

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER-INCLUSIVE COVID-19 EDUCATION STRATEGIES IN BURKINA FASO

The Consortium of Civil Society Organizations for the Gender at the Centre Initiative (GCI) carried out a gender analysis of the responses to the specific needs of girls during the COVID-19 pandemic of the Ministry of National Education, Literacy and Promotion of National Languages (MENAPLN) of Burkina Faso. The analysis examined the Ministry's response plan for educational continuity in the context of COVID-19 and the Education in Emergency National Strategy from the viewpoint of the specific needs of girls, which had been defined beforehand. The goal of the analysis was to identify strengths and weaknesses and formulate recommendations for possible revisions of the Education in Emergency National Strategy.

Based on the analysis, the consortium proposes the below recommendations, among others, to MENAPLN.

- Consider the specific needs of girls during the COVID-19 pandemic and define girls' needs as a cross-cutting objective.
- Hold reflection workshops (at national and decentralized levels) with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations specializing in girls' education in Burkina Faso and with girl learners themselves. The workshop outputs will help the Ministry refine its strategy to combat COVID-19 taking into account the the specific needs of girls, in particular, and to refine a strategy for resilience to health crises in schools, in general.
- Involve NGOs and associations specializing in girls' education in Burkina Faso in the mobilization of resources and budgets and to help coordinate programme implementation (at central and decentralized levels) (notably programmes connected to the specific needs of girls during the COVID-19 pandemic) and to ensure the effectiveness of the use of the resources mobilized.
- Involve NGOs and associations specialized in girls' education and in communication for change and development in formulating and disseminating messages (advocacy, training, awareness-raising). This will help messaging to be gender-sensitive and capable of reaching the targeted public throughout the country within reasonable timeframes.
- Hold workshops for Ministry staff and other actors (public and private) who are accountable for programme implementation, especially regarding issues related to the consideration of the specific needs of girls during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Allocate the resources required (human, technical, material, financial) to reach the objectives of the strategies, and in particular to facilitate access to and continuation in school of girls and children in vulnerable situations (such as children who are disabled and those who are orphaned).