



PRESS RELEASE

Education Financing, Spending Efficiency and Ghana's commitment to SDG 4 ahead of the Global Education Summit - July 28 and 29, London.

1. His Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and Minister of Education Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum have been invited by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and HE Kenyatta, co-hosts of next week's Global Education Summit taking place in London, to join the world in committing to increasing domestic financing of education; improving spending efficiency; and enrolling all out of school children even as the world navigates through COVID-19 with austerity .
2. Ahead of the Summit, 30 leading CSOs and Networks in the Education Sector led by Africa Education Watch is petitioning His Excellency through Ghana's Minister of Education to commit to global financing benchmarks of 20% national budget allocation and 6% GDP by increasing domestic financing for education, prioritizing spending efficiency, while ensuring opportunities for all out of school children to enroll and complete basic education by 2030.
3. With up to 20% of pupils dropping out before JHS 3, Ghana has about 400,000 out of school children. Presently, over 4,000 primary schools do not have Junior High Schools, while 5,000 schools exist under trees and sheds. Many classrooms lack basic facilities like dual desks. These are due to deficits in infrastructure, caused by persistent underfunding and poor spending efficiency levels, especially in the past decade.
4. Global education financing benchmarks require that 5% of GDP and a minimum 20% of National Budgets are committed to Education.
5. In 2020, Ghana allocated about GHC 13.6 billion representing 16% of total national budget to education. That's about 3.5% of 2019 GDP.
6. In 2021, Ghana has allocated about GHC 15.6 billion, representing 14% of total national budget to education. That's about 4% of 2020 GDP.
7. While COVID-19 is an intervening factor in 2021, it is important to safeguard the social sector, especially Education, from austerity, in order not to deny already excluded and out of school children their right to basic education. Government must commit to allocating at least 20% of the national budget and 6% of GDP to education, and commit to the highest levels of spending efficiency to ensure Ghana remains on track to meeting the SDG 4 targets by the 2030 finish line.

The 30 CSO signatories to the petition include: Action Aid Ghana; IMANI Africa, ISODEC, Northern Network for Education Development (NNED), Ghana National Council of Private Schools, CARITAS Ghana, Participatory Development Associates, CDD Ghana, Centre for Social Justice, Ghana TVET Coalition, Centre for Youth Development Advocacy, Foundation for Security and Development in Africa, Action for Rural Education, Light for Children, RU

Africa Education Watch.

25 Nii Torgbor Avenue, ARS, East Legon. Ghana-West Africa.

Tel. 0303975001 | Email: info@africaeducationwatch.org | Twitter & Facebook: @AfricaEduWatch

www.africaeducationwatch.org



Care Foundation, Nation Builders International, Life Educational Foundation, Promag Network, Adesua Foundation, Touch A Life Foundation, Care love Charity Foundation, Human Rights Development Foundation, International Child Development Program, Capacity and Policy Options Centre, Integrated Development Centre, Centre for Active Learning and Integrated Development, Adanu, Haytaford and CENCORD.

Signed:

Kofi Asare
For: Africa Education Watch and Partners

Accra, 26th July, 2021

