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Royal Government of Bhutan  
Ministry of Education  
Policy and Planning Division



## Press Release

### US\$750,000 Global Partnership for Education grant helps children continue learning during the pandemic

**Thimphu, 15 October 2020** – To help children continue learning during Covid-19, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has approved a US\$750,000 grant to support the Royal Government of Bhutan's pandemic response.

A partner agreement for this project was signed on October 15, 2020 between the Gross National Happiness Commission, the Ministry of Education and Save the Children to kick-start the implementation of the project.

The Ministry of Education, in partnership with Save the Children and UNICEF, will use the funding to support the Education Sectors response to COVID-19 pandemic. The financial support will go towards developing additional video lessons and improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in schools. The grant will also support students with disabilities to continue learning through the provision of electronic devices. The Ministry will also extend counselling services to students and teachers that require psychosocial support as a result of the pandemic.

The **Education Secretary, Dasho Karma Tshering**, while acknowledging the generous support received from GPE said this partnership will support Bhutan's efforts towards mitigating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in Education.

*"The successful implementation of this grant will have far reaching implications on children's continuity of learning, health, safety and wellbeing of children, and support to students with disabilities who are further challenged due to prolonged school closure"* the Education Secretary said.

*"The pandemic has made it especially difficult for marginalized children to continue learning,"* said **Alice Albright, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education**. *"Girls, children from disadvantaged backgrounds and children living with disabilities have been hit hardest. GPE's support will help the Government of Bhutan protect education from the impact of Covid-19 and bring together partners so that no child is missing out on learning – even if schools are closed."*

*"We recognize that school closures carry high social and economic costs that are particularly severe for the most vulnerable,"* said **UNICEF Bhutan Representative, Dr. Will Parks**. *"This generous funding is critical for the Ministry and partners to help learning continuity and put in place appropriate safety and learning measures to prepare for the reopening of schools."*





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The Ministry of Education will oversee and implement the year-long project starting October 2020. The Save the Children US, Bhutan country office, will serve the role of grant agent while UNICEF as the coordinating agency on behalf of GPE.

The Global Partnership for Education, established in 2002 is the only global partnership and fund exclusively dedicated to children's education. It provides financial and technical assistance to its member developing countries to improve access to and quality of education.

