



GIRLS' EDUCATION

Forum 2016: An Equal Right to Education

Summary of Commitments

Afghanistan

Afghanistan commits to take all necessary actions, within the resources available, to accelerate gender equity and education outcomes for marginalized girls. Additionally, Afghanistan commits to increase focus on girls' education in remote locations, and share its successful experiences with other countries.

Australia

Australia reaffirms its commitment to policies and investments that empower girls in the Indo-Pacific region and globally. This includes a focus on girls' education, disability-inclusive education systems, and equal education opportunities for girls from marginalised communities. Australia will support interventions that improve access and the participation of girls (such as making education more affordable), promote leadership opportunities for women and girls in education, and support the collection and use of data and evidence to maximise quality education for marginalised girls.

Australia continues to empower girls in our foreign policy agenda and aid program through appointing an Ambassador for Women and Girls, creating a \$55 million Gender Equality Fund, and implementing Australia's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment strategy which sets an ambitious 80% target for all Australia's aid to effectively promote gender equality. A new AUD10 million gender action platform through the Australian Aid program will provide more opportunities to empower and improve outcomes for women and girls in the Indo-Pacific region.

Cambridge University

Drawing on data generated under DFID's Girls' Education Challenge, Cambridge University's Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) centre commits to a **new partnership** with Camfed to analyse what it costs of sending a marginalised girl through secondary school and improving her learning. This aims to inform targeted financing mechanisms that ensure that no girl is left behind, in the drive for quality education for all. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University commits to get higher education institutions to play a bigger role in the Let Girls Learn initiative.

Canada

Canada is currently undertaking a review of its international assistance, starting from a commitment that the empowerment of women and girls and the protection and promotion of their rights through advancing gender equality will be at the heart of its international assistance moving forward. Canada is engaging key domestic and international stakeholders to understand how this goal can best translate into concrete action, and invites partners to contribute expertise and insights to its [consultation process](#).

Camfed

Camfed commits to support 1 million marginalised girls through secondary school and into independence and secure livelihoods by 2020. This is to raise ambition for what's possible to achieve for girls – at pace and at scale, and in partnership with government school systems.

Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)

CIFF commits the remaining \$17 million of its 2014 pledge to GPE to strengthening the education of adolescent girls in developing countries. The funds will support gender-responsive evidence-based education sector planning and innovative policy solutions to increase the number of adolescent girls moving into secondary education. The funding is results-based, and payments will reward improvements in girls' education outcomes.

Girl Effect

By 2020, Girl Effect will build a mass audience of 350 million people with 85 million girl consumers. It will work to not just to tackle social norms that create barriers to education, but to unite supply-side investments and make sure girls have a new normal.

Global Citizen

Global Citizen commits to take forward the #SheWill campaign over the summer in the lead-up to the UN General Assembly, in support of the work of GPE.

Global Partnership for Education

Over the next 5 years, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) commits to implement its new Gender Policy, Strategy and Action Plan, agreed by the GPE Board in June 2016. This will align with its newly adopted strategy "GPE 2020", which has equity as its core.

Norway

The government of Norway has committed to doubling its support to education over the current 4 year period (2013-2017). Norway is also doubling its support to GPE. The Prime Minister is strongly dedicated to girls' education, and this is a main priority in Norwegian development policy. Norway supports girls' education through different partners and channels - multilaterally (in particular through UNICEF which hosts UNGEI), and bilaterally (e.g. in Malawi). A substantial part is channelled through civil society.

Pearson

Pearson commits to **extend** their partnership with Camfed, at the request of the government of Tanzania, to **scale-up** Camfed's successful Learner Guide programme nationwide. This will expand the programme to 4 new districts; recruit and support 6 Core Trainers and 180 female Learner Guides from rural, marginalized communities; provide 6,400 children with learning materials and Learner Guide support in 80 new schools; financially support 1,200 marginalised rural girls to stay in secondary school; and support a total school population of approximately 43,200 children in 80 schools benefitting from improvements to the school environment through the Learner Guide programme.

Plan UK

Plan UK commits to direct £30 million of its own funding and further funds it raises towards programming and advocacy on girls' education by 2020. Plan will work with partners globally, nationally and locally, and with the most marginalised girls, especially in humanitarian contexts, to ensure all girls get a quality, inclusive education.

