

UNGEI | UNITED NATIONS
GIRLS' EDUCATION
INITIATIVE



UNGEI

REPORT

CARD

2022

PROMOTED

TEACHERS' COMMENTS

“UNGEI is crucial. They keep the topic of gender in the international agenda, especially after COVID.”

(NGO)

“UNGEI brought the issues of School-related Gender-based Violence to the highest level.”

(UN)

“UNGEI does a fabulous job at advocacy and convening supported by their huge membership base.”

(Bilateral)

“One of UNGEI’s strengths is joining the voices of youth leaders and decision makers which is really valuable.”

(Bilateral)

“UNGEI is an excellent technical partner.”

(Global Network)

“UNGEI is really great at engaging non-traditional stakeholders. Other organisations are following their lead.”

(Global Network)

“UNGEI is the only organisation focusing on gender and education. They should be the one to bring all donors together.”

(Bilateral)

“The credibility UNGEI provides is important.”

(NGO)

“Sometimes in the middle of all these global institutions you find the real rebel within - UNGEI is the rebel in the UN system and if we are not supporting that we are not supporting change and transformation in the UN.”

(Private Sector Foundation)

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



The Freetown Manifesto: First-ever gender in education commitment developed by 14 African governments.



First multi-country programme to end gender stereotypes in Bangladesh, India, Niger, with UN Women, UNICEF and Plan International.



The Education-in-Emergencies Gen-Kit piloted in Uganda and South Sudan and adopted nationally in South Sudan.



School-related GBV pilot in Sierra Leone to be scaled up in 2023.



Feminist civil society education actors from 31 developing countries convened during UN General Assembly week in New York in September.



Through the 40+ members of UNGEI's Global Advisory Committee, successfully advocated for a dedicated "Leader" session on Gender-Transformative Education at the Transforming Education Summit hosted by the Secretary General in September 2022.



Led or co-led on 12 briefs, 17 events, a record-breaking 2 million engagements across social platforms.



Started developing UNGEI's 2023-2027 portfolio: external review and fundraising ongoing.





GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICY AND PROCESSES – GENDER AT THE CENTRE INITIATIVE (GCI)

The Freetown Manifesto for Gender-Transformative Leadership in Education!

14 Ministers of Education (Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon) developed four policy actions for Gender-Transformative Education called the [Freetown Manifesto](#) at a gender-transformative leadership workshop in Sierra Leone in May 2022, hosted by the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education of Sierra Leone, GCI and UNICEF. The Manifesto has the support of the foreign ministries of Germany, UK and the CEOs of 22 international organisations.

Gender-Transformative Leadership Training for Ministries of Education

UNGEI organised two workshops on [Gender-Transformative Leadership](#), in Nigeria and Senegal with technical support from Gender at Work. The workshops supported 73 MoE officials from 6 countries (Nigeria, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad) to strengthen their commitment, capacity and confidence to lead gender equality in and through education.

Gender Equality in Education Snapshot Toolkit (GES Toolkit)

Through the [GES Toolkit](#), GCI supports Ministries of Education and Local Education Groups to conduct a rapid assessment on gender equality in and through education. In 2022, the Local Education Groups in Chad and Mali used the toolkit and reported that using the toolkit enabled them to understand with greater clarity the extent of gender inequality in the country and its impact on the education system.

Civil Society Actions to Advance Gender Equality in Education

Plan International, FAWE and ANCEFA mobilised community members, government officials and civil society actors around gender equality in education issues. For example, in Sierra Leone, Plan International helped the Ministry of Education develop a gender-sensitive school curriculum. In Niger the CSO consortium organised a dialogue on girls' education and child marriage between national and regional state actors and civil society partners, and in Mozambique ANCEFA contributed to the development of a multi-sectoral mechanism for the prevention and response to violence against children in schools.

Training on School-Related Gender-Based Violence in Mozambique

In June 2022, UNGEI, in partnership with UNICEF and ANCEFA, organised a training on SRGBV for 40 education planners from the Ministry of Education, at national and district levels. Participants learned and shared on data collection, multi-sectoral prevention and response and changing harmful gender norms.

GCI Alliance Partners Strengthen Collaboration

In March 2022, 70 GCI Alliance members (Ministry of Education officials, young feminist activists, donor governments, technical partners, CSOs) came together in Dakar to discuss advancements in gender equality in education in the 8 GCI countries. Participants shared good practices in Gender-Transformative Education, discussed regional challenges and committed to strengthening their partnership at global, regional and national levels.



SCHOOL-RELATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Training Course for Preventing SRGBV

UNGEI launched a training course on SRGBV in partnership with UNESCO and the Global Working Group to End SRGBV, intended for education practitioners, education and GBV CSOs, teachers and teachers' unions, development practitioners and anyone wanting to learn about SRGBV.

