Background

Established in 2015 by UNESCO’s Executive Board, the UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education rewards outstanding innovations and contributions made by individuals, institutions and organizations to advance girls’ and women’s education.

Funded by the Government of the People’s Republic of China, the Prize is conferred annually to two laureates and consists of an award of US $50,000 each to help further their work in the area of girls’ and women’s education.

UNESCO will recognize the 2022 laureates in an award ceremony at its Headquarters on Tuesday 11 October 2022 between 13.10 – 15.00 CET as part of its celebration of the tenth edition of the International Day of the Girl. The formal ceremony which will include congratulatory messages from both Professor Peng Liyuan, First Lady of the People’s Republic of China and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls’ and Women’s Education, and Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO will be followed by a panel discussion with prize laureates on the 2022 International Day of the Girl theme: Our time is now – Our Rights, Our Future.
Objectives

The event seeks to:

- Recognize and promote the success of the laureates of the 2022 UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education;
- Celebrate the tenth edition of the International Day of the Girl, building on momentum for girls’ and women’s education generated through the UN Transforming Education Summit convened by the UN Secretary General on 16 – 19 September 2022;
- Highlight the importance of girls’ and women’s education for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5.

Format and Language

This event at UNESCO Headquarters will consist of a formal award ceremony chairing by Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO, and a panel discussion with prize laureates about their award-winning programmes.

This event will be held in Room II at UNESCO Headquarters with live webcast. The ceremony will be followed by a lunch reception hosted by the Permanent Delegation of China to UNESCO.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Spanish and Chinese.

Registration

Please register here to join us at UNESCO’s Headquarters for this event. Unable to be in Paris? Watch the live webcast here.
Programme

13:10-13:30
Award Ceremony of 2022 UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education

Chairperson: Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

- Opening and welcome remarks, Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
- Announcement of the 2022 laureates, Ms Mayyada Abu Jaber, Chair and Representative of the 2022 International Jury, UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education, Founder of JoWomenomics and Founder of World of Letters
- Congratulatory video message from Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, UNESCO
- Congratulatory message from Professor Peng Liyuan, First Lady of the People’s Republic of China, UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls’ and Women’s Education, delivered by H.E. Yang Jin, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the People’s Republic of China to UNESCO
- Introduction to the 2022 laureates (video)
- Awarding of the 2022 UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education
- Remarks by the 2022 laureates
  Ms Nead Bunna, Senior Programme Manager, Girls Education Programme, Room to Read, Cambodia
  Ms Devotha Mlay, Managing Director, Girls’ Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative (GLAMI), Tanzania

13:30-13:55
Panel: Her rights, our future: Transforming girls’ and women’s education

Moderator: Ms Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Director, Division for Education 2030, Education Sector, UNESCO

Panelists
- Mr Vantha Chea, Country Director, Room to Read, Cambodia, 2022 laureate
- Ms Monica Swai, Managing Director of Operations, Girl’s Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative (GLAMI), Tanzania, 2022 laureate
- Ms Eunice Russoca, Alumni and youth representative, Girl MOVE Academy, Mozambique, 2021 laureate
- Ms Mayyada Abu Jabor, Chair and Representative of 2022 International Jury, UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education, Founder of JoWomenomics and Founder of World of Letters

Closing remarks by the moderator

14:00-15:00
Lunch Reception (Pas Perdu Hall)
Biographies of speakers and moderators

**Peng Liyuan**

Peng Liyuan, First Lady of the People’s Republic of China, was appointed UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls’ and Women’s Education in March 2014. This title was bestowed upon her in light of her support of girls’ and women’s empowerment through quality education, as well as her outstanding contribution to the fight against inequalities in education. In her capacity as a UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls’ and Women’s Education, she contributes to promoting gender equality and enhancing the access of women and girls to inclusive, equitable and quality education.

**Audrey Azoulay**

Audrey Azoulay is the Director-General of UNESCO. Having worked in the cultural sector since the beginning of her professional career, Audrey Azoulay has, among other things, worked on the financing of the French public audiovisual sector and on the reform and modernisation of French film support systems. In 2014, as an advisor on culture to the President of the French Republic, she notably initiated the development of a protection plan for heritage in danger, which she was able to implement in 2016 as Minister of Culture and Communication. She has also served the European Commission, providing expertise on culture and communication.

