

GENDER AT THE CENTRE INITIATIVE

The Gender at the Centre Initiative (GCI) supports, brings together, and champions the leadership of education ministries and civil society national actors to advance gender equality in and through education. Between 2020 and 2023, GCI is promoting gender equality in education in eight countries in Africa—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. GCI is coordinated by the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-UNESCO) and implemented through a multi-stakeholder partnership of education ministries, a civil society consortium, G7 donors, technical partners, and AU/CIEFFA. In partnership with regional and national actors, the education ministries are developing and implementing systematic approaches to achieve gender-responsive education systems through gender-responsive education sector planning (GRESP), fostering leadership for gender equality, and creating demand for gender-transformative education.

The education ministries of all eight countries have engaged in GCI and demonstrated their political leadership on gender equality. 136 government officials and over 300 civil society actors have participated in workshops and training to strengthen their capacities and increase their commitment to mainstream gender equality in the education system. Additionally, GCI raised awareness with over two million people on girls' right to education.

GCI supported the Ministries of Education (MoE) in Sierra Leone and Nigeria mainstream gender in their Education Sector Plans. In Niger, government officials and civil society actors engaged in sector dialogues on gender in education and collaborated on gender-responsive education planning.

“Gender at the Centre Initiative (GCI) has enabled the Ministry for Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) in Sierra Leone to mainstream gender in the national education system, accelerating learning for all children through a Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plan.

GCI also moved Sierra Leone to our 2021 commitment to not just achieve gender parity but reach every child through our Policy on Radical Inclusion in Schools.”

Dr. David Moinina Sengh, Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Sierra Leone



PRIORITÉ À L'ÉGALITÉ
GENDER AT THE
CENTRE

GCI SERVICES TO PARTNER COUNTRIES INCLUDE:

1. Gender-Responsive Education Sector planning and budgeting

- Provide GRESP training and post-training support to education ministry planners and civil society actors
- Convene and bring together national child rights actors, Gender-Based Violence actors, gender and data experts, and women's and girls' empowerment actors to develop meaningful contributions to Education Sector Assessments and Education Sector Plans
- Support gender participatory diagnostics at all stages of education sector assessments, planning, and budgeting
- Support the development of Gender-Responsive Education Sector Analyses and Plans
- Support the development of Gender-Responsive Budgets and contribute to strengthening dialogue between Ministries of Education and Finance
- Build capacity of Local Education Groups to conduct Rapid Assessments and organize sector dialogue on gender equality in education



2. Technical policy advisory and new programming pathways on gender and education

Provide technical advice (with national and regional experts) on policy issues like:

- School-related gender-based violence (the whole school approach)
- Review of curricula and pedagogy to address harmful gender norms
- Skilling, TVET, and employment of adolescent girls and young women
- Locally contextualized comprehensive sexuality education
- Support for women teachers and women's leadership in school systems and the Ministry
- Digital equality

Develop scalable models for new approaches to achieve gender equality in and through education, including, for example:

- "Ending Gender Stereotypes through Classrooms" (under implementation in selected countries)
- "School-Related Gender-Based Violence" whole of school approach centering harmful gender norms that lead to violence (under implementation in selected GCI countries)
- Identifying gender needs for education in emergencies through "EIE GenKit" and building local capacity to address gender in Education in Emergencies (EIE) (under implementation in selected Education Cannot Wait countries)

3. Gender-transformative Leadership for Gender Equality in Education

- Train senior MoE decision-makers in leadership skills and gender equality
- Train female teachers and school principals in leadership skills and set up peer support systems
- Support with advocating for investments in gender-transformative education at national, regional, and global levels
- Facilitate cross-sectoral policy dialogue and coordination among government ministries



4. Community Engagement and convening of multi-sectoral actors for gender equality

- Train senior MoE decision-makers in leadership skills and gender equality
- Train female teachers and school principals in leadership skills and set up peer support systems
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- Facilitate cross-sectoral policy dialogue and coordination among government ministries



5. Supporting South-South cooperation on gender and equity in education

- Coordination of communities of practice for MoE Planners as part of an integrated approach combining the application of lessons learned through GCI training, networking, professional development, and maximizing opportunities to mainstream gender equality in education systems.



6. Evidence-based approach for gender mainstreaming in and through education policymaking

- Support the design of data-driven policies and programs: provide research support for contextualized research on social norms as barriers to gender equality in education, female school leadership, girls' education in humanitarian settings, and other topics.

GCI TOOLS AND GUIDANCE AVAILABLE FOR PRACTITIONERS AND POLICYMAKERS

Gender Equality in Education Snapshot (GES) Toolkit

Self-Assessment Tool with **User Guidance** for Local Education Groups (LEGs) developed in collaboration between Global Partnership for Education and UNGEI

Common messaging Framework on **Putting Gender at the Forefront of the COVID-19 Education Response**

The **Guidance for Developing Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plans** developed by GPE and UNGEI with support from UNICEF

Building back equal - Girls back to school guide developed for policymakers and practitioners in Ministries of Education

EiE-GenKit, a core resource package for gender-responsive education in emergencies

Training on **Gender-responsive Planning and Community of Practice in Gender and Education**: a platform for sharing and peer support on gender equality in education among MoE professionals