



# Girls' Education Ecosystem

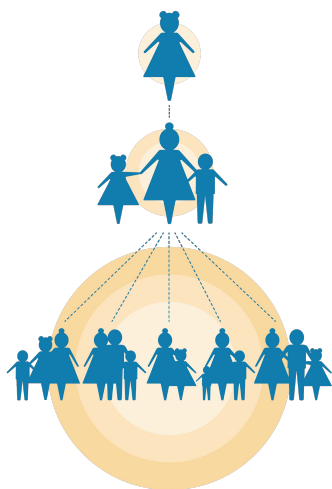
Our strategy for helping the best ideas in girls' education take off

## We already know why girls' education matters.

When girls are educated, the benefits will be transformational – for her, for her family, and for her society. This idea has become common knowledge through efforts like the Girl Effect, celebrities like Malala Yousafzai, and popular media like Girl Rising.

## Now we need to know how to invest smarter and more.

Despite the widespread understanding of the impact and importance of girls' education, we still don't understand enough about what's working, what's not, and where new research and funding is needed.



## That's why Echidna funds research around the "how" and supports leaders who can put the best ideas into action.

Echidna focuses on identifying the most effective, efficient ways to support girls' education. We do this in part by exploring whether and how two areas can accelerate progress: early childhood development and adolescent skills and mindsets. We also fund research to help collate and translate a wider body of evidence on the most cost-effective strategies in girls' education.

But research alone will not move the needle on girls' education outcomes. Getting this research into practice requires local leaders who tenaciously and strategically pursue the cause, so we look for strong advocacy organizations who can get governments and donors to adopt smarter policies. We also support passionate girls' education leaders and ensure they are connected and well-informed to be better poised to effect change.

*"Schools must be a place where gender stereotypes are deconstructed and fought."*

–UNESCO 2019 Gender Review, Global Monitoring Report

## Our ambition is to deliver on the promise of girls' education.

Education changes a girl's future.

One girl's education sets off a ripple effect that starts with her grasping greater opportunities to learn & earn.



Next, it changes her children's futures.

Studies show that educated women are more likely to pass the value of education on to their own children.



And then it changes our world's future.

That one girl's education can determine better prospects for each generation that comes after her.

## We have three primary goals in this area:

1

### Develop effective girls' education leaders.

We aim to support a cadre of leaders in the developing world who are experts in girls' education and effectively promote it in their contexts.

#### **Example:**

#### **Developing dynamic leaders**

Each year, the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution identifies three or four leaders from lower-income countries to spend five months in residency researching policy questions relevant to girls' education, networking with others, and promoting their ideas. Echidna Global Scholars have gone on to develop groundbreaking curriculum, publish influential research, and play advisory roles to governments worldwide.

2

### Gather evidence of the most cost-effective strategies for advancing girls' education.

We fund researchers to collect, collate, and translate evidence that provides a road map for girls' education.

#### **Example:**

#### **Highlighting effective strategies**

We have supported the Population Council in conducting a systematic review of evidence in girls' education so we can better understand the most effective strategies to support girls' access and learning in school. In parallel, they are mapping the ecosystem of actors in girls' education and the work they are undertaking. When their work is complete, we will have a comprehensive view of what's happening in girls' education, how that relates to evidence, and what we should act upon.

3

### Influence funding and policy to more effectively improve and target girls' education.

We want to see public and private funders and country governments putting enough money to good use for girls.

#### **Example:**

#### **Engaging with advocates**

We work with organizations who are deeply invested in effectively advocating for every girl's right to a quality education. For example, we have supported targeted advocacy and communication efforts at the G7, G20, and African Union through nonprofits such as the Malala Fund and The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE).

If you have innovative ideas to continue to build the evidence for how to best support girls' education, support local leaders, strengthen regional and local institutions, and convene key stakeholders to drive better programming and smarter investments for girls, get in touch at [echidna@echidnagiving.org](mailto:echidna@echidnagiving.org)



Learn more about us at [echidnagiving.org](https://echidnagiving.org)