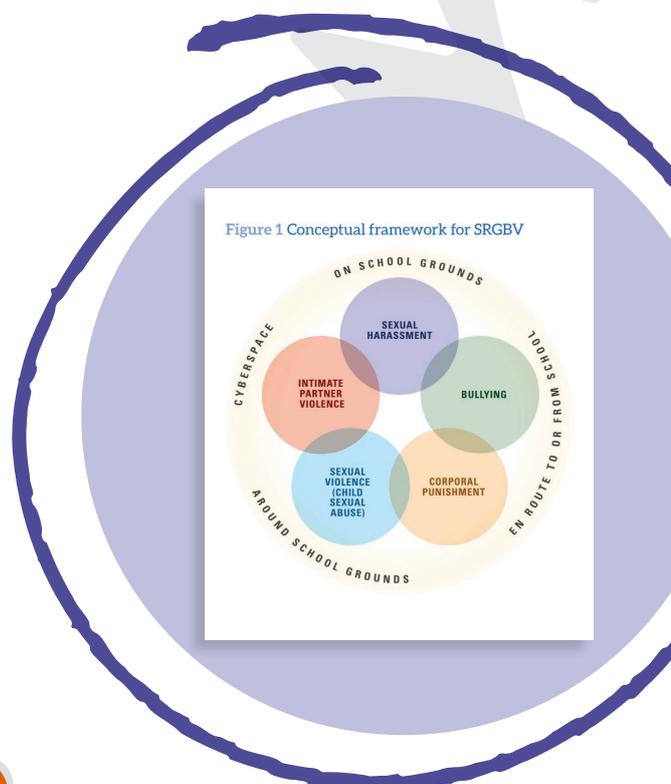
The training course was successfully piloted in Mozambique in June 2022, in partnership with the UNICEF Country Office, for Gender Focal Points and Gender Coordinators from Mozambique's Ministry of Education and Human Development and all provincial Divisions of Education.

Preventing SRGBV - A pilot programme in Sierra Leone

UNGEI, in partnership with UNICEF Sierra Leone, piloted a programme to implement UNGEI's [Whole School Approach Minimum Standards and Monitoring Framework](#) to Prevent SRGBV as an integrated part of the national policy framework. The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education committed to scale up nationally in 2023.

Addressing Sexual Harassment in Educational Settings - A virtual session

With UN Women and UNESCO, UNGEI co-hosted the global policy advocacy virtual session 'Addressing Sexual Harassment in Educational Settings' attended by over 150 stakeholders, in December. This session brought together young feminists, Ministries of Education, CSOs and teachers' unions to discuss country-level experiences, policies and tools to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in educational settings. This session will inform the work of the Global Working Group to End SRGBV.



ELEVATING FEMINIST EXPERTISE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

The Global Feminist Coalition for Gender Transformative Education

On the sidelines of the Transforming Education Summit, UNGEI hosted our inaugural Global Feminist Coalition for [Gender Transformative Education](#) 20 - 21 September 2022, in person in New York and online. The Coalition was a first-of-its-kind coming together of feminist civil society organisations (CSOs) and young activists from 31 countries. These experts deliberated regionally and thematically to develop a [set of top shared priorities](#) and [recommendations to Ministers of Education, UN agencies and donors](#). Outcomes of this convening included stories and key recommendations.

The Transforming Education Summit

In September 2022, the UN Secretary General hosted the Transforming Education Summit. UNGEI joined partners around the world in advocating for Gender-Transformative Education. UNGEI's Global Advisory Committee [successfully advocated](#) for a dedicated spotlight session.

With support from the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, UNGEI brokered and brought in young feminist expertise and leadership throughout the Summit, including the #TransformingEducation Youth Declaration and Chalk Back for Gender Equality in Education.

UNGEI co-hosted the side event 'Gender Transformative Education: From Rhetoric to Action' in partnership with the governments of El Salvador, Niger, the Global Partnership for Education, Plan International and Transform Education, to call for action on gender equality in and through education, including through mechanisms like the Freetown Manifesto for Gender-Transformative Leadership in Education.

UNGEI also co-hosted the side event 'Her Education, Our Futures: Transforming Education with and for Girls' with Namibia, UK, Brookings Institution, UNESCO and UNICEF. The discussion included scalable solutions with impactful outcomes for gender equality and girls' education, informed by research and programming experiences of the partners.



Chalk Back for Gender Equality in Education

During the Transforming Education Summit Mobilization Day, activists 'Chalked Back' on the UN Grounds. UNGEI, Chalk Back, Transform Education, Plan International, Population Council and the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth invited everyone to share personal stories about gender equality in education.



