

The Global Partnership for Education Changes Lives

September 8 was international literacy day. It went by unnoticed by many of us because we take our ability to read for granted. But the opportunity to learn to read is not universal.

Education and the ability to read is the opportunity every parent wants for their child, and that every child wants for building a brighter future. The right to education for children is not just supported by international law – it is supported by common sense. Education offers children the opportunity for healthier, safer, more prosperous futures. Even one additional year of school can help a child increase his or her lifetime earnings by 10%.

Unfortunately, around the world, a staggering 263 million children and youth are out of school, and tens of millions more can't read a single sentence, even after some schooling. In places like South Sudan, a young woman is more likely to die in childbirth than she is to graduate high school. Out-of-school girls are three times more likely to be infected with HIV than girls who remain in school. The human potential unleashed through education remains hidden for too many children.

Some 263 million children and youth are out of school, according to new data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). This includes 61 million children of primary school age (6-11 years), 60 million of lower secondary school age (12-14 years), and 142 million of those of upper secondary school age (15-17 years).

But the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) makes education a reality for more children, uniting government leaders in lower-income countries with international donors, the private sector, and communities. Together they develop, fund, and build lasting national education plans and systems to educate the most vulnerable children, from preschool through high school. About 60% of GPE support is in countries affected by fragility or conflict, where about two-thirds of out-of-school children live.

If the world comes together around GPE's latest plan, we can support GPE countries towards the goals of 19 million more children completing primary school, 6.6 million more children completing lower secondary school, and training 1.7 million teachers over the next three years.

Why the Global Partnership for Education?

GPE is the only organization of its kind dedicated exclusively to education in the world's lowest-income and most fragile countries. About 60% of GPE support is in countries affected by fragility or conflict, and yet even in those circumstances, the effectiveness of GPE has meant 64 million more children are now in school in GPE partner countries as compared to 2002. GPE works collaboratively and strategically across key stakeholders. The overwhelming share of investment in education for vulnerable children comes from governments in lower-income countries themselves. Donor financing helps bridge critical remaining gaps.

U.S. Leadership is Vital

With RESULTS' advocacy, the U.S. government has made increasing annual investments in GPE since 2011, helping drive its success. Now we must generate greater knowledge and support for GPE in Congress so that the US is prepared to make leadership commitment to GPE at a pledging conference to be held in early 2018. The bipartisan GPE Resolution, H.Res. 466, acknowledges the importance of global education and the great work of GPE. It is our vehicle for educating members of Congress and getting them on record in support of GPE. Our goal is to get 150 House members to cosponsor the resolution, including 50 Republicans. Can you get your representative to cosponsor?

Use EPIC and a Personal Story to Request Cosponsorship of H.Res. 466

Engage: September 8 was International Literacy Day, though most of us did not take notice because we take our literacy for granted. But when I think about it, my literacy has allowed me to... (insert reasons or a personal story).

Problem: So, it's hard to believe that 263 million children and youth around the world who should be in the classroom, are not.

Inform: Since 2011, the U.S. government has invested in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), helping tens of millions of children access a quality education. Now GPE is launching an ambitious new plan to accelerate progress on global education and put an additional 25 million kids through school between 2018-2020.

Call to Action: Please voice your support for global education in poor nations and GPE by cosponsoring H.Res. 466, the GPE Resolution.

GPE Support in Côte d'Ivoire:

"My parents never went to school. I am the first girl in my family to go to school. My favorite subjects are mathematics, science and geography. I would like to be a teacher." Juliana, age 11

After a decade of civil war, GPE supported Côte d'Ivoire to develop a new education sector plan. A US\$41.4 million GPE grant helped to train teachers and build more schools in remote areas; including providing separate toilets for girls and boys. GPE's support, together with help from the local community, means Juliana has a school closer to her home, making her walk to school safer, and giving her more time to spend on homework and helping her parents in the cocoa plantation. In September 2015, a new law made school compulsory for all girls and boys; in the same year, the government increased the education budget by 25 percent.

Data source: The Global Partnership for Education – www.globalpartnership.org

Leading with Action: Advocacy Workshop Agenda

Below is a sample agenda and script that you can use to put people in your community into action. We know that when people take action they get inspired. The agenda below would require a meeting of roughly 60 minutes. Adapt the elements to fit your style and timeframe.

