

Erasmus+ Stakeholders Virtual Café

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Promoting gender equality in and through education in EU international partnerships

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Equality challenges in the world are reflected in education

- 2 in 3 girls complete primary school worldwide.
- 1 in 3 girls finish lower secondary school in low income countries.
- From 750 million adults lacking basic literacy skills, two thirds are women.
- Poverty remains the most important factor for determining whether a girl can access or continue education.
- Approximately 650 million girls and women are currently married before the age of 18, often leaving school.
- Girls' education is particularly affected by conflict and crisis context: increased risk of gender-based violence, child marriage and unwanted pregnancy.
- In low-income countries, 90% of adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 are offline, compared to 78% of adolescent boys and young men of the same age who do not use the internet.

EU policy framework and approach

- **EU's current Gender Action Plan in External Action:** the EU has increased its investments in partner countries in gender responsive education systems, contributing to schooling of 21.5 million girls in 84 partner countries around the world.
- **Inclusive education is key part of the EU Global Gateway offer** in its own right but also as an enabler for investments for digital and green transformations to succeed in an equitable and sustainable manner.
- EU policies support **empowering girls along the entire education cycle** promoting equal chances in higher education, VET, and cross-border mobility, including on STEM qualifications and digital skills.
- EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 promotes a rights based, intersectional and transformative approach, targeted and non-targeted interventions and policy dialogue.

Girls' education: EU Engagement at global and regional level



New MFF €700 million pledged to support GPE new 'gender hardwired' Strategic Plan 2021-2025



Increasing girls education **opportunities in emergencies and protracted crises**



Global alliance working in pilot countries across SSA to **mobilise leadership and expertise** to step up progress for gender equality in and through education



Encouraging **mobility and female participation to higher education and labour** markets, building capacities of High Education and VET organisations

Regional Teacher Initiative for Africa (RTIA)



Why?

Investing in teachers is investing in our common future. It's an investment in learning that is a prerequisite for transformation.

What is key?

Tackle teacher shortage, improve teacher engagement, improve teaching quality

Partners:



What do we intend to achieve?

Ensure that teacher policies and practices in Sub-Saharan Africa contribute to delivering quality education for all, laying foundations for further human capital development

- ➔ Digital and green transitions; gender equality; pedagogy; fragile contexts
- ➔ Assist, test & accelerate progress

How?



Complementarity with programmes financed by the EU or EU Member States



Sub-Saharan countries

Girls' education: Key areas supported 2021-2023, country level

93% of EU funding committed to education targeting gender equality

Resources for better access

- **Cash transfers** for girls (CAR, Chad, Malawi, Uganda)
- **School infrastructure** (Rwanda, Malawi, Uganda, Haiti)
- **Learning opportunities for girls leaving school**, teenage pregnant girls and child mothers (Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan)

Gender responsive teaching and learning

- **Curriculum and textbook reforms** (Angola, Ghana, Pakistan)
- **Gender-responsive pedagogy** (SSA through the Regional Teacher Initiative, Uganda, Rwanda)
- **Recruitment and support female teachers** (Afghanistan, Malawi, Somalia, South Sudan,)

Safe & healthy learning environments incl. EiE

- **Plan and design safe schools** (Mozambique, Sudan)
- **Tackle school-related gender-based violence** (Uganda, Sudan, Haiti)
- **Appropriate water and sanitation facilities** (Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia)

Gender norms & community awareness

- **Empower girls and boys to fight gender stereotypes** (Mozambique, Nigeria)
- **Engage local actors and parents** (Mozambique, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda)

Improving access to STEM, enabling equitable digital and green transitions

- **Reducing digital divide** (Jamaica, CAR, Pakistan, El Salvador)
- **Increase girls' participation in STEM** (South Africa, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia)
- **Promoting girls access to HE&VET green areas** (Angola, Kyrghistan, Ghana)

Accessing STEM, enabling equitable digital and green transitions



- **Digital Jamaica:** addressing diverse learning needs of boys and girls, introducing digital skills in the national teacher curriculum.
- **Bangladesh:** promoting women's participation through the Partnership for Green Energy Transition programme. The EU offers a leadership programme for young female students enrolled in STEM subjects.
- **Cambodia:** The EU supports increased participation of women and girls in technology tracks in the education system to facilitate participation in the green and digital transformation of the economy.
- **Angola:** emphasis on improving girls' access to green fields such as sustainable agriculture by supporting a gender responsive reform of Angolan Technical Agrarian Institutes.

THANK YOU

