

# GENDER AT THE CENTER INITIATIVE (GCI)

A whole-system approach to Gender-Transformative Education

## PROGRAM PACKAGE FOR UNICEF COUNTRY OFFICES

### WHAT IS GCI?

The [Gender at the Centre Initiative \(GCI\)](#) champions the leadership of education ministries and civil society national actors to advance gender equality in and through education. Through an innovative whole-system approach GCI strengthens technical gender capacity, fosters political will and supports the transformation of harmful gender norms. From 2020 to 2023, GCI has been promoting gender-transformative education in eight focus countries in Africa—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. GCI is jointly coordinated by UNGEI and UNESCO-IIEP and implemented through a multi-stakeholder partnership of education ministries, a civil society consortium, G7 donors, technical partners and AU/CIEFFA. UNICEF is a key technical and implementing partner within the initiative. As GCI transitions into its fourth year and kick-starts its second phase, UNICEF country offices will get the opportunity to learn from the initiative's experiences and evidence and receive support to implement the GCI programmatic package.

### Some GCI Achievements

- **600 government officials** and over 400 civil society actors trained and strengthened in mainstreaming gender equality in education systems.
- **2 million students**, parents, and school staff engaged via community-based research, radio and TV, and dialogue on girls' education and harmful gender norms.
- **Freetown Manifesto**, a high-level commitment to advancing gender equality in and through education, signed by 14 African countries
- **Ministries of Education** in Sierra Leone and Nigeria mainstreamed gender in their Education Sector Plans.
- **Gender Rapid Assessments** through the [GES Toolkit](#) completed in 4 countries

## THE GCI PACKAGE - YOUR CO, GCI & YOUR COUNTRY'S CHANGEMAKERS!

UNICEF country offices can receive technical support from UNGEI to implement a sub-set or the totality of the following services in support of UNICEF's ongoing programmes or as a standalone programme to promote gender-transformative education systems. Each service ties into one of GCI's four strategic objectives:

### 1. Data & Evidence: Support ministries and civil society to generate and use relevant gender in education data and evidence

- ▶ Gender Rapid Assessments, using the [Gender Equality in Education Snapshot \(GES\) Tool](#)
- ▶ Gender-Responsive Education Sector Analysis
- ▶ Participatory research on gender in education, including gender norms, SRGBV and women school leadership

### 2. Gender Technical Capacity & Commitment: Build technical capacity and promote commitment for gender-responsive education policy making, planning and management

- ▶ Capacity building on Gender-Responsive Education Sector Planning (GRESPE)
- ▶ Gender-Transformative Leadership training
- ▶ Technical support on gender-responsive policy making, planning and budgeting
- ▶ Policy advocacy

## GCI Tools and Guidance

- [Gender Equality in Education Snapshot \(GES\) Toolkit](#)
- [Guidance for Developing Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plans](#)
- [Building back equal - Girls back to school guide: guidance 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](#)



### 3. Feminist Movement Building: Contribute to the development of a strong and coordinated movement for gender-transformative education

- ▶ Support Local Education Groups to coordinate action for gender equality in education
- ▶ National Feminist Youth Coalitions for Gender-Transformative Education
- ▶ Country-to-country learning
- ▶ GCI Alliance: a global multistakeholder platform for joint action

### 4. Gender Norms Transformation: Act as a catalyst to increase demand for gender equality in and through education

- ▶ Foster community dialogue on gender norms change
- ▶ Innovative multi-media campaigns on gender equality in education
- ▶ Support young feminist activists to promote social change
- ▶ Address gender stereotypes in schools through play-based curricula

## WHAT UNICEF COUNTRY OFFICES CAN EXPECT FROM THE GLOBAL GCI TEAM:

- A tested package of interventions for mainstreaming gender equality in education systems
- Technical support to contextualize and implement the GCI approach
- Access to a set of GCI tools and research
- Access to the global GCI Alliance, with regular networking and peer learning opportunities
- M&E and reporting through the GCI newsletter and Global Annual Report



UNGEI and UNESCO IIEP GCI Secretariat