

Women Deliver Side Event



Strengthening Girls' Education Systems at the Intersection of SRHR

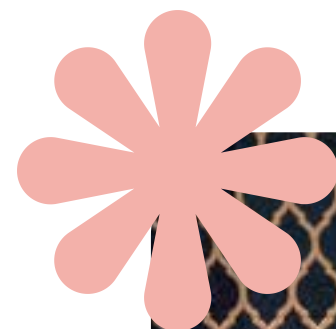
A Socio-Ecological Systems Approach

World Vision International convened this dialogue to highlight how girls' education systems can be strengthened by addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across all levels. A socio-ecological approach recognises that girls' education outcomes are shaped by interconnected influences—from individual lived experiences to community programs, civil society advocacy to national systems, and global partnerships.



Convened by: **World Vision**





Grassroots Spotlight

Aye Yeik Htin, ARROW Youth Delegate

With almost 5 years of experience working in Rohingya refugee camps, Aye Yeik Htin brings frontline insight into the realities shaping girls' education in crisis contexts. Her work has focused on primary and non-formal education, gender mainstreaming, and community engagement with refugee families.

Through collaboration with local stakeholders and humanitarian actors, she has supported sustained girls' participation in education, reduced dropout rates, and strengthened gender-sensitive practices across sectors including nutrition, livelihoods, and food distribution.

Aye Yeik Htin highlights critical barriers to girls' education: low secondary school transition, puberty impacts without sanitary facilities, cultural norms around male teachers, unsafe school routes, no government support, and financial hardship.

Girls' education is deeply shaped by displacement, gender norms, and access to services—requiring coordinated, community-level responses.



Keeping Girls in School

Community Level



World Vision Canada's programming reflects a rights-based approach to girls' education, integrating gender equality and SRHR across education and related sectors. Through community engagement with families, educators, and local leaders, programmes address stigma, early pregnancy, and other barriers that contribute to dropout.

Every Girl Can (EGC) is a five-year gender-transformative programme in Mozambique that integrates SRHR education and support within community-based education initiatives. By equipping girls with knowledge and engaging communities to shift norms, EGC has contributed to improved school retention, reduced dropout, and strengthened pathways for girls to continue their education.

Addressing SRHR at the community level enables girls to stay in school by reducing stigma, supporting informed decision-making, and creating safer, more supportive learning environments.



Sofia is a 16-year-old who once saw early marriage as her only option. After joining a Safe Space for Girls club through EGC, she now speaks confidently about her rights and future, sharing, "I look into the future with hope. After learning about gender-based violence and communication, I can make better decisions about my life." Through weekly sessions on gender-based violence, communication, and self-esteem—led by trained local mentors—Sofia and her peers are building the knowledge, confidence, and support networks needed to stay in school and shape their own paths.





National and Transnational Advocacy : ARROW

The Asia Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) works to amplify the voices of young people, including girls and marginalised groups, in shaping policies and systems that affect their lives.

ARROW creates platforms for youth leadership and advocacy, including engagement in regional spaces such as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. By supporting young advocates to influence policy discussions on education and SRHR, ARROW helps ensure that systems reflect lived realities and address the barriers girls face in accessing and continuing education.

When young people—including girls and marginalised groups—are meaningfully engaged, policies and systems become more responsive, inclusive, and effective.



National Level: Government of Malawi

Malawi is scaling up rights-based Life Skills Education with support from UNESCO, equipping young people with skills for health, well-being, and lifelong opportunity.

Despite progress, adolescent girls remain disproportionately affected, underscoring the urgency of sustained, targeted action.

The Government is strengthening leadership and accountability by advancing endorsement of the ESA Ministerial Commitment through a coordinated approach.

Malawi is institutionalising comprehensive sexuality education within the system, embedding it in teacher training and supporting educators through blended learning, coaching, and digital courses.

Beyond classrooms, Malawi is driving community and digital innovation—from nationwide radio dialogues on shifting norms to platforms like the KuPhunzira PaDen chatbot expanding access to trusted information.

When governments lead, systems align, and communities engage, comprehensive sexuality education becomes a transformative investment—protecting girls, strengthening education outcomes, and unlocking the full potential of a generation.

Transnational & Global Convening

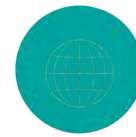
Girls Not Brides



Through its global network, Girls Not Brides supports member organisations to advocate for policy change and community action that delays marriage and promotes girls' education. By linking local evidence and lived experience to national and international advocacy, the partnership helps drive reforms and programmes that enable girls to remain in school and exercise their rights.

Addressing barriers such as child marriage is essential to ensuring girls can access and complete education.

UNESCO



At the intersection of education and SRHR, UNESCO supports countries to integrate comprehensive sexuality education and life skills into national systems, ensuring that young people have the knowledge and skills needed to thrive.

UNESCO supports countries like Malawi to institutionalise comprehensive sexuality education through national curricula, teacher training, and digital learning approaches. This includes strengthening educator capacity and expanding access to information through innovative platforms, helping ensure that education systems respond to the realities and needs of adolescents.

Education systems must be designed to support both learning and wellbeing, ensuring inclusive and equitable access for all girls.

Key Statistics

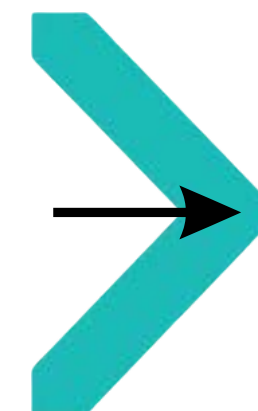


85% of countries have supportive sexuality education policies.

Youth Preference



78% of youth prefer schools as their sexuality education source.





A Call to Coordinated Action

* The interconnected nature of these levels—from grassroots lived experiences to global partnerships—demands coordinated, multi-sectoral action. By working together across the socio-ecological spectrum, we can keep girls in school, address SRHR barriers, and empower their futures through inclusive, responsive education systems.