

Minister Iddrisu signs partnership agreement that brings US\$80 million to strengthen education across Ghana

- Minister of Education, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, signs partnership agreement with System Change Architecture for Learning Excellence (SCALE) consortium at the Embassy of Switzerland in Accra.
- The partnership - which includes three philanthropies and over 10 cocoa and chocolate companies working alongside the Global Partnership for Education - brings US\$80 million to Ghana's education system to improve foundational learning and ensure every child receives an education.
- The new US\$80 million follows additional grants worth US\$38.8 million, meaning a total of US\$118.8 million supplementary financing will now be invested in the Ministry of Education's flagship Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project ([GALOP](#)).
- The investment will seek to improve foundational learning, including basic numeracy and literacy skills, support emotional and social wellbeing, and increase children's access to education across Ghana.

29 May 2025, Accra: In the presence of Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, Minister of Education, a ceremonial partnership signing event took place between the Ministry of Education and the consortium of organizations behind SCALE on 28 May. The event was hosted by Her Excellency Simone Giger, Swiss Ambassador to Ghana, Benin, and Togo at the Embassy of Switzerland in Accra, with the Jacobs Foundation, Fondation Botnar, UBS Optimus Foundation, and representatives from 10 cocoa and chocolate companies that form the SCALE consortium also in attendance.

The new US\$40 million funding, the largest amount raised for education by philanthropic and private partners globally, has been doubled by the international organization, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), through its Multiplier Fund—meaning a combined total of US\$80 million will be invested in education across Ghana. Alongside the SCALE funding and the GPE Multiplier Grant, additional grants and funding mean a total investment of US\$118.8 million will be used to strengthen inclusivity and safety in schools, improve teacher training, and prioritize the emotional and social wellbeing of children. With an emphasis on evidence-based approaches to education, the funders behind SCALE bring a breadth of international expertise to support local, regional, and national level improvements in Ghana's education system.

During the signing event, **Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, Minister of Education, Republic of Ghana** said: "This is an opportunity for us. With a shared vision, a shared partnership, and a shared innovative financing for education. And it could not have been done at a better time." He continued by saying, "Ghana has every reason to celebrate the impact made under the investment of GALOP, and SCALE is an extension of this."

SCALE's ambition is to reform how education is structured and delivered—offering a powerful model of how education systems can be changed to improve access to quality education. This means creating environments where children can thrive by improving the use of evidence and having a child-focused approach. Alongside school improvements, SCALE's funding will support the already running Communities of Excellence program that has been operating across many districts of Ghana. This program, which focuses predominantly on cocoa-growing districts, aims to empower local communities to contribute to decision-

making within their local education systems. In neighboring Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, an estimated 1.56 million children are believed to be forced to work on family-run cocoa farms. But when education in these districts is prioritized, the evidence suggests that children benefit over the long-term. Analysis by the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) shows that communities that have a high volume of schools and better quality of education have the lowest rates of child labor—especially in cocoa-growing areas. As well as addressing child labor rates, the SCALE funding will also see a Ghana Education Evidence and Data Lab (GEEDLab) established within the Ministry of Education to inform the government's approach to education policymaking and planning.

Since 2020, GALOP has successfully invested US\$218.7 million in targeted districts in Ghana. Over the next four years, this new tranche of funding will increase the total number of schools that are set to benefit from 10,000 to 16,000, alongside a further 14,700 kindergartens. Funds will support targeted, evidence-based interventions that will improve learning resources, teaching quality, and strengthen governance structures. These interventions will transform the approach to local schooling, sub-national planning, and national policymaking across Ghana to improve children's learning. The Ministry of Education will use the US\$118.8 million of additional financing for GALOP to ensure every child receives a quality education across the country—building on the project's success over the last five years.

At a time when some of the world's largest donors, including USAID, are implementing cuts or freezes to aid spending, collaborative financing mechanisms that prioritize investment for successful approaches to education and children's needs are more important than ever. With an estimated annual global financing gap of US\$100 billion for education SCALE, and other collaborative financing mechanisms, demonstrate the role that innovative approaches can play in supporting countries to achieve their education goals. The broad spectrum of partners funding the additional financing for GALOP are committed to supporting the Ghanaian government's education objectives.

One of the primary foundation partners leading SCALE, **Simon Sommer, Co-CEO of the Jacobs Foundation** said: "Besides the financial commitment, the SCALE partnership offers the expertise of a broad range of organizations who have helped to transform the way in which evidence is applied to education. SCALE will build on the successes of other international models, including the Child Learning and Education Facility (CLEF) in Côte d'Ivoire which has been recognized by the World Bank. In Ghana, we expect 2 million children to benefit from evidence-based research and insight that will extend across 100 cocoa districts."

Tom Hall, CEO, UBS Optimus Foundation, added: "We firmly believe that one of the most effective ways to give with maximum impact is collectively. Greater coordination boosts efficiency—by avoiding duplication, streamlining processes, and leveraging each partner's unique strengths and flexibility. Together, we can overcome the limitations of working in silos and support a program that addresses multiple root causes at once."

Andrea Studer, CEO, Fondation Botnar, also said: "At Fondation Botnar, we believe education systems must help young people thrive together in a changing world. This means going beyond academics to support their holistic development, including wellbeing and essential life skills like empathy, resilience, and critical thinking. SCALE reflects this ambition by prioritising social and emotional learning, strengthening local systems, and grounding action in evidence."

For further information on the SCALE funding and how the partnership will operate, please visit the Jacobs Foundation's Ghana program [webpage](#).

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Notes to editors:

About SCALE

SCALE (System Change Architecture for Learning Excellence) is a multi-stakeholder initiative supporting long-term, system-level improvements in Ghana's education system. Developed in partnership with the

Ghanaian Ministry of Education, SCALE brings together the [Jacobs Foundation](#), [Fondation Botnar](#), [UBS Optimus Foundation](#), 10 cocoa and chocolate companies (see below), and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to strengthen local ownership, use evidence, and improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for children. For more information, please visit the [Jacobs Foundation](#).

Industry partners:

- Barry Callebaut Sourcing AG
- Ferrero International SA
- Hershey Trading GmbH
- Lindt & Sprüngli (International) AG
- Mars
- Mondelez Europe GmbH
- Nestle (Nestrade)
- Sucden
- Tonys de Chocolonely Foundation
- Touton SA

About GALOP

The Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project (GALOP) was originally a five-year project with an investment of approximately US\$218.7 million with the objective of improving the quality of education in low-performing basic education schools and strengthening education sector equity and accountability in Ghana.

In terms of additional financing for GALOP, US\$118.8m will be injected into the initiative. This consists of:

- US\$31.4m financed by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Systems Transformation Grant (STG)
- US\$40m from a GPE Multiplier Grant (derived from the GPE Multiplier Fund)
- US\$40m by SCALE Funders
- US\$7.4m allocated by the Early Learning Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund (ELP MDTF)

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