

PLEDGE FROM SWEDEN
GPE Second Replenishment Conference
June 26, 2014

- Sweden has a specific objective to improve access to quality education with a focus on girls' education, quality in learning, improved literacy and numeracy, strengthened national public education systems and inclusive education. Through a broad range of interventions, Sweden anticipates to contribute to achieving results in those areas. This is done through bilateral support to a number of countries, for example Afghanistan, Cambodia, Tanzania, Bolivia, Bangladesh and Kosovo. In addition, Sweden has taken on the role as Supervising Entity for the GPE support to Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.
- To complement the focus on basic education, the Swedish government has decided to increase the support to skills development and vocational training in a number of countries.
- Sweden has for many years supported UNESCO institutes, including the EFA Global Monitoring Report, and is committed to increase this support for the next four years.
- The largest global recipient of education support from Sweden is GPE and this role will persist in the nearest years to come. Sweden, represented by Sida, the Swedish international development cooperation agency can pledge **new resources to GPE of 128 MUSD) for the replenishment period 2015-2018 and an additional 52 MUSD for the year 2014. This gives a total contribution of new resources from Sweden to GPE equivalent to 180 Million USD, which is a tripling of the Swedish contribution to GPE for the coming replenishment period.**
- The Swedish resources are un-earmarked. However, we strongly appreciate the attention given by GPE to country-level processes and alignment and strongly advocate for a continued emphasis on national ownership and extended support to local education groups.
- We would appreciate a sharper attention by GPE to children's absolute right to education and actions to safeguard this critical human right. This would include enhanced efforts to make schools safe havens for children; removing sexual exploitation of children in school; ensuring that girls can remain in school throughout their pregnancy and return after birth; as well as other efforts to ensure equal rights for all girls and boys in school taking gender perspectives into consideration.

- Sweden supports GPE's new funding model giving increased importance to high-burden low income countries and countries with poor capacities. For the future, we would call for a more results-oriented annual report from GPE presenting more aggregated results and in-depth analysis of progress and performance of countries receiving GPE funding.