



# Gender-sensitive education and girl's education

## Advisory service

### The challenge

Gender equality and the empowerment of women is indispensable for sustainable development. The “leave no one behind” principle of Agenda 2030 can only be realized, if women and men have equal rights. SDG 4 calls for inclusive, equal opportunities, high-quality education and lifelong learning for all. Gender equality is an important cross-cutting issue here. Boys and girls do not yet have the same opportunities for education and successful learning everywhere. Girls are generally disadvantaged. Many things prevent them from exercising their right to education: poverty, geographical isolation, minority status, disability, early marriage and pregnancy, gender-specific violence and traditional attitudes towards the status and role of women. Boys, in turn, are often forced to leave school to feed the family. More boys than girls are trapped in child labor worldwide.

### Our approach

No sustainable development goal can be achieved without gender equality and the empowerment of girls. With this in mind, we advise partner governments on the holistic and systematic restructuring of their education systems. In this way we promote gender equality and equal opportunities. We support ministries of education in setting up efficient systems for data collection, on the basis of which they can obtain information on the status of gender equality in education. We also promote gender-equitable education planning and support the establishment and expansion of networks between education administrations, local authorities and civil society. These networks can implement local, regional and national measures.

### Our services

GIZ understands education to be inclusive and holistic. In order to implement gender-sensitive education, we support all relevant players - from the Ministry of Education to the parents. In addition, we consider all levels of education: early childhood education, basic education, secondary education, higher education. We include both formal and non-formal education and use a variety of instruments:

Sector consulting:

- » We support sectors in promoting gender equality, for example through legal and policy reforms. Furthermore, we support gender strategies through sector programs (Gender Responsive Education Sector Planning, GRE-SP). We support non-formal education programs and train specialists and managers in gender issues.

Gender-sensitive financing:

- » We promote measures such as „Gender Responsive Budgeting“. This means that budgets take gender equality into account. We also support the financing of training opportunities for female teachers and scholarships for girls from poorer families.
- » Pedagogy: We promote the use of more qualified female teachers and the development of gender-sensitive teaching and learning materials. Further measures include supporting courses and extracurricular activities for girls and boys as well as training teachers in gender-sensitive teaching methods.
- » Promotion of communities and schools: We strengthen gender within the framework of the parents' associations and foster good cooperation with the parents so that more girls and boys can be enrolled and complete their schooling. We support this, for example, through scholarships and by ensuring that children can get to school. We sensitize the communities to education and



the abolition of discriminatory regulations - for example, that pregnant girls must leave school.

» Improving the infrastructure: Among other things, we support gender-separated sanitary facilities in schools.

### The benefits

Education is a human right. It is the key to sustainable development, the labor market and makes social and political participation possible. Education conveys values and orientation and reduces discrimination. Free and equal access to education - regardless of social background, place of residence, gender and lifestyle - is the basic requirement of a democratic society. Investments in education for girls are the most effective individual investments for sustainable development. Higher levels of education for girls and women have been shown to have several positive effects: lower infant and maternal mortality, lower fertility rates, higher levels of education for daughters and sons, higher income and living standards, higher productivity, fewer child marriages and early pregnancies, lower population growth, better management of the environment, improved health and nutrition, increased capacity to act and make decisions, and greater participation in social, economic and political life. The World Bank has calculated what it costs countries if girls have limited educational opportunities and are not allowed to complete a twelve-year school career: The loss of productivity and income over a lifetime adds up to 15 to 30 trillion US dollars.

### An example from the field

Girls and young women are structurally disadvantaged in Afghanistan due to strong gender roles and to the ongoing violent conflict in the country. This has a negative impact on their educational opportunities. The lack of female teachers, especially in rural areas, is one of the

main reasons for the low enrolment of girls in school. In the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan, the country has committed itself to special efforts to ensure that more girls have access to and remain in schools, and to train and employ female teachers. We advise the Afghan Ministry of Education on the implementation of its gender strategy. We support the Ministry in strengthening gender equality officers in the Ministry of Education itself and in teacher training. A newly designed gender and human rights course became part of the teacher training and further training. This course provides prospective teachers with the necessary tools to discuss with students the still highly sensitive issues in Afghanistan. The gender and human rights course is now offered at ten teacher training institutes and around 970 prospective teachers have completed it. In addition, we sensitize the parents' councils (shuras) to gender issues. In this way we have been able to reduce the number of girls who drop out of school early.

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