Solidarity Circles: In 2022, UNGEI continued to host and facilitate small, intimate closed-door conversations between activists, practitioners and survivors, including:

IDG Solidarity Circle: Girl Feminist Organising to Transform Education

On the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl, Plan International, UNGEI and Transform Education hosted a Solidarity Circle with and for 12 adolescent girls from 12 partner organizations. The session explored questions including: What does your dream school for gender equality look like? How do we care for ourselves and our communities while doing the work?

Changing the Course, Transforming Education With Youth

On International Day of Education, UNGEI with UN OSGEY, UNESCO, TE and the SDG4Youth Network hosted a Solidarity Circle on what youth want from the TES Summit. These demands were included in the Summit outcomes documents.



Transform Education

Transform Education, the young feminist coalition hosted by UNGEI, completed six funded partnerships, and advocated for Gender-Transformative Education in 26 engagements. Read their [2022 report here](#).

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

Supporting Education Cannot Wait's Gender Policy and Gender Operational Plan

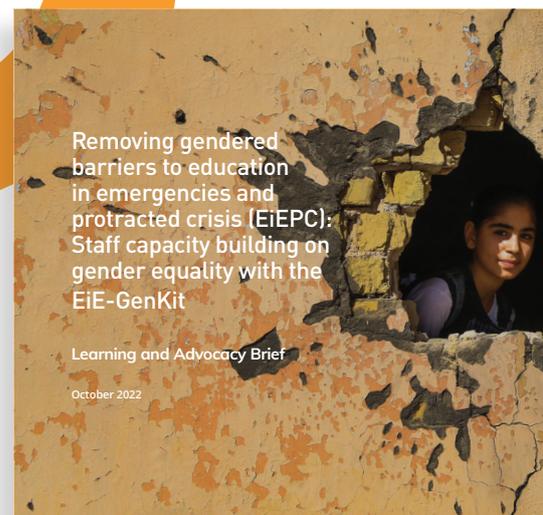
UNGEI contributed to INEE's and Education Cannot Wait's gender strategy, gender outputs and the development of their interventions so that all EiE programmes fully address the differentiated needs of children in all their gender diversity.

EiE-GenKit Pilots in South Sudan and Uganda

UNGEI and Plan UK implemented the field testing of the EiE-GenKit in Uganda and South Sudan in May 2022. In South Sudan, the GenKit led to the inclusion of regular gender safety audits in site plans, commitment to universal 'Girls Get Equal' campaigns at all sites and training of community leaders to support teenager mothers' schoolgoing. In Uganda, the GenKit led to dedicated breastfeeding spaces in schools, increased the target for recruitment of women teachers and developed non-motorcycle transport options for women staff. The Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) recommended the EiE-GenKit be disseminated to and rolled out in all States in South Sudan, not only ECW project sites.

Removing Gendered Barriers to Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crisis (EiEPC): Staff capacity building on gender equality with the EiE-GenKit - Learning and advocacy brief

Education in emergencies and protracted crises (EiEPC) partners INEE, ECW, Plan International and UNGEI joined together to produce a [brief](#) after the rapid pilot of the EiE-GenKit (2021) over a six-month period. The pilot tested tools and measured the impact of EiEPC work being implemented.



The global fund for education in emergencies



Authors:

Sujata Bordoloi, Gloria Diamond, Kathryn Moore (United Nations Girls' Education Initiative), Jihane Latrous (Education Cannot Wait), Yazgulu Sezgi Maddison Van Balkom and Nafissatou Faye (Plan International Canada), Caroline Abilat and Andrew Eyamu (Plan International Uganda), Nagore Moran (Plan International UK), Duku Dominic (Plan International South Sudan) and Lauren Gerken (Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies).

ADDRESSING HARMFUL GENDER SOCIALIZATION

Ending Gender Stereotypes in Classrooms Programme

UNGEI launched the first multi-country programme to end gender stereotypes in classrooms, teaching children to question gender stereotypes through play-based curriculum in Bangladesh, India and Niger with UN Women, UNICEF and Plan International. In Bangladesh, teachers are supported to implement the curriculum within selected secondary schools in Dhaka district so that students shift their attitudes towards progressive gender norms. In India, a gender-transformative program based on cartoons and comics is underway at upper primary and secondary levels in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, known for high gender disparities. In Niger, implementation will start early 2023. In all three countries, students, teachers, school staff and parents are targeted with a whole-school approach.

Partner Coalition for Ending Gender Stereotypes

UNGEI led the establishment of an intergenerational coalition of partners on ending gender stereotypes in classrooms, with over 15 member organisations working in partnership to advance evidence and advocacy and increase investment in ending stereotypes in and through education. The partnership is working to build momentum globally on ending gender stereotypes using play-based curricula in classrooms through joint advocacy, communication and resource mobilization.



