

Fund the Future: ten steps to ensure education for millions more children

As world leaders are set to meet at the Global Partnership for Education, GCE's has launched a new report 'fund-the-future'. The report calls for urgent increases and improvements in aid to education if the world is to have any chance of meeting the Education for All goals by 2015. Despite recent gains in education, 67 million children are still without the chance of an education. The report has been written by global education experts – and pulls together ten key principles for financing the future of education, and achieving Education for All.

"As the world is enraptured with the fight for economic justice – education must be prioritised", commented report author and GCE board member, David Archer from ActionAid, "Our 'fund the future' report shows that spending on basic education is dangerously low and poorly invested. We don't need rocket scientists to fix the global education crisis, but we do need good quality education for a new generation of scientists, teachers, and doctors. For economic justice to prevail we must fund education, and fund it well".

Whilst the world's poorest countries have prioritised education, rich countries have failed to do the same. Recent progress, resulting in 40 million more children going to school since 2000, risks being swept away unless resources are made available. Of their aid expenditure, basic education makes up on average only 4% of the money donors spend, in comparison to an average of 9% that is invested from the national budgets of low income countries.

The report outlines a ten-point plan for financing good quality education for all – which includes spending 10% of budgets (aid and national) on basic education, and improving the quality of aid to education. Instead of spending money on expensive overseas consultants or scholarships to rich country universities, the money must go to education ministries who have credible long-term education plans, making sure that funds are invested in priorities such as the recruitment of more and better trained teachers.

The report aims to influence the newly re-branded and re-launched 'Global Partnership for Education' as they meet for the first time in Copenhagen on the 8th November. This could be the most significant meeting for renewed education commitments – but only if these principles are adhered to. Donors must mobilise \$2.5 billion over the next three years for the Global Partnership for Education, and at least \$5.5 billion more in bilateral pledges.

"As poverty and inequality are rising – it's shocking that education is so low on the international community's agenda. Our new report gives some simple principles on international cooperation for world leaders that if they're adhered to, could help give 67 million children, currently missing out on school, the chance to see fulfilled their right to education. The Global Partnership for Education is a key opportunity to mobilise the resources that are so long needed," stated GCE President, Camilla Croso

Notes to Editors:

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Fund the Future report is available on www.fund-the-future.org

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is a civil society coalition which works to achieve education for all. GCE brings together national education campaigns and international NGOs in over 100 countries; together, we hold governments to account to deliver the right of everyone to a free, quality public education. www.campaignforeducation.org

Education Facts & Stats:

- There are currently 67 million children out of school.
- Every dollar invested in education would generate 10-15 dollars in returns through higher growth
- Seven million cases of HIV/AIDS could be prevented in the next decade if every child received an education.
- A child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past the age of 5 years.