

UNGEI *GirlsEd-Net* eDiscussion #7: Addressing Gender Inequalities in and through Education in Emergencies, Post-Crisis and Contexts of Fragility

Details of this eDiscussion can be found here: http://www.ungei.org/listserve/index_1981.html

Dear eDiscussion participants,

Thank you to those that have contributed to the discussion. There is a clear understanding of the many challenges that women and girls face in countries affected by emergencies, conflict, post-conflict and fragility. It is often easier to identify challenges in these situations because they seem to outnumber the solutions and the opportunities for girls'. Even when families are simply trying to protect their children during conflict, post-conflict and fragility, this can mean preventing them from going to school. However, one of the contributors to the discussion rightly noted that education for men, women, boys and girls is the best way to face these types of challenges and empower girls.

The purpose of this eDiscussion was to explore the best practices, lessons learned and strategies for advocating to the government and communities on the importance of girls' education in emergencies, conflict, post-conflict and fragility. These contexts of uncertainty or flux offer opportunities to change and rebuild education systems to become more inclusive and equitable for boys and girls. Sometimes the opportunities to influence changes to education systems, programs, and interventions are fleeting since decisions in these contexts can be made very quickly to match the ever-changing reality on the ground. Consistent messaging from the international community about the importance of girls education when meeting with local governments and communities and integrating gender equality into all aspects of our work in education will help to reinforce commitments made by many countries to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Education for All, and the Millennium Development Goals even in the most adverse situations.

When working with local governments and communities, the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies' [Minimum Standards](#) provide a framework for promoting and advocating for gender equality and ensuring that education is gender responsive. The [Gender Task Team](#) of the INEE has also developed some field-level tools for promoting gender equality in education during emergencies that complement the Minimum Standards. For example, these tools include, an advocacy brief on the gender implications in education in emergencies and specific programme strategies that could be used in discussion with local government or communities.

It is time to wrap up the 7th UNGEI eDiscussion, I hope that there will be another opportunity to further the dialogue on how to ensure gender equality in and through education in emergencies, conflict, post-conflict, contexts of fragility in person or on-line.

Kara Mitchell, Analyst, Canadian International Development Agency
INEE Gender Task Team
Moderator for this eDiscussion

In response

Dear Friends as the discussions of the group persisted I had been most absorbed in the work in Pakistan with the emergency in Swat, Pakistan on account of Genocide by the Talibans. Girls/women's education has been completely shut down since January 15th when the Talibans succeeded in implementing their warning. Over 40,000 girls are directly affected in schools, as they await signs of life confined to homes. A total of 700,000 people have left Swat out of a population of about 1.7 + population . becoming refugees within Pakistan. Over 190 schools have been bombed, torched and destroyed, both girls and boys. Tyranny and fear have taken over each citizen. The women bid time also restricted to the four walls. A well known tourist resort Swat valley is now utterly in ruins and beseiged. IDPs are multiplying, majority unregistered and government has no plans in place for them or for the children who wil loose an academic year as final examinations are just beginning. Schools do not take in children at this time to sit examinations and ask for multiple records. The government has watched this since 18 months without taking due action. Since our campaign whilst it is front page news frm January 16th onwards, media focus is in place, the government action is still not decisive. The army has arrived but it is a strategy of gradual attrition, it is weak and not focused on the end objective. The time for dialogue is over.

On a daily basis we are engaged in a campaign to get the country mobilized for action as a citizen's campaign. Yesterday our 18000 signatures were handed over to the UN Secretary General along with a list of demands. Children/students, teachers and citizens are the largest groups signing the petitions week after week and these signatures are deposited to major leaders and decision makers in the country each week, every Friday. This action will continue until we can see impact and end to the carnage. Over 170 organizations are working in this campaign through coalitions the Child Rights Movement and the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE).

Please look up our website www.itacec.org or http://www.itacec.org/petition_swat.htm You too can sign on the online petition

Warm regards

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