

## Concept Note

### I. Background

UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, or UNESCO Bangkok Office, established the [Gender in Education Network in Asia-Pacific \(GENIA\)](#) in 2001 to address gender equality challenges in education by enhancing collaboration and partnership across the Asia-Pacific region. The aim of the network is to support Ministries of Education in mainstreaming gender equality and advancing gender-responsiveness in education planning, policymaking and content as well as teacher development.

The landscape of gender equality in education has changed significantly since the inauguration of the GENIA network. While there are gains to celebrate in the Asia-Pacific region, such as examples of textbook reform to reflect gender mainstreaming in Viet Nam<sup>1</sup> and the Philippines<sup>2</sup> or achieving gender parity in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary enrolment in many countries<sup>3</sup>, there remain barriers to achieving the Education 2030 agenda of inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, schools worldwide have been forced to fully or partially close and the progress made on gender equality has been negatively impacted. Across East Asia and the Pacific, the number of girls out of school is expected to increase by nearly ten per cent, with at least 1.2 million additional girls at risk of dropping out of school<sup>4</sup>.

Unlike other regions, education in most of the countries in the Pacific region has continued during the time of the pandemic. However, gender norms in education persist and act as a barrier to gender equality in education and employment. In the Pacific region, recent research data indicates that, while boys are less advantaged at the upper secondary school level than girls, girls face greater challenges in post-school employment, education and training<sup>5</sup>. To enhance learning opportunities for all and ensure that no one is left vulnerable and to avoid the perpetuation of gender inequalities, education resources and teacher training programmes should be developed through gender mainstreaming and made available to policy-makers and educators. This will encourage equality in and through education for all genders.

With an aim to address today's gender equality challenges, UNESCO Bangkok Office reactivated the GENIA network in 2019. To better support Gender Focal Points (GFP), UNESCO Bangkok

<sup>1</sup> UNGEI Gender Report: Building Bridges for Gender Equality (2019). Retrieved from: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368753>

<sup>2</sup> Global Guidance on Addressing School-Related, Gender-Based Violence (2016). P. 86. Retrieved from: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000246651/PDF/246651eng.pdf.multi>

<sup>3</sup> UNGEI Gender Report: Building Bridges for Gender Equality (2019). Table 1 (UIS data set)

<sup>4</sup> Building Back Equal — Girls Back to School Guide (2020).

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF Gender Counts Pacific (2019)

Office organized an online regional training workshop on ‘Gender Equality in and through Education’ over a period of eight weeks during October and December 2020. The workshop focused on gender mainstreaming in education systems using the [Gender in Education Network in Asia-Pacific \(GENIA Toolkit\): Promoting Gender Equality in Education](#), developed by UNESCO Bangkok Office and revised for the fifth time in 2019, which aims to assist GFPs and education planners to mainstream gender equality throughout education systems.

As of July 2021, the network has grown from 19 member countries with 20 GFPs to 33 member countries with 35 GFPs, reflecting increasing interest, particularly from the Pacific region. To better support the capacities of GFPs as well as Ministry of Education officials from the Pacific member countries of GENIA, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok Office) in collaboration with UNESCO Office for the Pacific States are co-organizing an online sub-regional training workshop on **Gender Equality in and through Education in the Pacific**.

## II. Objectives

The overall goal of this training is to create opportunity for GENIA network, particularly in the Pacific region, to strengthen its ability to advance the achievement of SDG 4, and SDG 4.5 in particular. Specifically, the training will provide the GENIA Gender Focal Points and relevant officials of the Ministers of Education with new knowledge and practical skills to strategically and systematically promote gender equality in and through education.

At the end of the training, the participants will:

- Better understand the gender concepts, terminology and definitions;
- Become familiar with and understand the updated GENIA Toolkit;
- Be able to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender equality into education policies and programmes;
- Be able to mainstream gender in education policies and programmes; and
- Connect with and support others in promoting gender equality in and through education.

## III. Training Duration

 <b>Dates:</b>	02 November – 09 December 2021, every Tuesday and Thursday
 <b>Time:</b>	14:00-15:30, Samoa time
 <b>Duration:</b>	Twelve 90-min sessions; two sessions per week for a period of six weeks

## IV. Training Mode, Format and Language

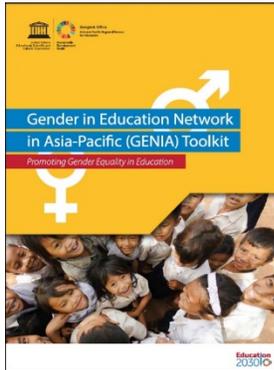
The training will be held online via Zoom.

It will include thematic presentations, interactive sessions and participatory activities focused on gaining practical knowledge of and hands-on skills to promote gender equality in education. It will also include interactive presentations facilitated by subject-matter experts and resource persons who will share practical experiences from their work in the Asia-Pacific region in promoting gender equality in education.

English will be the main language of the training.



## V. Training Content



The training content is designed specifically for Gender Focal Points (GFP) and officials of Ministries of Education across the Pacific sub-region. It is based on the selected content from the 5th edition of the [Gender in Education Network in Asia-Pacific \(GENIA Toolkit\): Promoting Gender Equality in Education](#), developed by UNESCO Bangkok Office. In selecting subjects and themes for the training, we have taken into account the results of the pre-training survey undertaken during September 2021 to both understand the current capacity of participants and to identify potential areas of need for future training. The respondents had the highest interest in mainstreaming gender equality in curricula and teaching and learning materials, followed by the design and implementation of gender-responsive national education sector plans as well as school-related gender-based violence and STEM education for girls and women.

We aim to accomplish the goal of the training through individual and group activities, use of stories and case studies, application of online group debates and discussions and opportunity for the participants to ask questions, as well as use of take-home assignments.

## VI. Participants

The training will virtually bring together approximately 20 participants who are GENIA Gender Focal Points and officials of Ministries of Education in GENIA member countries in the Pacific States, including: Australia, Fiji, Micronesia, F.S., Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The training will also be joined by UNESCO staff members of the Bangkok Office and Apia Office as well as the course facilitator and guest speakers.

## VII. Training Materials and Resources

The training will use the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the [GENIA Toolkit](#) as a main training material.

All training materials and resources will be shared on Google Drive where the participants can access as well as share their documents and take-home assignments.

## VIII. Contact Persons

Any questions or concerns regarding the training should be directed to:

### **Course Facilitator/Trainer**

Dr Piotr Pawlak  
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### **UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education / GENIA Secretariat**

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