Lessons from the GEC: Adolescent Girls

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18 countries
37 projects

Up to a million marginalised girls in school

Innovation
Systemic change

Leveraging private sector funding
Improved learning for girls

M&E - Over 70,000 girls surveyed and tracked
Safe Spaces for girls

Raising awareness with girls and their communities

31 out of 37 projects say early marriage is a barrier to learning

70% of women and girls face forced marriage

In Afghanistan

In Ethiopia girls often married at 10-14 yrs
GEC Design Principles

- Competition and diversity of actors
- Innovation
- Non-state and Private Sector involvement
- Evidence and lesson learning
- Focus on marginalised girls
- Focus on results

Girls’ Education Challenge
GEC portfolio progress to date

- 2,551 classrooms constructed / renovated
- 4,750 disabled girls enrolled in schools
- 53,600 teachers trained
- 1,293,624 girls reached
- 6,437,283 textbooks / student kits disbursed
- £9,760,560 girls’ bursaries / stipends / cash transfers
We want to deliver transformative changes for girls. We need to know what works (and what doesn’t).

**Impact evaluations of projects**
Baseline evaluation has surveyed and tested over 70,000 girls. Results used to re-design projects. Girls revisited at midline and endline.

**Longitudinal research**
A 10-year study to examine long-term and intergenerational impacts of educating girls.

**External evaluation**
Assessing the effectiveness, value for money and impact of the GEC as a whole.

**Shaping international discourse**
Through knowledge management, outreach, high-quality thematic research.
Adolescent girls
Girls fall behind as they get older

• The older girls are, the wider the gap in literacy levels becomes (compared with international norms)
• By age 15 girls are over 6 years behind international benchmarks of reading fluency

Source: GEC Baseline Report, Step Change Window, January 2015, Figure 12
The girls supported by the GEC face a number of barriers to education. Not every girl faces every barrier, although many marginalised girls face more than one. Not every barrier can be surmounted, but they can be navigated around. The GEC is working in four main ways to tackle these barriers and, through education, help up to a million girls to expand their opportunities and improve their lives.
How the GEC is tackling these barriers – 1

Foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, especially for those who need remedial support

- In Tanzania the BRAC project is enrolling girls in the government-run Institute of Adult Education to complete lower secondary education through study clubs
How the GEC is tackling these barriers – 2

Teachers who have appropriate skills, positive attitudes and who have continued supported to improve

- In Afghanistan the STAGES project is preparing young women to enter the teaching profession.
How the GEC is tackling these barriers – 3

Increase self-esteem so that girls are empowered and supported by their peers, parents, teachers and communities and improve their participation in school

- In Malawi the Theatre for a Change project is working to improve the sexual and reproductive health related knowledge, attitudes and practices of marginalised girls.
How the GEC is tackling these barriers – 4

Economic support for communities, parents and girls themselves

- A number GEC programmes (in, for example, Uganda and Kenya) are giving scholarships or bursaries to girls
- In Uganda Eco-Fuels Africa are economically empowering mothers in order to help keep daughters in school.
THANK YOU!