




263
MILLION
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY-AGE CHILDREN
ARE OUT-OF-SCHOOL



HALF
OF THE UPCOMING
YOUTH GENERATION
WILL **NOT** HAVE BASIC SKILLS



Today, more than 263 million children and youth around the world are out of school and at least 330 million children are not learning basic skills. On current trends, half of the upcoming youth generation—800 million young people—are projected to not have basic skills by 2030. Of these, 61 million children remain out of primary school and 202 million teenagers are not attending secondary school, missing out on vital basic skills needed for future employment.

The Global Business Coalition for Education (GBC-Education) brings the business community together to accelerate progress in delivering quality education for all of the world's children and youth. We believe that education is the birthright of every child and the key to expanded opportunity and future employment. For companies, investing in education promotes economic growth, leads to more stable societies, fosters healthy communities and makes it easier to do business. Education spurs innovation and increases the skills of employees, the income potential of consumers and the prosperity of communities where business operates.

GBC-Education's assets include the voice, capabilities, resources and innovations of our leaders and member companies. In the first year of operation, 20 of the world's most influential companies joined the Coalition, and we have expanded significantly with a membership of over 100 leading brands. Our members believe that their influence, core business, social responsibility, strategic investments, thought leadership and philanthropy – when used in collaboration with peer companies, government, nonprofit, and the educational community – are powerful tools to increase the number of children and youth who are in school and learning.

By joining us, companies become part of a global movement of businesses committed to changing children's lives through education.

A business-led, action-oriented organization, GBC-Education focuses on four core functions: Connect, Cooperate, Showcase, and Discover.



{ CONNECT

While many companies already engage in education through philanthropic or social investment programs, these actions require coordination to have greater impact. GBC-Education's forum increases companies' effectiveness by creating "members-only" spaces for company leaders to connect and identify cutting-edge opportunities for collaboration. We work with our members to create economies of scale and identify how core business can be leveraged to generate greater outcomes.

In the Middle East, countries are faced with a skills gap and high levels of unemployment. Moreover, the refugee crisis has placed a strain on education systems in the region. GBC-Education opened its doors in Abu Dhabi to bring together businesses in the region to address these challenges, launching a regional task force.

We Connect Members By

- Organizing members-only gatherings to initiate joint projects where each company brings its core assets, skills and competencies to the table
- Facilitating cross-industry connections and access to top education experts
- Updating members on progress toward better access and quality education for all children and youth
- Widely sharing the best practices of members' investments in education
- Helping member companies build an internal case for effective investments in education and providing guidance to monitoring progress and results

{ SHOWCASE

We show that business is an active partner in educating the world's children and youth. GBC-Education highlights its members' work and their thought leadership to large international audiences to communicate the importance of getting involved in education and to inspire others to action.

We identify, help document, and showcase exemplary education initiatives by companies that are using core assets and competencies, internal policies, social responsibility and/or strategic philanthropy. Our member companies uphold high standards for education investments; in turn, our staff disseminates these examples of effective initiatives widely, bringing positive results to the lives of children, young people and communities.

GBC-Education companies took the stage at the World Education Forum to shape business's contribution the post-2015 agenda. In January 2016, GBC-Education members brought education to the fore of the World Economic Forum in Davos, sharing best practices to advance the sector.



{ COOPERATE

In addition to connecting companies, we create avenues for cooperation with bilateral and multilateral agencies, foundations and civil society organizations. We connect members with highlevel policymakers to advocate for quality education and learning and expose companies to the latest initiatives being spearheaded by education organizations around the world.

In Nigeria, GBC-Education partnered with the federal government, regional development banks and donors to address the education emergency in the north of the country following the kidnapping of the Chibok schoolgirls. Collectively, over \$30 million was leveraged in a pooled trust fund to launch the Safe Schools Initiative which has helped nearly 50,000 displaced Nigerian children and youth go to school, provided essential supplies and improved school infrastructure to make safer learning environments. GBC-Education recently hosted a donor roundtable, bringing together 15 donor countries and investment banks to explore new ways of cooperation with business to deliver education.

We Foster Cooperation By

- Offering direct communication channels and convening opportunities with key education organizations, officials, and other stakeholders
- Providing companies with advance notice of new opportunities to engage in education projects in developing countries
- Organizing international delegation visits to countries with the greatest challenges and opportunities to make a positive difference. During these visits, business leaders meet high-level policymakers, as well as national businesses, to encourage them to prioritize education and explore how their skills and resources can assist each country's challenges

{ DISCOVER

We facilitate research projects that identify opportunities for effective investments in education and establish best practices to guide corporate efforts, seeking to bring real educational outcomes for children and youth.

GBC-Education membership contributed the business perspectives on education in emergencies to inform the new Education Cannot Wait fund. Our task forces on girls' education and early childhood education are identifying the next wave of business engagement. And GBC-Education recently designed a blueprint with UNICEF for how the business community can engage in creating safer schools and communities in Latin America to better develop youth talent.

CONNECTING BUSINESS
TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT



} **Global Business
Coalition For
Education**

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