UNGEI
United Nations Girls' Education Initiative

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP *for* EDUCATION

Statement of Intent

The office of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) Secretariat, and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) set out below their intent to partner in support of girls' education and gender equality.

1. UNGEI was launched in 2000 by the United Nations Secretary General to assist national governments as they fulfill their responsibilities towards ensuring the right to education and gender equality for all children, girls and boys alike. The Initiative is an issue-based partnership which works to improve the quality and availability of girls' education in support of the gender-related Education for All goals, the second Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to achieve universal primary education, and MDG 3 to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership of actors committed to accelerating girls' education and gender equality at country, regional and global levels. The UNGEI governance body includes northern and southern civil society, private sector, donor and multilateral agencies and representation of country and regional partnerships. UNICEF is the lead agency for UNGEI and the Secretariat is housed at UNICEF headquarters in New York City, New York, United States of America. UNGEI partnerships are currently functioning in 34 countries. UNGEI Regional Focal Points are based in UNICEF Regional Offices to support the work of UNGEI at regional and country levels. At the country level, UNGEI works through collaboration, knowledge exchange and advocacy for girls' education and gender equality.

2. The Global Partnership is a multi-stakeholder partnership of developing and donor countries, multilateral agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector and private foundations supporting the education sector in developing countries, with a particular focus on accelerating progress toward the Education for All goals. Pursuant to its Charter, the governing body of the Global Partnership is its Board of Directors, which approves all funding from its trust funds. The Secretariat of the Global Partnership (the Secretariat) is hosted by the World Bank in Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America.

3. UNGEI subscribes to the Compact as set out in the Charter of the Global Partnership and partner accountability matrix to conduct its engagement in a manner consistent with the Charter, which may be amended from time to time.

4. The funding provided by the GPE for the preparation and implementation of education sector plans constitutes a major opportunity for supporting girls' education in GPE member countries). Countries that are already GPE members or are in the process of becoming members, and have significant gender disparities in enrollment, retention and completion rates and learning outcomes would be likely candidates for receiving technical assistance from UNGEI as outlined in 5b below.

5. **Specific areas of cooperation:** In particular, UNGEI intends to collaborate and cooperate with the Global Partnership in the following manner:

   a. Global cooperation:

      UNGEI will collaborate with the GPE Secretariat and Partnership in the development of gender related policies, frameworks and tools to support the implementation of the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, in particular, objective 2, "All girls in GPE-endorsed countries successfully complete primary school and go to secondary school in a safe, supportive learning environment." Because of the cross-cutting nature of the issue, the work on girls' education will positively impact the other strategic priorities in the Strategic Plan, including fragile states, financing, quality, and teachers. In addition UNGEI, through its lead agency processes, may seek to collaborate with GPE through the GRA program, noting that the GRA is a grant program, that specific grants are determined via a formal allocation process, and that a grant is therefore not guaranteed.

   b. Country level cooperation:

      At the Education Plan/Education Program development stage, UNGEI and the GPE may collaborate to support the integration of girls' education and gender equality issues in the planning processes. The UNGEI partnership will identify an in-country representative and/or identify/mobilize technical support to carry out a gender review or support the revision/updating of an existing gender review. This UNGEI representative or designated person will engage with Local Education Groups (LEG) at the country level to review current trends and challenges in girls' education and promote the integration of gender issues in education sector plans.

      At the implementation stage of the Education Plan and/or Program Implementation Grant, UNGEI and the GPE may collaborate to ensure that plans and commitments can be translated into programming and monitored for effectiveness. The role and activities of the UNGEI

representative will vary from country to country depending on the context, and the commitment of the government and donors to gender equality. For example: the UNGEI representative could help in the development of gender indicators for monitoring progress or share existing ones, support development of gender and inclusion policies and strategies, share existing research findings on barriers to gender equality, and identify resource persons in the country or from the broader global UNGEI network who can support the various stages of program implementation.

UNGEI and the GPE may also collaborate at the point of program monitoring and evaluation of the education sector plan and/or program implementation grant. The UNGEI representative could engage with the LEG to ensure the action plan and monitoring framework will be used as a benchmark for annual updates and recommendations on girls' education. The Joint Sector Reviews at the country level will be an opportunity to monitor progress on a regular basis.

6. **Duration of the program.** This collaboration will continue on a year to year basis.

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UN Girls' Education Initiative

Date 5/20/13

Alice Albright

Global Partnership for Education

Date 5/17/13.