I. Setting the Stage – 15 Minutes

2 min: Welcome and acknowledge people for being there.

“Thanks to all of you for coming. There are a lot of ways you could be spending the day, and I want to thank all of you for coming out and learning more about how YOU can play a role in the movement to end poverty. Can the RESULTS volunteers briefly say their name and how many years you’ve been involved? Also, can you all be sure to sign our sign in sheet?”

3 min: State the purpose of the meeting.

“Our purpose today is to inspire you all about the difference you can make, working with others, to create the political will to end hunger and poverty. In the next few minutes, we’ll . . .

- Learn a bit about RESULTS, the group organizing this.
- We will learn about an issue of poverty.
- We will take an action that will make a difference on that issue. We'll write a letter about the Global Partnership for Education that we'll hand-carry to our representative.
- Finally, we'll see who is interested in continuing to make a difference with RESULTS.”

10 min: Center the room and do introductions.

“Let’s see who’s in the room tonight and get in touch with why we are here. Please give us your name and tell us briefly why acting on issue of poverty is important to you.” Other possible questions, “What are you committed to in life?” or “Who do you want to be in the world?”

Afterward, “Thank you all for sharing what is important to you. We have a lot in common.”

II. The Basics of RESULTS – 10 Minutes

RESULTS is...

“So, what is RESULTS? RESULTS is movement of passionate, committed, everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. As volunteers, we receive training, support, and inspiration to become skilled advocates. In time, we learn to effectively advise policy makers, guiding them toward decisions that will improve access to health, education, and economic opportunity. Together we realize the incredible power we possess to use our voices to change the world. “

Show the video if you have time: We Have a Vision:

http://www.results.org/blog/we_have_a_vision/

1. An example of our success is protecting development assistance for FY2017. We helped secure the highest number of letter signers ever for AIDS, TB, and malaria; global education; and maternal and child health, which helped protect funding, even when the President has proposed a 30% cut to these programs.
2. A local example of our role in creating change is: We moved Rep. _____ to sign on to xxx letter as part of this—he met with us in _____ (month) of 2017, which was key in getting his/her support.

A few more details if you have time:

- RESULTS partners meet twice per month to plan and take action.
- During one of those meetings, we connect to a national webinar to learn more about an issue, learn to speak powerfully, and take action to communicate with our elected officials by sending them letters.
- We also develop plans for influencing our decision makers through face-to-face meetings, the media, and community action.

III. Issues & Action Component – 30 Minutes

1. Introduce the issue of the Global Partnership for Education with a story or video:
 - *GPE in Chad*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r--C6L-8LcE&feature=youtu.be>
 - *All Girls Deserve School Beyond Primary*: <http://tinyurl.com/GirlsDeserveSchool>
 - *Investment in Pre-School Pays*: <https://youtu.be/dFUW8Bdgzv8>
 - *GPE supports countries after disasters*: <https://tinyurl.com/GPEinMadagascar>
 - *Find others here*: <http://www.globalpartnership.org/news-and-media/multimedia>
2. Read the September Action Sheet together, including sample letter.
3. If people don't know their members of Congress, show them how to find their legislators and relevant contact information online.
4. Everyone writes letters. Encourage them to personalize. Remember to tell people to add date, name, address, email, phone.
5. Have one or two people volunteer to read their letter out loud for feedback and encouragement.
6. Let people know how/when you'll deliver their letters and that you'll report back.
7. Debrief on the action-taking.

IV. Invitation to Attend the Next Meeting & Closing – 5 Minutes

“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one about RESULTS and taking people through the process of taking action by writing letters like the ones you wrote tonight.

- Who is up for doing this again?
- Who knows other people or groups who might be interested?
- We are also looking for people who want to take the next step in using their voice to work with the media and Congress with our group. Who is curious about what our chapter does and wants to learn more?
- Who is interested in learning more about supporting RESULTS financially?”

Share thank yous, and be sure to capture contact information including name, phone, email, address. If you send it to Ken Patterson (kpatterson@results.org), we can sign these new people up for twice-monthly action alerts.