

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015 - 2016

Since its launch in 2012, the **Global Business Coalition for Education (GBC-Education)** has become one of the most effective forums connecting business to make a lasting impact on the lives of children and youth through education. Built on a strong foundation of more than 100 private sector organizations, GBC-Education continues to grow its membership base and expand the #smartinvestment Network. **As a business-led, action-oriented organization, GBC-Education focuses on four core capabilities: connect, cooperate, showcase, and discover.**

CONNECT

Convening and coordinating the business community for greater impact

- **The coalition and #smartinvestment Network membership have continued to grow this year expanding its reach geographically and across industries with well over 100 companies.** Throughout the year, Coalition members have connected with critical education stakeholders at GBC-Education convenings organized alongside key moments for action and dialogue, such as the World Economic Forum annual meeting, the Supporting Syria and the Region conference, the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, and the annual UN General Assembly. Quarterly working calls and issue-focused task force initiatives provide further platforms for on-going collaboration throughout the year.
- **In early August, GBC-Education hosted a webinar to provide an exclusive preview of the findings and implications of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity report.** Leading the discussion was Education Commission Director and GBC-Education Advisory Board Member Justin van Fleet, who highlighted key opportunities for the private sector to turn recommendations into action and enhance educational impact.
- **The Girls' Education Task Force, launched on the 2015 International Women's Day and co-chaired by the Dangote Foundation and Standard Chartered,** assembled 10 member companies alongside the 70th session of the UN General Assembly to identify how to best leverage resources, networks, and know-how to ensure that girls are completing school, developing relevant skills, and attaining jobs in order to reach their full potential.
- **GBC-Education connected member-company Reed Smith with The Palladium Group to provide legal support and advisement related to development impact bonds.** Together, they are working on Educate Girls, a landmark development impact bond (DIB) in support of education in Rajasthan, India. The recently announced successful Year One results of the DIB are a positive indication of the effectiveness of results-based financing models in delivering educational results as well as financial return.
- **As part of broader efforts to mobilize \$100 million in private sector commitments for the Education Cannot Wait Fund, GBC-Education has developed an emergency database.** The database serves as a registry of the resources, assets, expertise, and innovations that businesses are ready to immediately deploy in support of education at the onset of an emergency or crisis.

COOPERATE

Creating opportunities for partnerships at the local, national, and global levels

- **Alongside the 2015 UN General Assembly, GBC-Education hosted its annual high-level breakfast and accompanying events**, where members connected with government officials, heads of UN agencies, and education stakeholders. These events helped catalyze multi-sector commitments and opportunities for acting now to deliver education during crises.
- **At the annual Asia Society event, GBC-Education members—along with global education leaders from business, policy, and civil society—**convened for a discussion facilitated by GBC-Education Executive Chair Sarah Brown on a new strategy to move from “global goals” to tangible actions on global citizenship education.
- **During the World Economic Forum in 2016, GBC-Education Executive Chair Sarah Brown and Advisory Board member Rosalind Hudnell of Intel** co-hosted a high-level discussion on business engagement in education with more than 20 major organizations and special guests.
- **During the 2016 Supporting Syria and the Region conference, GBC-Education mobilized a commitment of \$75 million from businesses and partners for the education of Syrian refugee children.** GBC-Education connected more than 50 companies, NGOs, and private foundations to support the education of 1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey, and is continuing to identify and build partnerships between these groups to improve opportunities for access to quality education.
- **In April 2016, GBC-Education united business leaders and heads of foundations and donor agencies to share best practices and concrete opportunities** for greater impact, delivery, and investment in education through public-private partnerships. GBC-Education Director of Global Strategy Tom Fletcher, along with Advisory Board members Rosalind Hudnell of Intel and Dr. Amel Karboul of the Maghreb Economic Forum, welcomed thoughts from business leaders, government officials, donor agencies, private foundations, and education stakeholders.
- **After leading two private-sector consultations to inform the development of the Education Cannot Wait Fund, GBC-Education kicked off the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul** showcasing the critical role of the private sector in education in emergencies and announcing a new commitment to raise \$100 million to support these efforts alongside UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- **In honor of International Women’s Day 2016 during an event at Facebook London, GBC-Education parent charity Theirworld launched a new initiative piloting Code Clubs to empower girls through the development of 21st century skills.** The first of these pilots were developed in collaboration with GBC-Education member Kano and #smartinvestment Network member Codecademy. The clubs are currently running in Kenya and Uganda, and Theirworld is working with GBC-Education member Oando Foundation to scale the model in Nigeria in fall of 2016.
- **GBC-Education continued its commitment to facilitating introductions that generate real partnerships.** By leveraging our many platforms for connection, GBC-Education connected more than 40 companies with partner organizations this year to further the impact of their work. Examples of collaborations coming out of these activities include a refugee education project in Lebanon between Discovery Learning Alliance and sQuid with Digital Opportunity Trust, a partnership between ITWORX Education and the Breteau Foundation, and connections with USAID Jordan and Queen Rania Foundation.

