**Get Involved**

We can all help to create a world where all girls and boys have equal access to free, quality education. Check out the UNGEI website to stay up to date with the latest news, publications, and activities, and join the mailing list to receive our newsletters.

The EAP UNGEI newsletter raises awareness of gender in education and acts as a platform for members to share their experiences and knowledge. We are always looking for real life experiences, good practices and opinion pieces to feature. If you have something to share, please email eapungei@unicef.org.

It’s the world’s most disadvantaged who are missing out on education today. And it is the world’s most disadvantaged who stand to gain the most if they only had the chance to learn. Together, we can work to close the gender gap in education.

**EAP UNGEI regional partners**


**Connect with us**

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**UNGEI Vision**

“A world where all girls and boys are empowered through quality education to realize their full potential and contribute to transforming societies where gender equality becomes a reality.”

UNGEI Vision adopted at the 13 June 2008  
UNGEI Global Advisory Committee meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Why UNGEI?

All children, girls and boys, have a right to education. Yet, not everyone receives an education. Faced with unique obstacles, it is often girls who lose out.

Educating a girl delivers huge social and economic benefits to the individual, her community and country:

- When a girl is educated she marries later, has fewer, healthier children and is less likely to die in childbirth
- Each additional year of education boosts a person’s wages by 10 per cent, for girls, the rate of return is as high as 15 per cent
- When 10 per cent more girls go to school, a country’s GDP increases on average by 3 per cent

While progress has been made in narrowing the gender gap in education and improving absolute gender parity—an equal number or proportion of girls and boys accessing education, gender inequalities, discrimination and stereotyping persist. Recent studies show there are 57.8 million children around the world who are out of school; of those, around 53 per cent are girls (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2014).

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can only be achieved through quality education for both girls and boys. To address gender inequalities we need to ensure girls and boys experience the same high quality education and learning.

What is the Global UNGEI Movement?

Global commitments to both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education for All (EFA) goals to achieve gender parity at the primary and secondary school level by 2005 and gender equality by 2015 were made by world leaders. The United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) was launched in April 2000 at the World Education Forum in Dakar by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Its goal is to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education and to ensure that by 2015, all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to all levels of education.

UNGEI, the EFA flagship for girls’ education, is a partnership that embraces the United Nations system, governments, donor countries, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, and communities and families. UNGEI provides stakeholders with a platform for action and galvanizes their efforts to get both girls and boys in school.

What is the East Asia and Pacific UNGEI?

The East Asia and Pacific Regional UNGEI (EAP UNGEI) was launched in May 2002. EAP UNGEI is a network of experts and organizations promoting the right to education and gender equality for all. The regional group aims to strengthen programmes for gender equality in education by ensuring national education plans are gender responsive. We do this through:

- Policy advocacy
- Sharing best practices, information and data
- Building regional and national partnerships

Acknowledging gender issues in the region are complex and multifaceted, our goal is to ensure availability of quality education for all girls and boys across the region.

What Does EAP UNGEI Do?

EAP UNGEI is an active voice for promoting gender equality in education. Two new working groups have been initiated to take forward key areas of the global UNGEI Policy Advocacy Agenda - School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV) and Marginalisation. At the country level, EAP UNGEI provides support for strengthening gender mainstreaming in education.

In Lao PDR, EAP UNGEI contributed to the formation of the Gender, Inclusion, and Disability Technical Working Group (GID TWG), the first technical working group of its kind in the region. The GID TWG was appointed by Ministerial Decree and is chaired by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and currently Co-chaired by a CSO, Plan Lao PDR. In Papua New Guinea, EAP UNGEI has introduced key issues around SRGBV, contributing to the initiation of mapping of SRGBV in selected provinces. EAP UNGEI will continue to expand its support for partners in the region.

Several resources have been published, providing an overview of gender in education in the region and recommendations to address major challenges. Recent publications include:

- Girls, Disabilities and School Education in the East Asia Pacific Region, 2014
- School-Related Gender-Based Violence in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2014
- Why are Boys Underperforming in Education? Gender Analysis of Four Asia-Pacific Countries, 2012
- Evidence-Based Advocacy for Gender in Education, 2010