

July 2014

Response to the Global Citizen & Global Poverty Project campaign regarding the Global Partnership for Education.

Education can transform the lives of young people living in developing countries. I am therefore deeply concerned that many millions of children are still not in school or not learning the basics.

In line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Department for International Development (DFID) focuses on basic education – primary plus lower secondary – but also invests in selected higher education, skills, and early childhood programmes. Our three priorities are: to improve learning; to reach more children; and to keep girls in school. By 2015, the UK has committed to supporting 11 million children in primary and lower secondary school, and to train more than 190,000 teachers, especially in fragile and conflict affected states. The UK flagship Girls' Education Challenge will also support up to 1 million of the world's poorest girls to improve their lives through education by 2016. To September 2013, UK Aid had supported over 6.4 million children in primary and lower secondary school, of which over 3.1 million were girls, through our bilateral programmes. The UK is the largest bilateral donor to basic education.

On June 26 the UK made a significant pledge to the Global Partnership for Education. We will commit up to £300 million to the Global Partnership for Education over the next four years. Our pledge is contingent on our contribution not exceeding 15 per cent of the total amount pledged and further improvement of the Partnership's work. Britain expects other donors, developing countries, private companies and foundations to increase their own contributions to improving education. Our renewed commitment to the Global Partnership will help millions of children get the education they need. This pledge was welcomed by NGOs such as Oxfam, Results UK, Plan UK and Action Aid.

I would like to assure you that we are working very hard, with others, to deliver a better future for every child on our planet.

I hope this is helpful.

Lynne Featherstone