

Save the Date

Leave No Girl Behind: Education Alternatives, Tackling Violence and Changing Norms: A South Asian Regional Knowledge Exchange Event Series

July/August 2020: 4-part webinar series

Session	Date	Time/ Length
Session 1 - Alternative Education Approaches and Gender Equity in the COVID-19 Response	Thursday 16 July 2020	Two-hour weekly sessions beginning at the following times: 5:30 AM - New York 10:30 AM - United Kingdom 2:00 PM - Afghanistan 2:30 PM - Pakistan 3:15 PM - Nepal 3:30 PM - Bangladesh
Session 2 - Understanding Violence, Safety and Protection for Girls	Wednesday 22 July 2020	
Session 3 - Afghanistan: Community-Based Education (CBE) and Equity Issues around Girls' Education	Wednesday 29 July 2020	
Session 4 - Skills Building, School to Work Transitions, and Female Empowerment	Wednesday 05 August 2020	

Organised & hosted UK DFID, [Girls Education Challenge \(GEC\)](#) and [UNICEF Regional Office South Asia \(ROSA\)](#)

Background: Today, 130 million girls will not go to school. Nearly all of them live in low-income countries, where girls are still one and a half times more likely than boys to be **excluded** from primary school. In South Asia 46m girls were out of school in 2016, with some communities experiencing major disparities in enrolment and literacy rates - reflecting fragility, shortages of girls' secondary schools and restrictive social and cultural norms. And this was **before the COVID-19 pandemic's impact**, which may push out a further [10m secondary school age girls](#).

Educating girls helps to unleash a demographic dividend; reducing poverty, increasing productivity, and cultivating future business owners, scientists and world leaders. The [#LeaveNoGirlBehind](#) commitment to having every girl in school is more than a distant ambition, it's a goal within our grasp. Achieving it will reap dividends for the safety, security and prosperity of all of us, and of the next generation.

As countries ponder and begin to act on **safely** re-building and re-booting education systems in 'new-normal,' post- COVID-19 learning environments, how can we [support the most marginalised girls in their return back to school](#)? And how can we **better include** and support the most marginalised girls who were **never** in school or had dropped out long before the COVID-19 pandemic?

The overall aim of the webinar series is to foster a closer engagement of stakeholders and practitioners in South Asia, to connect and influence policy makers and develop a critical understanding of the key challenges. The inter-connectedness of girls' education and poverty reduction will promote a meaningful contribution to a range of **Sustainable Development Goals including 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17**.

Objectives:

1. **Virtual knowledge sharing** between government, I(NGO)s, UN organisations, research institutions, policy makers and technical experts in the South Asian region broadly focusing on:
 - Safety, security and education for all girls, including the most marginalised;
 - girls' education in times of crises and safe return to school, post COVID-19;
 - alternative education programmes (community-based; non-formal; accelerated)
2. **Strengthen the evidence-base** around challenges to girls' education in South Asia and what works and why and **explore the role of girls' education** in terms of its contribution to the wider gender equality agenda.
3. **Strengthen partnerships** around girls' education in South Asia.
4. **Thematic consolidation** of participant inputs to inform the development of a co-branded Framework/Guidance on Gender and Education in the context of COVID-19 in South Asia.

Key sources of presentation and material may include, but not be limited to:

Alternatives to formal education:

- GEC [Lessons from the field](#) including community-based education in Afghanistan
- Baseline evaluation findings from Leave No Girl Behind and life skill classes in [Nepal](#) and [Pakistan](#).

Innovative programme approaches for second chance and non-formal girls' education in South Asia:

- [Siyani Sahelian](#) - Advancing Action for Adolescent Girls in Punjab
- [UCEP](#) - Underprivileged Children's Education Project in Bangladesh
- [GATE](#) - Girls Access to Education in Nepal

Latest South Asian regional and national analysis:

- [School Related Violence](#) by [UNICEF](#)
- [Safe to Learn](#) - End Violence against Children partnership
- UNESCO on Teacher Perceptions on School Violence
- [Afghanistan – Education Equity Profile for Adolescent Girls](#)
- SRGBV regional and Nepal reports

Government responses / action plans:

- On violence and mainstreaming a 'GESI' lens on COVID-19 education responses

Adolescents and skills building:

- Virtual [Generation Unlimited](#) Event outputs and experiences
- Work Opportunities for Women [Pakistan Helpdesk Report on Women's Economic Empowerment](#)
- [STEM- II](#) Girls Transition Fund: micro-financing and skills/esteem training for adolescent girls

Collaboration and products: In addition to plenary sessions there will be additional asynchronous sessions and feedback exchanges to discuss topics in more depth and generate content to enrich UNICEF ROSA's Gender Equality Guidance for COVID-19 responses in South Asia.

The event will also be an opportunity to identify and **share novel and emergent programmes and approaches**, including adaptations to work around COVID-19 related closures and restrictions such as blending home/distance learning, technology use and tracking systems.

General webinar details: The event will be conducted in **English** as the working language. The webinar software supports auto-captioning and sessions will be **recorded** for later use and summaries created for open use as a learning resource. The event will be **fully virtual** with on-line sessions through remote presentations and feedback exchanges.