



Bangkok Office  
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau  
for Education

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Sustainable  
Development  
Goals

# WHY MOTHER TONGUES MATTER

Linguistic diversity and multilingualism  
for sustainability and peace

PHOTO: CARE/Erika Piñeros

## GIVING THEM THE BEST START POSSIBLE

HIGH QUALITY EARLY  
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
IS POSSIBLE ONLY IN A  
CHILD'S FIRST LANGUAGE.

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## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

MOTHER TONGUE-BASED  
MULTILINGUAL  
EDUCATION ALLOWS  
GIRLS AND WOMEN TO  
ENGAGE FULLY IN THEIR  
OWN LEARNING.

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## PEACE THROUGH DIVERSITY

RESPECT FOR  
CULTURAL AND  
LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY  
LEADS TO PEACE,  
SOCIAL COHESION AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT.

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