Rozaria Memorial Trust

Rozaria Memorial Trust commits to work to end child marriage, and help married girls to go back to school in Zimbabwe.

South Sudan

South Sudan commits to continue implementing gender-sensitive policies to ensure all girls are able to complete primary and secondary education, through both implementation of the Girls Education Challenge South Sudan programme, and providing capitation grants to primary schools when funds become available. The government of South Sudan commits to increase the number of female teachers from 12% to 40% over the next 5 years, through government and partner programmes.

UNESCO

UNESCO will work with governments, non-governmental organisations and civil society to keep and bring back girls to school through secondary, by intensifying high-level policy advocacy; reinforcing normative and standard-setting actions; and increasing technical assistance to Member States. UNESCO's commitment also includes the UNESCO Prize for girls' and women's education - honouring outstanding innovations that advance girls' and women's education. Supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Prize was awarded for the first time to two outstanding projects from Indonesia and Zimbabwe in 2016. The Prize will contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, particularly SDG goals 4 on education and 5 on gender equality.

UNICEF

As set out in its Strategic Plan and Gender Action Plan 2014-2017, UNICEF commits to continue supporting governments to increase girls' primary and secondary completion, and in doing so, empower girls to acquire relevant learning outcomes for life, future learning, livelihoods and employment. UNICEF works in more than 53 countries to enable girls' education to secondary, and **further commits to:** (i) Work with governments in a subset of 12 countries over the next 5 years to test and implement cost-effective and evidence-based solutions at scale, including development of gender-responsive sector plans and budgets, to scale up learning opportunities for marginalized adolescent girls (ii) Through *Education Cannot Wait*, advocate for additional education funds to be targeted to adolescents girls living in fragile and conflict affected settings.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) commits to providing a further £100 million to extend our Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) programme into a new phase. This will include a new 'Leave No Girl Behind' window which will support a new cohort of 175,000 highly marginalised adolescent girls (particularly those who have dropped out or never attended school) to gain the literacy, numeracy and other relevant skills to enable them to transition into or back to education, and onwards to work. This commitment will also allow DFID to extend our support, keeping a million girls in schools and supporting their learning as they transition through education. DFID will finish the job we have started with the GEC, and will set out plans later this year on how we will ensure the full cohort of girls is supported throughout their education.

USA

The US **reaffirms** its commitment to ensure girls across Afghanistan have access to the knowledge and skills they need to build a better future for themselves, their families, their communities and for their country. One way the USA will do this is through the Let Girls Learn initiative. In Afghanistan, the USA is launching a **new** \$25 million partnership with DFID to initiate a female teacher apprenticeship programme. Through this programme, adolescent girls in grades 9-12 will learn the skills needed to forge careers as teachers, enabling them to fill the teacher gap that prevents many girls from attending school. The USA will work with the Government of Afghanistan to build upon these efforts.

World Bank

The World Bank Group **reiterates** its commitment, made by President Jim Kim and First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama in April 2016, to invest \$2.5 billion by 2020 in education projects that directly target and benefit adolescent girls (ages 12-17). About 75% of these investments are expected to go to the poorest countries in Africa and South Asia. This support will provide adolescent girls with access to quality education at secondary level, ensure they are enrolled in and stay in school. Support will include scholarships, conditional cash transfers, and schools with basic facilities (e.g. clean drinking water and toilets). Educating adolescent girls and promoting gender equality is part of a broader, holistic effort by the Bank Group, outlined in its new [global strategy for gender equality](#).

Varkey Foundation

Varkey Foundation commits to (i) support marginalised girls' education through scaled-up initiatives in Ghana and Uganda, subject to funds, and (ii) promote and facilitate targeted financing for girls' education and the generation of innovative data (e.g. with information technology partners).

Vodafone Foundation

Vodafone **reiterates** its commitment to use mobile technology to bring education to refugee girls, reaching a potential 3 million young people in refugee camps across Vodafone countries of operation by 2020 (HeforShe commitment). Vodafone will do this in two ways: (i) Building schools in refugee camps: Vodafone has established 20 Instant Network schools providing internet connectivity, power, tablets, mobile content and teacher training in Kenya, DRC and South Sudan. (ii) Vodafone is launching the Vodafone Instant Schools for Africa initiative this Autumn, providing millions of young people in DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique and Tanzania with free access to digital education resources developed by [Learning Equality](#).