the globe, countries invested in digital distance learning as an emergency measure to provide learning continuity. The challenges addressed could lay the foundation for re-imagining education and strengthening systems for future crises.

› Education and technology:

Technology can play an essential role in improving the quality of education, with the option of personalized content to address specific student needs and backgrounds. Research is growing on how to design effective EdTech interventions that reach all children and leave no one behind.

› GPE support for EdTech:

GPE is supporting countries to implement a combination of distance learning approaches based on their needs and contexts, and to build stronger and more resilient education systems. As countries roll out EdTech that will be used well beyond the pandemic, GPE prioritizes equity and bridging the digital divide.