

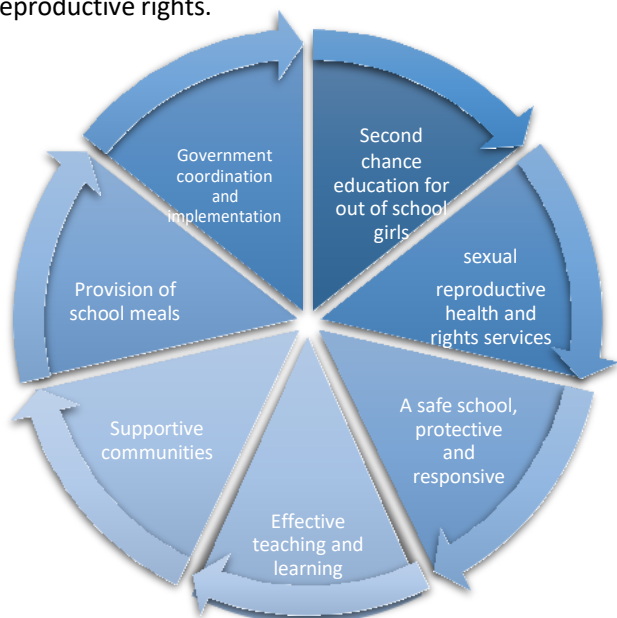


Joint Programme Improving Quality Education and Basic Life Skills for Girls in Malawi

In brief

The Joint Programme on Girls' Education: *Poverty Reduction through improved Quality Education and Basic life skills for in and Out of School Adolescent Girls in Malawi*, (JPGE) is implemented in 169 schools in three districts of Dedza, Mangochi and Salima. It aims at improving access, quality and relevance of education for girls, through addressing key known threats to girls' education.

The threats include poor food and nutrition, inadequate protection against sexual and physical violence, poor quality schooling, harmful social and traditional practices and violations of girls' sexual and reproductive rights.



Malawi Facts and figures

- 2.8** Annual population growth rate (%)
- 4.4** Fertility rate per woman
- 51** Primary school completion rate for girls (%)
- 109** Average number of children per classrooms
- 47** Married before turning 18 (%)
- 37** Chronic malnutrition among children under the age of 5 years (%)

JPGE achievements in numbers

- Overall school enrolment has grown by **31%** between 2014 and 2017
- Drop-out rates declined **from 15.6% to 5.2% for girls** and from 13.5% to 4.9% for boys
- Average school attendance increased from **73 %** (2013/14) to **87 %** in 2018/2019
- Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations **girls pass rate has increased from 66% to 73%**

Overview of results achieved to date

Improve learning environment and teacher's attitudes and skills

- 12,955 learners and 151 teachers participated in digital learning.
- 509 vulnerable girls supported with education scholarships
- 75 schools have set change rooms to improve menstrual hygiene management and reduce girls' absenteeism.

School Meals

- JPGE is providing meals to 212,106 students across the three districts.
- 16,000 farmers (60 percent women) directly benefited from Home Grown School meals.

A second chance for out of school girls

- 4,626 out-of-school adolescent girls graduated in June 2018 from a 9-month Functional Literacy Programme
- 2,176 girls enrolled in Complementary Basic Education

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and Girls Empowerment

- 53 health facilities providing Youth friendly information and services to in and out school adolescents.
- 250,000 youth accessing YFHS at health facilities and through outreach services
- 1,120 girls mobilized by mother groups to enrol or return to school
- Improved girls attendance thanks to distribution of menstrual hygiene pads
- 555 teachers trained in Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Reduce violence against girls

- 12,309 girls and boys participated in empowerment programmes;
- 140 girls who experienced sexual abuse voluntarily enrolled in Sexual Assault Survivors Anonymous, a 12-week healing program. One School One Police Officer initiative established in schools to deter and encourage reporting of abuse. 1,319 cases were reported.
- 34% decrease in the number of girls reporting experiencing sexual violence or abuse.
- 55 girls and 17 boys rescued from forced/child marriages through community based GBV prevention structures

Empowered Communities

- Community awareness strategies using radio, film shows, community meetings and theatre for development reached 20,000 people.
- Traditional Authorities have reviewed customary laws that are favourable to girls education.

Working as one

The One UN concept brought key UN Agencies that work on Girls' education to converge all their efforts, and jointly tackle the deep-rooted challenges in girls' education. Government's and community's involvement in coordination, monitoring are critical and allow for programme acceptability, smooth implementation and program sustainability.

Government partners

- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Budget

- JPGE I: Norwegian Government contribution (2014-2017) USD 19 million
- JPGE II (2018-2020) USD 21.1 million
- UN Agencies Contribution to education sector in Malawi: USD 40 million annually to all districts.

JPGE impact on the ground

