



The share of aid allocated to education has fallen for the sixth year in a row

The amount of aid allocated to education has been falling for six years in a row, shows a new policy paper, *Aid to education is stagnating and not going to countries most in need*, published by UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report.

Total aid to education stands at US\$ 12 billion - 4% lower than in 2010 - while total development aid over the same period increased by 24%. Aid to basic education – which includes support to pre-primary and primary education as well as adult education and literacy programmes – stands at US\$5.2 billion, up from USD 4.8 billion in 2014. This amount is still 6% lower than in 2010. Aid to secondary education, meanwhile, amounts to US\$2.2 billion, representing 19% of total aid to education.

The analysis is based on newly released data from the OECD Development Assistance Committee.

“Aid remains far short of what is needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, putting our commitments at risk,” said Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO. *“Aid would need to be multiplied by at least six to achieve our common education goals and must go to countries most in need. Yet, we see that donors to education are shifting their attention away from the poorest countries,”* she cautioned.

The United States and the United Kingdom remain the two largest donors to basic education, but reduced their allocations by 11% and 9% respectively between 2014-2015. Norway and Germany, meanwhile, increased their allocations to basic education by 50% and 34% respectively.

Aid is not being allocated according to need. Sub-Saharan Africa, home to over half of the world's out-of-school children now receives less than half the aid to basic education it received in 2002. This amounts to 26% of total aid to basic education, barely more than the 22% allocated to Northern Africa and Western Asia, where 9% of children are out-of-school.

By contrast to trends in bilateral aid to education, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), allocated 77% of its disbursements to sub-Saharan Africa, and 60% to countries affected by instability and conflict.

The paper provides country-specific examples of donors' biased resource allocation. It demonstrates that aid is not allocated according to out of school rates to meet the cost of achieving universal education in each country concerned.

Humanitarian aid to education, while it has reached a historic high, increasing by 55% from 2015 to 2016, still only receives 2.7% of total aid available, amounting to 48% of the amount requested.

The paper draws attention to three major proposals for donors to reverse this move away from education:

1. The GPE Replenishment campaign this year is seeking to raise \$3.1 billion for the period 2018-20, aiming to become a \$2 billion operation annually by 2020, or four times more than the current funding level.
2. An International Finance Facility for Education proposed by the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity affirms it could leverage around \$10 billion in additional financing per year by 2020 for development banks to expand their education portfolio and target lower middle-income countries.
3. The Education Cannot Wait fund established in 2016 aims to raise \$3.85 billion by 2020, which would transform the delivery of education in emergencies.

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Notes to editors:

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