Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Secretariat  
Terms of reference for a comparator analysis of global education knowledge exchange initiatives in GPE partner countries  
(Version as of: June 29, 2022)

A. Background  
GPE is the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries, and a unique, multi-stakeholder partnership. We work to deliver quality education so that every girl and boy can have hope, opportunity, and agency.

GPE mobilizes partners and funds to help more than 80 partner countries transform their education systems and deliver quality learning to more girls and boys, especially those who are marginalized by poverty, gender, disability, or displacement.

The goal of GPE 2025, GPE’s strategic plan for the period 2021 to 2025, is to accelerate access, learning outcomes and gender equality through equitable, inclusive, and resilient education systems fit for the 21st century. To achieve this goal, GPE 2025 identifies eight priority areas of action.

The Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) is a GPE asset through which partner countries share relevant knowledge, experience, and evidence with one another, and which funds applied research on countries’ priority issues, leading to better outcomes for children through more informed policy dialogue and reform processes. KIX was launched in 2019, after a comprehensive design process, comprising consultations with all of GPE’s constituencies, with oversight of the GPE Board. The current phase of KIX runs to mid-2024 and is being implemented by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), an organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, who acts as the grant agent and chief implementing partner for KIX.

B. Rationale and Focus  
A mid-term review of KIX was recently completed (forthcoming in June 2022). It confirmed the initiative has made significant progress in its first two years of operations, is valued by its stakeholders, and is well positioned for impact. The evaluation report also provided useful recommendations to deepen the gains to-date.

The design of KIX drew on a benchmarking exercise yet since the official launch of KIX in 2019, new research and knowledge exchange initiatives have been launched by development partners and global education institutions that focus on the generation, dissemination and use of relevant knowledge and evidence at national level. These include but are not limited to the Supporting Holistic
and Actionable Research in Education (SHARE) initiative by USAID, the What Works Hub and EdTech by FCDO, the Schools 2030 program by the Aga Khan Foundation, and the Global Education Coalition led by UNESCO.

As GPE considers adaptations to KIX based on the mid-term evaluation and program learning through its Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning strategy, an analysis of key global education knowledge exchange initiatives will help not only to avoid duplication but more over sharpen the unique contribution KIX can make in the field of global knowledge ecosystems to the benefit of country partners through program adaptations and possible linkages with other initiatives.

C. Scope of Work
This consultancy will conduct a targeted mapping of existing and emerging global education knowledge initiatives that support GPE partner countries. By describing their unique ways of working, their services and products, possible adaptations to refine the role of KIX will be identified as well as potential collaborations between KIX and other initiatives to better address gaps in geographies, themes, or approaches.

The GPE Secretariat Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) team seeking the services of a consultant, or consultant team, to conduct this analysis.

The tasks include:

1. Develop a data collection strategy to describe target initiatives’ scope (theory of change, approaches, services, products, # of countries covered, # of initiatives and/or partners involved, scale of financing over given time period, etc.), as well as data collection instruments and plans.
2. Carry out desk-based data collection from secondary sources and key informant interviews (5-10 max).
3. Analyze the data collected and write a brief report (circa 20 pages) that describes:
   a. Primary approaches of target initiatives, their services, products, and thematic directions
   b. KIX niche and value proposition
   c. Possible adaptations to KIX and potential strategic collaborations

The Secretariat will, where possible, facilitate access to relevant data, documents, and potential key informants for this analysis.

D. Purpose and Use
The primary purpose of the analysis is to serve as an input to the adaptations of KIX which will be designed and undertaken by GPE and IDRC over the course of July to October 2022. The suggested
adaptations (3c above) will be based on where KIX can add value to how partner countries learn from one another and interact technically and politically.

At the Secretariat level, the data and findings from the study will inform the Secretariat’s engagement on knowledge sharing initiatives at both the country and global levels.

**E. Data Sources**
All data collection for this study will be desk-based and the study will not involve travel.

Data collection may include 5-10 key informant interviews (conducted via Zoom or Teams). Secondary sources may include evaluations, webpages, annual reports, briefings and program reports, as well as previous KIX analysis and benchmarked knowledge initiatives.

**F. Duration, Deliverables, and Timeline**
The assignment will be carried within four weeks between about **July 18th 2022, to until about August 22nd 2022.**

The following products will be delivered per listed timepoints:

(i) A brief inception note that details the data collection strategy, instruments and plans; and outline of the report  
⇒ Due within the first week of contract commencement.

(ii) A draft report with findings from the analysis of data collected, for comment by GPE and IDRC along with access to supporting data and documents used to complete the database.  
⇒ Due not later than week three of contract commencement.

(iii) The final report.  
⇒ Due not later than end of week four of contract commencement

**G. Reporting Relationships and Contract Management**
The consultant (or lead consultant) with report to Ian Macpherson from the GPE Secretariat’s Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) team.

The lead consultant will be ultimately responsible for the quality of the work of any additional consultants.

**H. Costs, Payments, and Application**
This assignment shall not exceed 20 days work. 10% will be payable on contract signature, 50% on submission of the draft report, 40% on submission of the final report.

The lead/consultant will posses a post-graduate degree in a relevant subject (including education, social sciences, monitoring and evaluation, or other), at least seven years international research
experience, considerable familiarity with global knowledge initiatives, and an existing network in international education.

To apply, please send a cover letter (2 page max) – which includes a brief outline of the data collection strategy and budget – and CV to Ian Macpherson at imacpherson@globalpartnership.org not later than 10h00hrs EST on 15th July 2022.