**Stefania Giannini**

Stefania Giannini has served as Assistant Director-General for Education for UNESCO since 2018 and also serves as Advisor to the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation. She served in the Senate of the Republic of Italy from 2013-18 and as the country’s Minister of Education, Universities and Research from 2014-16. She began her career as a professor of linguistics and was Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia from 2004-12. She has also served in the Selection Committee of the Erasmus Mundus programme in Brussels, the Committee of The Conference of Italian University Rectors and the National Commission for the Promotion of Italian Culture Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Yang Jin**

H.E. Yang Jin is the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the People’s Republic of China to UNESCO. He has served in China and abroad in government offices, research institutes, education institutions, international organizations and the foreign service. This includes serving as Deputy Director-General of the Department of Basic Education in the Ministry of Education in China, Senior Programme Specialist and Manager of Lifelong Learning Policies and Strategies at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), Director-General of the Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education of China, and Minister-Counsellor for Education in the Chinese Embassy in France. Ambassador Yang is currently a member of the Governing Board of UIL.
Nead Bunna

Nead Bunna has served as Senior Programme Manager Girls’ Education Program at Room to Read, Cambodia, since 2007. She is responsible for strategic development, implementation, overall direction and the technical quality of the programme. After two decades of work experience, she is convinced that empowering women is the key to achieving lasting social change. As a Cambodian who has experienced internal conflict, social inequality, and poverty, she believes that investing in women and children will empower younger generations to pave the way for a better future.

Vantha Chea

Vantha Chea is the Country Director for Room to Read, Cambodia. Prior to joining Room to Read, he worked for 15 years on Cambodia’s education reform. Most recently, Vantha worked as Director of the Advocacy and Policy Institute in Cambodia where he led strategic planning and program implementation, fundraising, and advocacy for social accountability. Vantha also worked for Voluntary Service Overseas for over 20 years holding senior level roles, including senior education program manager and country director.

Mayyada Abu Jaber

Mayyada Abu Jaber joined the International Jury for the UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education in 2021, serving as its Chair for the 2022 edition. She is the founder of JoWomenomics, a non-profit organization to foster mindset change to promote greater women’s economic participation, and the founder of World of Letters, a social enterprise that provides equity and justice to youth and women in the Middle East and North Africa region. She is an Echidna Global Scholar for Leaders in Girls’ Education at Brookings Institution, conducting research to evaluate gender bias in the national Jordanian curriculum. In 2017, Mayyada was recognized by the World Bank as an inspirational leader in the Middle East and North Africa.

Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa

Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa is the Director of the Division for Education 2030 at UNESCO Headquarters. Maki has extensive experiences of over 25 years with UNESCO, UNICEF and JICA, in managing global, regional and country level programmes on inclusive education, gender and education, ECCE, learning assessment and teacher education as well as coordinating partnerships in education. Currently, she oversees UNESCO’s global programmes on gender and inclusive education, higher education, education in emergencies and SDG4 coordination.

Devotha Mlay

Devotha Mlay is the Managing Director (Programmes) of the Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative (GLAMI), an NGO in northern Tanzania. She oversees the strategic direction of the organization, forges partnerships and promotes stakeholder engagement across sectors and levels of government and ensures GLAMI’s curricula remain up-to-date and evidence-based. Devotha favours a rights-based approach to mentoring and education, and is passionate about supporting girls with the information, skills and opportunities they need to write their own future.
Eunice Russoca

Eunice Russoca graduated from the University of Zambeze Mozambique in Law in 2019 and is an alumni of Girl MOVE Academy (class of 2020), a 2021 laureate of the UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education. Since then, she has worked on several projects related to law and human rights, in countries including Spain, France and Portugal. She is currently studying towards a master’s degree in Project Management and Business Engineering at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris. She is a part of MOVHERS, a Girl MOVE Academy initiative which connects global leaders and young changemakers in order to co-create solutions to global problems.

Monica Swai

Monica Swai is the Managing Director of Operations of Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative (GLAMI). She provides leadership and management of the administrative operations and has over 10+ years of experience in non-profit finance, human resource, internal/external communications, grants management, and overall operational planning. Being in love with numbers her whole life, Monica uses her Bachelor of Accountancy from the Institute of Accountancy Arusha and her passion for solving problems to ensure that GLAMI’s operations run smoothly, while always maintaining a smile on her face. She is very excited to be doing what she loves, knowing her work is igniting a change in her community, especially for girls.