

A young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a bright yellow t-shirt, is shown from the chest up. She is smiling and looking off to the right. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the side, casting the left side of her face and body into deep shadow while the right side is brightly lit. The background is dark and textured.

Girls' Clubs and Mothers' Groups



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world
schools

Girls' Clubs

Through our previous UK Aid Match Campaign "Girls will be Girls" we were able to pilot and launch Girls' Clubs in over 100 schools. At the clubs, girls have the opportunity to learn about reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, their rights and gender equality. Within these clubs the girls will also build their self-confidence and leadership skills.

"After being involved in Girls' Club, I have been able to be fearless and put my opinion among others", says Anita*, UWS Nepal Student. "I have also been able to talk about my issues related to menstrual hygiene and help others share their problems as well."

To encourage leadership and self-esteem, UWS Girls' Clubs have leaders, who are older students enrolled at the school. Yi* is a Girls' Club Leader in Cambodia.

"I am a Girls' Club Leader at my school" shares Yi. "I feel more confident being involved with the Girls' Club."

Sadly, in the communities where we work, older girls are often among the most at risk of dropping out of school before finishing their primary studies. Many feel pressured to leave school to get married or to support their families, rather than continue their education. In Ratanakiri province in Cambodia, nearly 60% of girls are married before they are 18 years old (Action Plan to Prevent & Respond to VAC 2017). But Yi and her peers are determined to complete primary school and go onto further study.

The Girls' Clubs will focus on educating girls about their rights as children and young people, and empowering them to advocate for human rights for themselves, their peers, families and communities.



Mothers' Groups

Mothers play a crucial role in their children's education. This is why we are looking to establish Mothers' Groups across all our schools. The aim is to provide spaces for women to discuss and lead on tackling the issues their children face to improve participation and achievement in school.

The meetings will be conducted monthly and cover topics such as the importance of girls' education and the right to education; creating a learning environment for their children at home; reproductive health and menstrual hygiene management; child marriage, and early pregnancy. The groups also offer a platform to promote girls' and women's rights and voices within communities.

"Almost every mother attends the meeting. They provide their valuable input and suggestions in the discussions. The Mothers' Group has also initiated different programmes in the school and community. I have also seen major changes in some of the mothers. Before, they used to be shy and hesitant, but now they are taking leadership roles"

Saugat Gautam, UWS School Mobiliser, Nepal.

In Nepal, the Mothers' Groups and Girls' Clubs recently held sessions on menstrual hygiene management, teaching girls and their mothers how to make reusable sanitary pads and supporting girls' to feel confident and able to attend school while on their periods.

The Mothers' Groups will empower mothers to provide additional support networks for girls and advocate, on behalf of girls, for their right to an equitable education.



A photograph of a female teacher in an orange polo shirt and black skirt standing with four young girls. They are outdoors, with large blue and yellow tires leaning against a wooden fence in the background. The teacher is holding a stack of papers. The girls are wearing various casual clothes; two are holding pink folders. A semi-transparent grey box with white text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

Our Impact with these
initiatives so far

14,000 Girls

will build brighter futures for themselves

5,400 Mothers

supported to champion their daughters' education

600 Teachers

trained in gender-inclusive teaching methods