

## **Two and half minute speech – GPE Replenishment**

Dubai Cares is a philanthropic organization working to improve access to quality primary education for children in developing countries. Our aim to increase children's access to quality primary education is realized through integrated programs that eliminate the underlying obstacles that prevent children from going to school and learning. In the past 7 years our programs have benefitted over 10 million children in 35 developing countries.

Monitoring and evaluation of our programs, as well as targeted research are the cornerstones of our approach. We believe that in order to achieve transformational impact, our programs must be based on, or contribute to, the evidence base.

We strive to put this belief into practice by having 65% of all our programs designed based on existing evidence and proven models, and 35% of our programs contributing to the evidence base by including a research component within the interventions, to test and document the impact. We partner with research institutions and academia to identify evidence gaps, test and assess innovative models, as well as conduct process, summative and impact evaluations. We believe it is critical to understand why and how change occurs and to apply this learning to other interventions so as to continually move forward and design programs that make a difference.

Dubai Cares' strength is based on our multi partner and integrated approach, which aims to answer key policy questions and allows us to foster synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and build on each of our partners comparative and contextual advantage. We also strive to support regional and international platforms and networks that aim to advance global policy discussion, disseminate best practice and existing evidence and promote collaboration amongst a wide range of stakeholders. In line with this, we were one of the first supporters of the Learning Metrics Task Force, established by the Brookings Institution and UNESCO.

Today, Dubai Cares is proud to make a commitment of \$1 million to support innovation in monitoring and evaluation as a contribution to the GPE Fund. I am proud to say that this pledge by Dubai Cares will be the very first from the private and foundation sectors in the history of the GPE. This contribution will allow the supervising and management entities of GPE programs to focus on developing innovative monitoring and evaluation approaches which are specifically linked to measuring and improving learning outcomes. Our ambition is that this seed funding will be leveraged by fellow grantees, who are keen to invest in, and contribute to, broadening the evidence base in education programs.