The Global Campaign for Education, US (GCE-US) is a broad-based coalition of faith-based groups, nonprofit organizations, teachers’ unions and foundations dedicated to ensuring universal quality education for all children and youth. GCE-US promotes access to education as a basic human right and mobilizes the public to create political will in the US and internationally to improve education for children around the world.

The Facts

- There are over 260 million children worldwide who do not have access to quality education. Most of these children live in conflict or crisis-affected countries.
- 171 million people would no longer live in poverty if students in low-income countries finished school with basic reading skills.
- Investing in quality education can reduce the potential for violence, promote peace and increase economic stability.
- Every additional year of school reduces a young man’s risk of becoming involved in conflict by 20%.
- It is estimated that 60 low to middle-income countries are losing nearly $90 billion a year by not educating their girls to the level they do their boys.
- Worldwide, it is estimated that there are 93 million children with disabilities. Half of those children with disabilities are excluded from school.
- The inclusion of youth with disabilities has immense benefits: Evidence from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal and the Philippines shows that the returns on investing in education for people with disabilities are two to three times higher than that of persons without disabilities.

Girls’ Education Facts

- Girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys.
- Girls face special barriers when accessing school like lack of hygiene facilities and sanitation, child marriage, social isolation and gender discrimination. [Link](http://bit.ly/GirlUpEducation)
- Less than 40% of countries provide girls and boys with equal access to education. [Link](http://bit.ly/UNESCOGirlsEdFacts)
- Only 39% of countries have equal proportions of boys and girls enrolled in secondary education. [Link](http://bit.ly/UNESCOGirlsEdFacts)
- Of the world’s 774 million illiterate adults, 2/3 are women. The share of illiterate women has not changed for the past 20 years. Among the world’s 123 million illiterate youth, 76 million are female. These gender disparities remain persistent, with little change over time. [Link](http://bit.ly/UNESCOGirlsEdFacts)
- The female literacy rate is under 50% in +12 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In several cases it’s under 20%. [Link](http://bit.ly/UNESCOGirlsEdFacts)
- Children who are born to mothers who can read are 50% more likely to survive past age 5. [Link](http://bit.ly/2AT2Ajm)

The Solutions

In order to invest in quality education for all children, including girls and young women, we call on Congress to support funding for international basic education programs.

Support the Global Partnership for Education: The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is a multilateral partnership fund exclusively dedicated to ensuring all children have access to quality education and are learning. GPE focuses on building strong, lasting education systems. It is the only global entity that brings all partners, including international donors, the private sector, and community groups, together around a single national education plan. GPE has a strong track record of effectiveness and a clear foundation of country-ownership and national-level commitment of partner countries.
We call on Congress to allocate $125 million to the Global Partnership for Education as they look to the fiscal year 2020 Budget.

Ensure education for children who live in countries affected by crisis/emergency: Today, one in four of the world’s school-aged children live in countries affected by crises. Of these children, 75 million are either in danger of or already missing out on, their right to education. Through robust funding of global basic education and humanitarian assistance, we can help reduce poverty through economic growth, build markets for U.S. exports, enhance stability and security, and promote effective development across sectors. Established at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, the Education Cannot Wait Fund for Education in Emergencies (ECW) is an effort to transform the delivery of education in emergencies by bringing together governments, humanitarian and development actors, and the private sector to deliver a more collaborative and transparent response to the educational needs of children and youth affected by crises. With both rapid response and multi-year funding platforms, ECW has already disbursed $78 million to support education in 14 different countries, assisting 3.4 million children and 20,000 teachers.

We call on Congress to maintain, at a minimum, the initial $21 million investment for ECW as they look to the fiscal year 2020 Budget.

Support bilateral basic education programming: Since 2011, U.S. funding has supported 151 basic education programs, reaching over 50 million learners in 51 countries and training over 460,000 teachers annually. The current USAID Education Strategy focuses on improving reading skills for 100 million learners and supporting workforce development programs so that students develop the skills necessary to contribute to the global workforce and build self-reliance. In conflict and crisis situations, USAID’s basic education programs provide students with a stabilizing influence and foster the peace-building and conflict prevention skills that are vital to social rebuilding and global stability. By focusing on clear goals in strong bilateral programs, the U.S. is able to build relationships with other education actors around our common goals and share our unique technical knowledge and capabilities. With USAID developing their new, whole of government strategy, it is critical that their important work is funded at the highest possible levels.

We call on Congress to allocate $800 million for bilateral basic education programming as they look to the fiscal year 2020 Budget.

Find out more

- Visit www.gce-us.org for more information and to sign-up for action alerts
- Like GCE-US on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/campaignforeducationusa
- Follow GCE-US on Twitter: www.twitter.com/GCE_US
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A multilateral means an organization receives funds from various country donors and then the organization gives those funds to multiple recipient countries to support development.