Video message by Charles North, Acting CEO of the Global Partnership for Education, to the High Level Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan

Secretary-General Guterres, your excellencies the co-hosts from the governments of Qatar, the United Kingdom and Germany, ministers, distinguished participants.

For more than 10 years, the Global Partnership for Education has been supporting education progress in Afghanistan. As long-standing partners, we are deeply concerned for the future of millions of Afghan children whose access to education has been cut off due to conflict, disasters, COVID and economic decline.

GPE is also gravely troubled that the Taliban are not abiding by commitments to allow all children, especially girls, to attend school. Most recently, despite prior assurances, secondary school girls have not been allowed to start their academic year. This decision puts millions of girls at risk of never gaining the skills they need and deserve to thrive and realize their potential. This decision also deprives Afghanistan of the skills and talents necessary to build a stable and prosperous future for all its people.

Saving the education system from collapse and safeguarding the right to education for all Afghan children – particularly girls – must be a priority for all partners, or we risk seeing a lost generation.

Up to US$ 300 million in GPE funds are available to support education in Afghanistan through the Humanitarian Response Plan and the recently approved Afghanistan Education Sector Transitional Framework. We look forward to working with Education Development Partners to protect past gains and boost hope and opportunity for millions of Afghan girls and boys.

Thank you.