

HOW GPE DRIVES GENDER EQUALITY

Education drives gender equality which is key to creating a more peaceful, prosperous, healthy and sustainable world. But for education to fulfill its potential, both girls and boys must equally benefit from it.

THE CHALLENGE

- In low-income countries, **fewer than two of three girls complete primary school** and only one in three finishes lower secondary school.
- A shocking **60 million girls are sexually assaulted every year** on their way to school or while in school.
- Women account for **two-thirds of the 750 million adults** who lack basic literacy skills.
- In some areas, **boys are more disadvantaged** than girls. In South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, more girls than boys are enrolled in lower secondary school.
- **The COVID-19 pandemic** has taken an especially devastating toll on girls and women, threatening to derail recent progress toward gender equality.



Mariama is a student at the Freetown Secondary School for Girls in Sierra Leone
GPE/Ludovica Pellicoli

GPE RESULTS



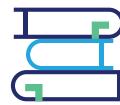
TWICE

AS MANY GIRLS are on the path to gender equality in GPE partner countries, with 82 million more girls in school since GPE's founding in 2002.



GIRLS' PRIMARY

ENROLLMENT ROSE BY 65% since 2002, and nearly three-quarters of GPE partner countries have achieved gender parity in primary school completion rates.



50%

OF GIRLS completed lower secondary school in GPE partner countries in 2018, up from 41% in 2010.

GPE APPROACH

GPE works so that girls and boys can have equal access to an education and learn what they need to unlock their full potential. We help achieve this by:

- **Hardwiring gender equality into everything we do.** This means helping partner countries diagnose and address gender inequalities so that every girl and boy has an equal opportunity to get a good education.
- **Putting gender equality at the heart of education systems.** GPE helps partner countries use data and evidence to identify gender barriers within education systems and ensure that plans, strategies and policies are in place to address them.
- **Mobilizing partnerships and funds to drive change,** with a focus on accelerating progress in countries where girls' education is lagging.
- **Eliminating gender barriers** by supporting efforts like public awareness campaigns, building schools closer to communities, providing resources for menstrual hygiene management and removing harmful stereotypes from learning materials.

WHY GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION MATTERS

Gender equality is a precondition for ending poverty, building peaceful and more resilient societies and achieving sustainable development. Education is a game-changer in helping achieve a more gender-equal world:

- Greater gender equality in education decreases a country's likelihood of conflict, boosts economic prosperity and improves resilience to climate disasters.
- Eliminating education gaps between girls and boys is a powerful way to prevent persistent inequalities from repeating from one generation to the next.
- Universal girls' education would practically end child marriage, more than halve infant mortality, and drastically reduce early childbearing, overcoming some of the main drivers of gender inequality.
- Gender-equitable education promotes the development of life skills such as self-management and critical thinking that young people need to succeed and closes skills gaps that perpetuate wage inequality and stunt countries' economic growth.



Students in class at the KDEC Pre-Primary School Masorie
Sierra Leone, January 2019
Credit: GPE/Ludovica Pellicoli