SHOWCASE

Using the voice of business to put education on the global agenda

- **At the historic Town Hall in the heart of Times Square in New York City, GBC-Education business leaders joined youth, global leaders, celebrities, and civil society for the #UpForSchool Town Hall event** to mark a year of petitioning world leaders for every child's right to learn and to carry that momentum forward to get the world's out-of-school children back to learning. Shakira, along with UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown and A World at School Global Youth Ambassadors, delivered the #UpForSchool petition to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- **GBC-Education served as a key partner to the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) by coordinating the private sector response for both Phase I and Phase II global consultations for the development of the Education Cannot Wait Fund** with the goal to ensure that private sector expertise and engagement is reflected in the new platform at all levels. This was a critical and strategic opportunity for the Coalition to influence the development of a common global fund and platform for education in emergencies.
- **Coalition businesswomen supported girls' education by publishing opinion pieces in *The Huffington Post* for the 2015 International Day of the Girl Child.** Featured voices included Director of the Oando Foundation Dr. Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija, Founder and President of Kano Yonatan Raz-Fridman, Chief Corporate Affairs and Marketing Officer at Pearson Kate James, Managing Director at I.G. Advisors Alisha Miranda, and Vice President of Social Ventures, Internal Communications and Global Events for Western Union Talya Bosch.
- **GBC-Education hosted a high-level meeting in Dubai convening business leaders and influential foundations alongside UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown** to identify immediate solutions to provide education for over 1 million Syrian refugee children. Building on this momentum, 30 companies have joined the campaign, including member companies Crescent Petroleum, ITWORX Education, NRS International, Intel, and Western Union. Additionally, an informal *shura* of advisors and business leaders in the Middle East who are ready to commit time and ideas to the global education effort has formed.
- **At the end of a yearlong research initiative, GBC-Education prepared a model to implement the recommendations through the pilot project #YourStoryIndia writing contest** using new technology in an aim to be the largest and most inclusive digital writing contest for youth in India's history. The pilot was supported by member HP in partnership with Wattpad, STiR Education, and Teach for India.
- **GBC-Education's Director of Global Strategy Tom Fletcher visited the new, free school in Lebanon started by new coalition member company SABIS**, where private sector support has enabled vulnerable communities to receive the highest standard of education.
- **GBC-Education contributed to ongoing research by the Boston Consulting Group on how to monitor and evaluate the use of new technology to deliver quality education** that will help businesses and donors focus their support in the most effective ways possible.

DISCOVER

Identifying best practice and opportunities for investment

- **In collaboration with Theirworld, A World at School, and education experts, in February GBC-Education unveiled a sweeping plan—*Exploring the Potential of Technology to Deliver Education & Skills to Syrian Refugee Youth***—rich with private sector partnership opportunities to get more than 1 million Syrian refugee children into school in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon. The report highlighted how technology can enable access to affordable, relevant, and quality education for Syrian youth displaced by conflict.
- **Released on the International Day of the Girl Child, *The Journey of a Girl: Opportunities for Business Investment in Girls' Education***, shows how businesses must invest at every stage of a girl's education journey to overcome the many barriers that keep her from reaching her full potential. This working paper, commissioned by GBC-Education, surveyed 32 companies investing in girls' education, and found that while there is a strong focus on empowering girls in the secondary years, less than 10% of corporate education budgets are directed to pre-primary education.
- ***Opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships in Education: Bringing Together Business, Foundations & International Donors*** examines the benefits of strategic public-private partnerships in which the private sector contributes their core assets and innovative solutions alongside the access and knowledge of the public sector to deliver education as an emerging pathway for business to contribute to global education development.
- **In preparation for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, GBC-Education published *Investing in Education in Emergencies Through Employee Engagement*** as a guide to companies wishing to leverage employee engagement to support education in emergencies. Through demonstrating the shared values of the employees and the company, employee engagement initiatives have the potential to create a social impact while also boosting employee morale and increasing the bottom line.
- **In June, GBC-Education released *Opportunities for Impact: The Business Case for Engaging in Early Childhood Development***, detailing why business investment in holistic early childhood development (ECD) makes sense from scientific, economic, and equity perspectives. For businesses, the earlier the investment in a child's growth and development, the higher the rate of return, as early investments offer the best opportunity for maximum impact, while simultaneously reducing the high costs of future interventions.
- **Following the #YourStoryIndia writing contest, GBC-Education released *Launching a Global Education Platform: Lessons and Recommendations from the India Pilot***, outlining five potential next steps for the initiative to address the global skills crisis and emphasizing the role of technology in education in emergencies. The report was submitted to the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity.
- **A report released in August, commissioned by Theirworld and the Global Business Coalition for Education and written by Kevin Watkins, Executive Director of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), highlighted extreme funding gaps for Syrian refugee children.** Released just 60 days before the start of the new school year, the report exposes broken commitments on behalf of donor governments that will leave thousands of Syrian refugee youth out of school if action is not taken.