



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Information for Funding Partners



Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education

A Joint Programme by
UNESCO, UN Women and UNFPA

About the Joint Programme

Implemented jointly by UNESCO, UN Women and UNFPA, the Joint Programme on Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education leverages the expertise of the three UN partner agencies to promote girls' education and empowerment in a multi-sectoral approach. The Joint Programme aims to invest in the education sector, but also to strengthen linkages with health and other relevant sectors. Such a comprehensive approach allows resources to work in a synergistic manner to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and ultimately contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over an initial period of five years (2016-2021), the goal is to reach out to adolescent girls (10-19 years) and young women (20-24 years) in as many countries as possible where challenges to girls' and women's education remain significant. Thanks to generous financial support of 15 million USD by the Republic of Korea, through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the implementation of the Joint Programme will soon be initiated in Mali, Nepal and Tanzania. Activities in these countries will be strategically built into the interface between education, health, skills development, technology and women's economic empowerment. Relevant ministries, civil society and other stakeholders will be engaged in finalizing and implementing country plans to ensure country ownership.

Areas of focus

Leveraging the expertise and experience of the partner UN agencies in a multi-sectoral and comprehensive approach, the Joint Programme aims to support not only investments through the education sector, but also to strengthen linkages with health, labour, social affairs and other relevant sectors, through four complementary components:

- **Component 1:** Improving the quality and relevance of education for adolescent girls and young women
- **Component 2:** Strengthening linkages between the health and education sectors to respond to the needs of adolescent girls at risk of adolescent pregnancy and school dropout
- **Component 3:** Fostering enabling environments and strengthening inter-sectoral coordination and governance
- **Component 4:** Building the data and evidence-base needed for gender-responsive education policies and actions

Fund management arrangements

The Joint Programme collects funds from donors and channels them to the Participating UN Organizations for global, regional and country level action, as appropriate. In accordance with the decisions of the Global Steering Committee, the Joint Programme employs primarily a pass-through fund management modality. UNESCO serves as the designated Administrative Agent and is responsible for receiving and administering contributions from donors, disbursing them to the Participating UN Organizations and preparing and submitting the financial reports.

The Joint Programme will start implementation in three countries thanks to the financial contribution of 15 million USD from the Republic of Korea. In order to cover the funding gap, presented in the table below, and enable the implementation of the Joint Programme in all the six countries of the first phase, a joint resource mobilization strategy is being developed by the Participating UN Organizations.

Budget target and budget gap (in USD millions)

Country	Expected budget	Funds raised	Budget Gap (minimum)
Mali	6	4.5	1.5
Nepal	6	4.5	1.5
Niger	6	0	6
Pakistan	6	0	6
South Sudan	6	0	6
Tanzania	6	4.5	1.5
Total	36	13.5	22.5

“There is no justification – be it cultural, economic or social – for denying girls and women an education. It is a basic right and an absolute condition for reaching all the internationally agreed development goals. It is through education that girls and women can gain the freedom to make choices, to shape their future and to build more inclusive and just societies.”

Irina Bokova
Director-General
UNESCO

“We must ensure that every door to the education of girls and women remains open across the life cycle; that girls and women who drop out of education have second chances; that they have the relevant skills to transition to productive lives and full citizenship; and that the empowerment of girls and women becomes an inseparable part of the return on our investments in education.”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Executive Director
UN Women

“Today too many girls do not complete school due to teenage pregnancy and early and forced marriage. Providing girls and young people with comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health information and services protects the rights to education and health, and advances gender equality and the achievement of internationally agreed goals.”

Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director
UNFPA

How you can contribute

Grounded in the collective commitment of three UN agencies, UNESCO, UN Women, UNFPA, their expertise and shared vision to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the Joint Programme provides a solid platform for Member States, donors, foundations, the private sector and other stakeholders that are interested and committed to the promotion of gender equality and girls’ and women’s empowerment to come on board as partners.

Contact

If you are interested in becoming a funding partner to the Joint Programme, please contact UNESCO, which serves as the Administrative Agent and manages the Joint Programme funds, at the following address:

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