

# HOW GPE DRIVES GENDER EQUALITY



Grade one students from Chambak Haer Primary School showing their drawings in class in the Siem Reap province of Cambodia.  
GPE/Luis Tato

Education has the potential to drive gender equality, which is key to creating a more peaceful, prosperous, healthy and sustainable world. But for education to fulfill its potential, every child regardless of their gender must benefit from it equally. This is why the **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** is placing gender equality at the center of everything we do.

## THE CHALLENGE

- ▶ In low-income countries, **fewer than two of every 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.

## GPE RESULTS



**160 MILLION**

**more children**, more than half of them girls, are in school in GPE partner countries since 2002.



**NEARLY 75%**

**of partner countries** have achieved gender parity at national level in primary school completion rates.



**50%**

**of girls completed lower secondary school** in partner countries in 2019, up from 46 percent in 2013.

## 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:

- Supporting countries to identify and address gender inequalities. GPE helps countries generate data and evidence and supports planning, strategy and accountability so that every child, regardless of their gender, has an equal opportunity to get a good education.
- Mobilizing partnerships and funds to drive change, with a focus on accelerating progress in countries where girls' education is lagging.
- Addressing harmful gender-based barriers to and within education. GPE supports public awareness campaigns, the removal of gender stereotypes from learning materials, building schools closer to communities and reducing school costs so that girls and boys in the poorest households can attend school.
- Working with a wide range of partners across sectors to galvanize political support for girls' education and gender equality.

## 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 equitable world.

- Greater gender equality in education decreases a country's likelihood of conflict, boosts economic prosperity and improves resilience to climate disasters.
- Education can be a powerful tool in preventing the repetition of persistent inequalities from one generation to the next.
- Universal girls' education would drastically decrease child marriage, more than halve infant mortality and reduce early childbearing, overcoming some of the main drivers of gender inequality.
- Gender-equitable education systems promote the development of life skills such as self-management and critical thinking that young people need to succeed. They close skills gaps that perpetuate pay inequality and promote agency and participation in social, political and financial structures throughout life.



Students read from a textbook during class in the Siem Reap province of Cambodia.  
GPE/Roun Ry