Today, more than 57 million primary school-age children around the world are out of school and at least 250 million children in this age group are not learning basic skills. Girls represent over half of the children who are not enrolled in school. An additional 69 million teenagers are not attending secondary school, missing out on vital basic skills needed for future employment.

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 are expanding significantly. 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 leverage economies of scale.

In India, at least 2.3 million children are not in primary education and almost half of the children attending school are illiterate. The situation demands resources and expertise that the private sector—partnering with civil society and the public sector—can provide. Recognizing an opportunity for a collective response, our member companies formed the GBC-Education India Working Group, comprised of Accenture, Intel Corporation, Lenovo Group, McKinsey & Company, Pearson plc and Western Union. This group is exploring pilot projects with government schools in the Delhi region with the aim of improving the learning outcomes of children in grades 5-7, seeking to scale to other regions and nationally.
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
- Helping member companies build an internal case for effective investments in education and providing guidance to monitoring progress and results
- 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

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

With more than 10 million of its children out of school, Nigeria has been a key focus of GBC-Education. After a successful gathering with Nigeria’s Finance and Education Ministers in 2012 in New York, representatives of member companies Dangote Group, Intel Corporation, Pearson plc, McKinsey & Company and Accenture met in May 2013 with Nigeria’s President Goodluck Jonathan in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss how the private sector can play a role in delivering quality education and learning. Because of these efforts, Nigeria’s President has elevated education on the domestic agenda and called upon his state governors and education commissioners (who are responsible for delivering education) for their political, fiscal and practical support to engage in education and learning delivery in their own states. Several GBC-Education members are rolling out national and statewide initiatives to accelerate progress through communications campaigns and the integration of technology and media into the curriculum.

We Foster Cooperation By

- Offering direct communication channels and convening opportunities with key education organizations, government officials and others
- 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
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.

Member companies Discovery Communications and Gucci addressed delegates at the MIPTV gathering of 10,000 of the world’s leading television executives. They discussed the role that television can play in providing access to quality education for the millions of children who are out of school. Discovery and Gucci’s senior executives urged the broadcasting and entertainment industries to use their creative talents to promote universal education.

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.

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.

Member company Accenture has partnered with renowned public policy think-tank Brookings Institution to produce a GBC-Education-supported report that makes the case for private sector investment in education and proposes innovative financing models. These models could significantly decrease the existing funding gap, which currently stands at over $26 billion annually, to achieve basic education in low-income countries.

Join GBC-Education

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