INVESTING IN EDUCATION FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD TO LIFELONG LEARNING

The World Bank is the largest external financier of education in the developing world.

As of June 30, 2022, our portfolio for all active projects totalled:

**US$23.61* BILLION**

supporting projects

COVERING 95 COUNTRIES AND REGIONAL STATES**

Over the past three years, the World Bank’s annual new education commitments average:

**$4.95 BILLION***

The Education Global Practice supports

**178 PROJECTS**

This includes

- **111** IDA credits/grants ($14.44 billion)
- **46** IBRD loans ($8.56 billion)
- **21** Trust Funds ($610 million)

The World Bank continues to be the largest implementing agency of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The World Bank manages 55% of the GPE portfolio ($1.98 billion of $3.60 billion)

Through financing, technical assistance and knowledge, we support governments’ efforts in education from early childhood through adulthood. We help countries adopt and implement innovative solutions to education challenges, focusing on systemic reforms.

**CURRENT IMPACT OF WORLD BANK SUPPORTED PROJECTS**

**432 MILLION STUDENTS** reached through our active programs—1/3 of the students in current client countries

**18 MILLION TEACHERS** reached through our active programs—nearly 1/4 of the teacher workforce in current client countries

**FINANCING BY EDUCATION LEVEL**

World Bank investing by education level*:

- **Early childhood education**: 14%
- **Primary education**: 24%
- **Secondary education**: 25%
- **Tertiary education and skills development**: 22%
- **Technical education and skills development**: 15%

* This does not include financing spent on public administration or other education funding.

Our Vision and Objective

We envision a world where each child can achieve his or her full potential by access to quality education and lifelong learning.

We are in a learning crisis that has been deepened by the pandemic. Before Covid-19, Learning Poverty—the percentage of children who cannot read and understand a simple text by age 10—was already affecting 57% of children in low- and middle-income countries. Countries need to ensure they are building Foundational Skills (literacy, numeracy, socioemotional skills, among others), that are the building blocks for young people to succeed later in life.

Meeting the COVID-19 Crisis

COVID-19 has amplified the learning crisis. Our estimates show that the pandemic’s impacts could drive levels of Learning Poverty up to 70% in low- and middle-income countries, and could cost an entire generation of school children $21 trillion in lifetime earnings. The World Bank is working with key partners on financial and technical support for learning recovery and acceleration.

To help achieve our vision, we have set an objective to reduce Learning Poverty by 50% by 2030.

**World Bank Education Investments Around the World (US$), as of June 30, 2022**

- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
  - $5.028B
  - 80 PROJECTS
- **South Asia**
  - $5.33B
  - 27 PROJECTS
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
  - $2.60B
  - 24 PROJECTS
- **Middle East and North Africa**
  - $2.20B
  - 14 PROJECTS
- **Europe and Central Asia**
  - $1.87B
  - 19 PROJECTS
- **East Asia and the Pacific**
  - $1.33B
  - 14 PROJECTS

* All dollars are US.
** Since 2000, the World Bank has financed more than US$76 billion for education projects.
*** The annual average for the World Bank figure was calculated for the Fiscal Years 2020-22.

As a reference, the annual average education flow for other selected bilateral and multilateral organizations, using the latest available numbers from 2017-20 from the OECD-CRS is:

- Germany – $2.85B
- USA – $1.52B
- France – $1.52B
- EU Institutions – $1.36B
- UK – $0.58B
- UNICEF – $0.08B
- AfDB – $0.03B

14% 24% 25% 22% 15%
OUR APPROACH TO REALIZING THE PROMISE OF EDUCATION FOR ALL

To guide our policy advisory and operational support to countries, we focus on policy actions that are needed to accelerate learning and that characterize the way many successful systems operate. These are presented within five interrelated pillars of a well-functioning education system that underpin the World Bank’s education policy approach: learners, teachers, learning resources, schools, and system management.

A RAPID FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING RECOVERY AND ACCELERATION

The World Bank, together with partners UNICEF, UNESCO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, and the United Kingdom’s Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, developed the RAPID approach in the context of their urgent support to governments in the process of “learning recovery and acceleration”. The approach is a mix of evidence-based policies and programs, as well as interventions that are being implemented already in some countries. It is a menu of policies that could guide countries in their efforts to recover learning and simultaneously put their countries on the path of building more effective, resilient, and equitable education systems.

For more information about the World Bank’s work in education, please visit: www.worldbank.org/education

Follow the World Bank Education Global Practice on Twitter: @WBG_Education

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