GENDER IN EDUCATION

DATA AND EVIDENCE

[Busting Myths on Girls' Education and Gender Equality](#) -

UNGEI and the Girls' Education Challenge (GEC), challenge widely held myths that have a significant and persistent negative impact on the rights and education of women and girls.

[Social norms and girls' education: A study of eight sub-Saharan African countries - Gender at the Centre Initiative \(GCI\) Policy Paper](#) -

A policy paper combining the main findings from a literature review on social norms and girls' education with new evidence, including in the context of COVID-19.

[UNGEI Working Paper: A summary of evidence on gender gaps in education in the context of COVID-19](#) -

This UNGEI Working Paper presents a mapping of existing evidence on the gender gaps in education in the context of COVID-19.

[Ending Gender Stereotypes in Classrooms](#) -

This briefing note introduces the challenge of harmful gender stereotypes in schools, gives background to the programme being implemented, and introduces a partner coalition to take this work forward.

[Gender Gaps in Education During COVID-19: Data and evidence](#) -

A factsheet that presents a quick summary of data and evidence from developing countries on gender gaps in learning through the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Intergenerational Partnerships for Transformative Change: A learning brief](#) -

This feminist and intergenerational brief was co-developed by feminists representing their organisations from different generations. It is based on the lived experiences and realities of young feminist networks, UN agencies and organisations. Through case studies it illustrates how UNGEI has grown into an intergenerational partnership to progress gender equality in and through education.

[GDS2022: A Collective Call to Action for Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Education](#) -

During the global Disability Summit 2022, UNGEI joined forces with Sight Savers, Leonard Cheshire, Commonwealth Children & Youth Disability Network and the Cambridge Network for Disability and Education Research to call for education that is gender-responsive and inclusive, so that no girl with disabilities is left behind.

[How Will Data Help Us Break the Cycle of Intersectional Discrimination for Girls and Women with Disabilities?](#) -

A joint op-ed on bridging the gender and disability data divide to help break bias faced by girls with disabilities in education.

[The Role of Teachers in Ending School Violence and Bullying](#) -

On International Day against Violence and Bullying at School including Cyberbullying, UNGEI co-authored a blog article with UNESCO and Safe to Learn.

[Gender Transformative Education: Young feminists taking action](#) -

Young feminist activist, Maryjacob Okwuosa of Whisper to Humanity, writes about how she coordinated a capacity-strengthening workshop on Gender-Transformative Education with teachers in south-eastern Nigeria.

[African Girls Can Code: Closing the gender gap in ICT](#) - On Girls in ICT Day, UNGEI and the African Union CIEFFA co-authored a blog on the importance of teaching girls to code as an approach to closing the gender gap in the tech world and bridging the gender digital divide.

[G7 Global Objectives On Girls' Education](#) -

This baseline report on FCDO's two global objectives for girls' education highlights evidence on low and lower middle income countries' starting points relative to the global objectives of ensuring that 40 million girls are in school and 20 million girls are able to read with understanding by 2026. The report was jointly written by the Global Education Monitoring Report and UNGEI with analysis and evidence from feminist education practitioners and activists from developing countries in addition to global education data. The report was designed by feminist illustrator, Upasana Agarwal.



[It's Not Girls Versus Boys, It's All Children Against Gender Inequality](#) -

UNGEI and the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre at the University of Cambridge, share the importance of work on gender equality in education not being a battle ground of 'boys vs girls'.

['Girls' Rights Don't Come on a Golden Platter, We Need to Keep on Fighting for it!](#) -

On Day of the African Child, UNGEI featured an interview with feminist activist Ely Aminetou, founding member of the Coalition of Mauritanian Organizations for Education (COMEDUC) and Chair of the Mauritanian Association of Women Heads of Household (AFCH).

['Education Was About Hope for the Future - Especially for Us Girls'](#) -

In this op-ed, Arezo Kohistany Director of the Yalda Hakim Foundation, shares a personal experience of what it means to be denied, fight for, and protect the right to education for girls in Afghanistan.

[SRGBV Training for Ministry of Education Staff in Mozambique](#) -

Mozambique's Ministry of Education and Human Development staff reflect on the School-related Gender-based Violence training sessions organised by the International Institute for Educational Planning UNESCO and UNGEI in Mozambique.

[Feminists are Leading the Way for Girls' Education](#) -

For International Day of the Girl, members of the global feminist coalition highlight what Gender-Transformative Education means to them.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

AND GROWTH

In 2022 UNGEI's social media saw exponential growth with 200K followers engaging across [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) giving these platforms 2 million impressions, views and engagements.

[ungei.org](#) has continued to expand in usership, with 300K+ visitors from over 130 countries making it a truly global resource for gender equality in education materials and information.

The [Knowledge Hub](#) is UNGEI's ever growing online space dedicated to gender equality in education and now hosts over 900 documents and resources for users to access freely.

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