

DECLARATION FOR ACTION

Moving from Commitment to Action in Foundational Learning across Africa



FLEX2024



THE YEAR OF EDUCATION
Educate an African fit for
the 21st Century
Building resilient education systems for
increased access to inclusive, fitting,
quality, and relevant learning in Africa





We, the Ministers of Education from Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe and Heads of Delegations from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, and Togo, present at the 2024 Africa Foundational Learning Exchange (FLEX 2024) in Kigali, Rwanda, hereby collectively commit to ending learning poverty in Africa by 2035.

We further reaffirm our commitment to improving foundational learning for every child on the continent, together with the African Union, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the World Bank, UNICEF, Hempel Foundation, USAID, and all development partners represented at FLEX 2024.

Foundational learning is the basis for all future learning and economic empowerment. It ensures that our children are equipped with the literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional skills to develop, learn, and contribute to the social and economic development of the continent.

It is therefore critical to position foundational learning as a pivotal strategy for long-term prosperity, peace and security across Africa, thereby contributing to achievement of universal quality education, a key aspect of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4.

We acknowledge the commitments that African countries have made through policy reforms, increased budget allocation, and implementation of evidence-based approaches that support foundational learning since the [2023 Human Capital Heads of State Summing in Dar es Salam](#), the [2023 ADEA High-Level Policy Dialogue Forum on Foundational Learning](#) in Lusaka, the [2023 Foundational Learning Exchange in Sierra Leone](#) and the African Union Mid-Year Summit in Accra, Ghana in July 2024.

The World Bank's estimate of USD21 trillion in global lost productivity if we do not improve learning outcomes compels us to act now. We know that for every year of education we provide a child, we enhance their future earning potential by 8-10 percent and contribute to future global productivity gains of up to USD6.5 trillion.

To build on the progress made thus far and continue the momentum from the FLEX 2024, **we commit to undertake the following actions:**

- 1. Enhance inter-country collaboration on foundational learning.** This will be done by: (a) expanding and strengthening the leadership role of the Africa Foundational Learning Ministerial Coalition to include technical Ministry personnel and developing a clear strategy to engage political leaders; (b) fostering cross-border collaboration, building stronger

partnerships, facilitating collaborative research and adapting shared practices to individual country contexts.

2. **Adapt, integrate, and scale evidence-based approaches to improve foundational learning outcomes** including provision of high-quality Early Childhood Education; Structured Pedagogy; Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL); and Learning Through Play. These will be accompanied by investment in school governance and systems, teacher training, mentoring and coaching, adequate teaching and learning materials, and strong country level monitoring and assessment structures.
3. **Enhance the production and utilisation of quality data, evidence, assessment, and accountability mechanisms.** It is important to: (i) strengthen Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) to leverage evolving technologies such as artificial intelligence, (ii) implement systemic reforms to ensure foundational learning is prioritised at the system level and links to practices at the classroom level, (iii) develop an African common assessment framework to enable countries to implement proficiency standards for monitoring foundational learning outcomes. (iv) improve learning assessment processes at the foundational level to include literacy, numeracy, language, and social and emotional skills; (v) strengthen country, regional, and continental accountability mechanisms using available accountability tools.
4. **Accelerate impact through intentional and efficient spending of country resources on evidence-based approaches** with a focus on scalable and cost-effective interventions.
5. **Increase coordination and integration of partner initiatives in foundational learning at the country level** to eliminate duplication and maximise efficiency in resource utilisation.

We collectively endorse the African Union’s call to **declare a decade of education for the continent.** Foundational learning needs to be prioritised and embedded within the continent’s development strategy over the long term. To support this, **we confirm that the Africa Foundational Learning Exchange will be held annually.** We will strive to integrate African Heads of State in the dialogue to ensure strong leadership towards improving the salience of foundational learning across Africa.

Made on this 13th day of November 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda.

FLEX2024



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Education



THE YEAR OF EDUCATION
Educate an African fit for
the 21st Century!
Enriching learning experiences, systems for
increased access to inclusive, lifelong
learning, and relevant learning in Africa



WORLD BANK
GROUP



HEMPEL
FOUNDATION



Association for the
Development of
Education in
Africa



unicef
for every child



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



NEW
GLOBE



African
Union