German BACKUP Initiative – Education in Africa
A partner for achieving quality education for all in Africa
German contribution to the Global Partnership for Education

The German BACKUP Initiative – Education in Africa (BACKUP Education) is a programme implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It stands for Building Alliances, Creating Knowledge and Updating Partners in the education sector in countries in Africa. The programme is jointly funded by BMZ and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC).

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) aims to achieve quality education for all and to bring together the many players in education. It offers coordinated and aligned aid and is driven by local leadership. Over the past decade, GPE has helped to get nearly 22 million more children into school, including 10 million girls. The Global Partnership’s key strategic goals include improving education quality, increasing equity of access to education, reaching marginalised populations and building strong national education systems. BACKUP Education contributes to achieving this mission in Africa.

What BACKUP Education does

BACKUP Education provides support to governments and civil society partners in Africa to avoid bottlenecks during the application for and use of GPE grants. It provides catalytic funding where need is identified locally to help achieve national education goals in partnership with in-country and donor partners. Since its launch in 2012, BACKUP Education has supported 92 activities in 23 countries and at regional level.

How BACKUP Education works:

- Request-based funding approach
- Quick and flexible support where no other funding sources are available
- Emphasis on gender equality, conflict and crisis sensitivity, civil society participation and national capacity development
- Alignment with processes promoted by GPE in the education sector
- Close cooperation with the GPE Secretariat, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donor partners and civil society organisations at international, regional and national level to complement joint efforts of partners on the ground (e.g. Local Education Groups – LEGs).

‘I have never encountered a donor like this – they listen to what you propose and do not try to twist what you are trying to do. Their support means that we now have an agreed work plan for our network.’ A civil society partner, June 2013
**Who can apply?**

Ministries of education, national civil society organisations and regional networks can request BACKUP Education support in applying for and using GPE grants. Additionally BACKUP Education supports GPE developing country partners from Africa in effectively engaging in their GPE constituency and through this in the GPE Board of Directors.

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**Our modes of support**

BACKUP Education funding is available for all activities related to preparing, updating, implementing and monitoring the country’s education plan or GPE programme. The following modes of support can be requested:

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<th>Mode</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Fast Access Mode** | Up to EUR 20,000 | Funding is available for national capacity development activities:  
  - participation of individuals in training courses or conferences  
    *(up to EUR 10,000 per person)*  
  We particularly encourage applications from female policy-makers and decision-makers.  
  - regional or in-country national capacity development activities such as group workshops or training courses *(up to EUR 20,000)*. |
| **Consultancy Mode** | Up to EUR 50,000 | Funding is available for expert and advisory services on activities related to developing and implementing national education strategies, e.g. elaboration or updating of:  
  - technical tools (e.g. results frameworks, financial simulation models, medium term expenditure frameworks – MTEF –, costed action plans)  
  - Education Management Information System (EMIS)  
  - needs assessments and joint sector reviews  
  - thematic analysis and strategies (e.g. with regard to gender sensitivity, conflict and crisis sensitivity, civil society participation in the Local Education Groups – LEGs), national capacity development) |
| **Project Mode**     | Up to EUR 100,000 | Support for mid-term activities related to applying for and/or using GPE grants:  
Funding is available to support a set of different activities that aim to achieve one or more outcomes and are implemented over a defined period of time. These activities might include expert and advisory services, for example, or capacity development activities, stakeholder consultations, publications, awareness campaigns or various formats of South-South exchange. |
Examples of support

- **Guinea: Improving access to GPE funding**
  BACKUP Education’s support enabled Guinea to apply for a grant of USD 37.8 million from the Global Partnership for Education in September 2014. The Guinean Ministry of Education requested technical support from BACKUP Education during the preparation of the grant request, since there were not enough resources available to finalise the required programme and management documents in time. Beyond the finalisation of the requested documents, the close cooperation between international experts – hired by BACKUP Education – and professionals at the Ministry also contributed to the development of local capacities. A joint workshop with local education partners to discuss and approve the elaborated documents strengthened cooperation between the ministry and civil society organisations. The GPE Board of Directors will decide whether to approve the grant in December 2014. The grant is essential for effective implementation of the new education sector programme in Guinea.

- **The Gambia: Informing civil society about education policies**
  The Gambia has taken a major step towards achieving free education by introducing school improvement grants. Thanks to BACKUP Education’s support, over 500 school managers, parents and community representatives learned about the new school improvement grants in workshops and training sessions throughout the country. Initial assessments indicate that the school improvement grants have led to an increase in student enrolment. Compulsory school fees are one of the major barriers to education for many children. The nationwide sensitisation campaign was implemented in 2013 by a Gambian civil society network, the Education for all Network (EFANet), in cooperation with the Gambian Ministry of Education.
Support for the GPE constituencies of the African partner countries

BACKUP Education aims to strengthen the engagement of the three GPE Africa constituencies on the GPE Board of Directors, which is the Partnership’s supreme governing body and sets its policies and strategies. For the GPE Board of Directors to function effectively, equitable engagement by all constituencies representing the developing country partners is essential. Providing constituencies with the tools necessary to ensure effective communication decision-making is crucial.

Between 2012 and 2014, BACKUP Education supported four face-to-face African constituencies meetings and one virtual conference:

2012                     2013                 2014
Abidjan + Accra          Audio conference + Addis Ababa   Bujumbura

Representatives of the GPE Africa constituencies confirmed how much this support is valued and that the improved communication with their constituency members had led to a more professional approach. This is reflected in their contributions and a stronger voice at the table with the other representatives of the GPE constituencies.

Based on the positive experiences of the three Africa constituencies, the GPE Board of Directors decided in June 2014 to provide funding to strengthen communication and coordination among the six GPE developing country partner constituencies through face-to-face meetings. BACKUP Education has therefore contributed to a sustainable funding solution. BACKUP Education will continue to support the Africa constituencies by responding to emerging needs related to the implementation of their communication and action plans and to South-South exchange in general.

Contact  backup-education@giz.de
www.giz.de/backup-education