

The Global Coalition for Foundational Learning

What is it? What does it do? How can it help your work?

Internal overview for Coalition Development Partner staff working overseas

A. Introduction

- The Global Coalition for Foundational Learning was founded in 2022 to bring together partners with a shared commitment to improving foundational learning for all and a desire to work together to drive change more quickly.
- The founding Development Partners of the Global Coalition for Foundational Learning are FCDO, UNICEF, UNESCO, USAID, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). These organisations are committed to working differently and together, to ensure we meet the commitments as set out in the [Commitment to Action on Foundational Learning](#), launched by the Coalition at the UN Secretary General's Transforming Education Summit (TES).
- Foundational learning is defined as basic literacy, numeracy, and transferable skills such as socio-emotional skills that provide the fundamental building blocks for all other learning, knowledge, and higher-order skills.

B. What has the Coalition achieved since it was launched in 2022?

Examples of the Coalition's impact in 2022, include:

- **Helped to elevate the foundational learning crisis** at the highest political levels during the TES, building on the country-level advocacy and consultations and promoted the issue through joint advocacy and communications.
- **The Commitment to Action on Foundational Learning** is a specific area of focus for the [SDG 4 High-Level Steering Committee](#). Coalition Partners are responsible for reporting back on progress to this committee.
- **Co-Generated and disseminated new global evidence and guidance** including the [Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel Report: Prioritising Learning During COVID-19](#), the [State of Learning Poverty: 2022 Update](#) and the [Accelerating Learning Recovery: A Guidance Note for Addressing Learning Losses during COVID-19](#).
- **Hosted high-level events** including the [spotlight session on foundational learning at the TES](#), the side event at the TES Pre-Summit in Paris and a [joint panel](#) at the Foundational Learning Exchange in Sierra Leone.
- **Integrated new ways of working:** Coalition partner staff are meeting regularly to maximize opportunities to encourage governments to address the learning crisis and improve implementation quality of FL programs.

C. What's next for the Global Coalition for Foundational Learning in 2023?

Three key priorities build on the momentum and alignment among Coalition partners at the global and country level:

1. supporting country-led action and implementation;
2. improving learning data and monitoring; and
3. advocacy and communication.

The Global Coalition for Foundational Learning intends to have a stronger offer of support for up to 30 committed low- and lower-middle-income countries, in addition to global public goods available to all interested countries.

D. What does this mean for country teams from the Coalition partners?

To fully capitalize on this unique opportunity to address the learning crisis, we encourage all Coalition Partner staff to:

- Collaborate on addressing the learning crisis, including developing a shared understanding of the challenges;
- Share relevant materials and resources, programmatic and advocacy plans with country colleagues and a counterpart in the global Coalition;
- Strengthen existing working groups on foundational learning or establish one if it would add value;
- Invite one another to events/visits on foundational learning to share expertise, knowledge, and opportunities and share what is working and what is not to improve learning outcomes at scale for all children, including a focus on whether children are being left behind;
- Explore a joint roadmap, sub-sector plan, investment case for foundational learning with government and/or relevant partners;
- Explore opportunities for joint advocacy on foundational learning for all; particularly the most marginalised groups.
- Come together with key partners and government where appropriate to regularly check-in on progress made, gaps and opportunities that the Coalition could support with.

E. More detail on what the Global Coalition for Foundational Learning can support with:

Pillar 1: Coordinate support to low-income countries and low- and middle-income countries to implement aligned evidenced-based solutions to improve Foundational Learning outcomes at scale.

- Map relevant offers/existing programmes of global support from Coalition partners and share with country staff.
- Plan joint learning and development opportunities to improve foundational learning program implementation.
- Support local education working groups to overcome shared problems and deliver more effectively.

Pillar 2: Support countries to monitor learning progress and improve availability of learning data.

- Collate common tools as a menu of options available to countries to measure and report on learning, to disseminate and share within and between coalition partners, national governments, and education partners.
- Coordinate between agencies to support countries without learning data in rolling out best available resources and tools to measure progress on learning, including through shared training with 'field staff'.
- Support countries to use data, share and amplify existing information on learning using available resources and tools.

Pillar 3: Support strategic advocacy and communications to call for implementation of the Commitment to Action, create an enabling environment for policy change, and help drive accountability for implementation.

- Support for leveraging existing and new data to strengthen the case for investment in foundational learning. Assist in identifying and building new strategic advocacy partnerships, including with business leaders.
- Dissemination of global communications assets with support for adaptation to local contexts, to help build public awareness and drive political will on foundational learning.
- Support with developing and implementing national and regional level advocacy and communications strategies.

Contact: