
Girls Opportunity Alliance



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The Need

Today, more than 100 million girls around the world are not in school. That's a lot of empty desks—and a lot of dreams cut short. When girls get the opportunities they deserve, amazing things start to happen; poverty goes down, economies grow, families get stronger, and babies are born healthier.

There has never been a more urgent time to support adolescent girls' education and empowerment. Girls in Asia-Pacific face significant barriers to their education:

- Global aid to education is likely to decline by over 25% by 2027, [according to UNESCO](#), with a \$3.2 billion gap expected by 2026 alone, potentially pushing 6 million more children out of school globally. Private investment in this issue is needed now more than ever.
- 18 million children in Southeast Asia are estimated to be out of school. [In 2025, over 4.1 million children in Southeast Asia](#) had their education disrupted by climate-related disasters (floods and typhoons).
- Per Girls Not Brides, [35% Nepal's female population is married before 18](#); with 53% of women having no education.



About the Alliance

The [Girls Opportunity Alliance](#), a program of The Obama Foundation, works to empower and educate adolescent girls around the world, allowing them to achieve their full potential and transform their families, communities, and countries.

Our goal is to connect leaders, strengthen the impact of grassroots organizations, and use public awareness to drive action in support of adolescent girls' education and empowerment. The Alliance supports organizations that serve adolescent girls of all gender expressions and identities.



Program Pillars

1

**Connect leaders
and strengthen
their impact**

*Convene girls' education
and empowerment
leaders and strengthen
their impact through a
global support network*

2

**Inspire
action and
commitments
globally**

*Drive commitments
and action for girls'
education and
empowerment through
public awareness,
engagement, and
storytelling*

3

**Empower
adolescent girls to
learn and take
action**

*Create opportunities for
girls and mobilize young
people in support of girls'
education and
empowerment*

2025 Mauritius Global Network Convening

The Girls Opportunity Alliance convened **more than 65 leaders and experts** from its global network who are based across Asia and Africa in Mauritius. Leaders joined us from **21 countries like Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and India.**

The two-and-a-half-day gathering served as an opportunity for leaders to build new relationships and deepen existing ones; explore challenges and solutions; strengthen organizational capacity, and learn from and alongside one another.

Partners and facilitators included **UNICEF, Girls Not Brides, the Clooney Foundation for Justice, the Population Council, CARE, Save the Children, and Room to Read,** among others.



Supporting Global Organizations

The Alliance empowers girls across the globe through grassroots organizations and projects like:



Generation Girl | Indonesia

Generation Girl is an Indonesia-based nonprofit that equips adolescent girls with the skills, confidence, and community they need to become future female leaders in STEM.



Women's Resource Center | Cambodia

Women's Resource Center runs an information and support center that has served as a safe haven for women. They provide free, reliable and confidential information on personal rights, reproductive health, as well as referrals for mental health support, medical support, addiction recovery, and financial empowerment, among others.



Study Hall Educational Foundation (SHEF) | India

SHEF runs a network of schools and programs focusing on children outside the formal school system. Founder Dr. Urvashi Sahni says, "I want to show people how much the world can change when girls have the chance to go to school and learn that they are equal and deserve respect."

Where We Support

Below, you can see examples of countries where the Girls Opportunity Alliance has already supported organizations. We consistently seek to broaden our work where the need is greatest and as such, the list of countries we work in continues to expand.

Asia

- Afghanistan
- Cambodia
- India
- Indonesia
- Lebanon
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

Africa

- Botswana
- D.R. Congo
- Ethiopia
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Latin America & the Caribbean

- Argentina
- Barbados
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Nicaragua
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Peru
- Venezuela

North America

- Mexico
- United States (Chicago, IL)

Areas of Impact

The Girls Opportunity Alliance Fund champions local solutions for girls' education and empowerment. We empower our network members to lead programs that are effective within their specific contexts.

The Fund has provided support for projects focused on:

Education

- Access to quality education
- Digital literacy
- Science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM)
- Scholarships and financial assistance
- School infrastructure

Leadership & Skills Development

- Life skills
- Financial literacy
- Vocational training
- Arts and cultural programs

Health & Well-Being

- Sexual and reproductive health & rights
- Menstrual health & hygiene
- Mental health
- Access to quality health services
- Sports empowerment

Girls' Rights & Protection

- Safe spaces
- Gender-based violence prevention
- Ending child marriage
- Female genital mutilation prevention
- Anti-human trafficking
- Climate



Spotlight: Uyen

Uyen lives in rural Vietnam and has to leave her home before dawn to walk miles to school. For many girls, the roads are unsafe or the trip is simply too far. The Rock-Paper-Scissors Children's Fund gave Uyen a bicycle to get to school more quickly and safely, which improved her attendance. The program also helped her learn remotely during the pandemic by providing a tablet and crucial support.

Supporting Girls Together

The Girls Opportunity Alliance welcomes the opportunity to collaborate to drive awareness and action. **Your commitment will directly support adolescent girls and the grassroots leaders working to empower and educate them.**

Whether it is making a direct contribution to our Fund, or sponsoring Girls Opportunity Alliance events and activations, your support will help ensure that girls have access to the education and opportunities they deserve. For more information about how to support girls through The Obama Foundation, contact Elizabeth Lamberti, Senior Director of International Development, elamberti@obama.org



How You Can Support the Work

The Obama Foundation has partnered with Asia Community Foundation (ACF) to establish The Obama Foundation Fund in Singapore. Through this partnership, donors can support The Obama Foundation's mission to inspire, empower, and connect people to change the world.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Lamberti (elamberti@obama.org) so that you can be connected with ACF.

Giving through ACF provides a trusted and compliant platform for philanthropy, ensuring appropriate due diligence and regulatory safeguards so that donations are channelled responsibly. All donors are required to complete ACF's Know-Your-Donor (KYD) screening process, including anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-financing of terrorism (CFT) checks.

