

**7 April 2022, 13:30-15:00 CET**

Flickr - [World Bank Photo Collection](#). School students benefited by PROMER, a program for the improvement of education in rural areas of Argentina. [Nahuel Berger/World Bank](#). Available under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

## Background

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development makes the promise to leave no one behind. While improving educational opportunities for girls globally continues to be of paramount importance to achieve gender equality in and through education, this focus on achieving gender parity and equality must not ignore boys. Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 – and achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls – SDG 5 – requires gender-transformative action.

Addressing boys' disengagement from and disadvantage in education not only benefits boys' learning, employment opportunities, income and well-being, it is also highly beneficial for achieving gender equality and desirable economic, social and health outcomes. The social and fiscal costs of this phenomenon are enormous, underlining the need for a broad, inclusive approach to education, ensuring educational opportunity for both girls and boys.

To leave no child behind, UNESCO developed the first global report of this scope on boys' disengagement from and disadvantage in education, bringing together qualitative and quantitative evidence from over 140 countries.

As the report shows, in many countries, boys are at greater risk than girls of repeating grades, failing to complete different education levels and having poorer learning outcomes in school. Where previously boys' disadvantage seemed most notable in high- or upper-middle-income contexts at the beginning of the millennium, this has shifted and now includes several low- and lower-middle-income countries. Secondary education is where boys' disadvantage is most prevalent.

## Objectives

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This event, organized by UNESCO in partnership with Promundo and The Commonwealth Secretariat will:

- Launch the first global report of this scope on boys' disengagement from education, providing an overview on the global situation on boys' disengagement from and disadvantage in education, presenting factors influencing boys' participation, progression and learning outcomes in education and presenting recommendations to address the challenge.
- Present regional perspectives and evidence from country-level research on boys' disengagement from education.
- Showcase policy responses as well as good and promising practice to re-engage boys with education and address disadvantage.

## Format and Language

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This webinar, convening different stakeholders and the broader public online will include simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish.

Register [here](#)

Programme	
13:30-13:37	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <p>Raj Kumar, Devex (main moderator)</p> <p><b>Short Video</b></p>
13:37-13:50	<p><b>Leave no child behind: Global report on boys' disengagement from education</b></p> <p>Launch of the global report</p> <p>Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO</p> <p>Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Director of the Division for Education 2030, UNESCO</p>
13:50-14:20	<p><b>Challenges at the regional and country-level:</b></p> <p>This panel will focus on the challenges faced by boys in regional and selected country contexts.</p> <p>Moderator: Amílcar Sanatan, Activist</p> <p>Mamookho Phiri, Minister of Education and Training, Lesotho</p> <p>Catherine Jere, Associate Professor, University of East Anglia</p> <p>Natasha Ridge, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research, United Arab Emirates</p> <p>François Staring, Project Manager of EU Study on Gender Behaviour and its Impact on Education Outcomes</p>
14:20-14:55	<p><b>Re-engaging boys in education</b></p> <p>This panel will focus on good practices to address boys' disengagement from education.</p> <p>Moderator: Yona Nestel, Plan International, Inclusive Quality Education Lead</p> <p>Fayval Williams, Minister of Education, Jamaica</p> <p>Helena Reuterswärd, Senior Policy Specialist for Education, Swedish International Development Cooperation</p> <p>Gary Barker, CEO, Promundo</p> <p>Video message: Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General, The Commonwealth Secretariat</p>
14:55-15:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>Raj Kumar, Devex</p>

## Speakers

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### Gary Barker



Gary Barker is a leading global voice in advancing gender equality and positive masculinities. He is the CEO and co-founder of Promundo-US, and co-founder of Instituto Promundo in Brazil, having also founded MenCare, a global campaign working in more than 50 countries to promote men's involvement as caregivers, and MenEngage, a global alliance of more than 700 NGOs. Gary co-created and leads the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), the largest-ever survey of men's attitudes and behaviours related to violence, fatherhood, and gender equality. In 2017, he was named by Apolitical as one of the 20 most influential people in gender policy around the world.

### 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. Ms Giannini has been a member of prominent organizations including 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.

### Catherine Jere



Catherine Jere is an Associate Professor in Education and International Development, at the University of East Anglia (UEA)'s School of International Development. Her research interests centre on exploring how institutional and social barriers to education in developing country contexts are challenged and disrupted with a focus on gender and education. Before joining UEA, she was researcher with UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report and spent almost a decade with the Centre for Educational Research and Training (CERT) at the University of Malawi, as Research Fellow and Deputy Director. She has recently led a large-scale study for UNESCO on boys' disengagement from education.

### Raj Kumar



Raj Kumar is the founding President & Editor-in-Chief of Devex, the media platform for the global development community. Devex was born in 2000 when Raj was a graduate student at the Harvard Kennedy School. Today, it is an independent news organization and social enterprise with over 100+ Devexers around the world serving a global audience of more than one million aid workers and development professionals. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Save the Children Board of Trustees, a media leader and former humanitarian council chair for the World Economic Forum, and has interviewed on-camera and on-stage hundreds of global luminaries on the most important challenges of our time. Raj is the author of the book "The Business of Changing the World," a go-to primer on the ideas, people, and technology disrupting the aid industry.

## 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, early childhood care and education, 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 leads the reform of the global SDG4 coordination mechanism.

## Yona Nestel



Yona Nestel is global public education and gender equality advocate and expert who believes in the power of education to challenge and dismantle systems of oppression. Through her work as Plan International's global Inclusive, Quality Education Lead and as a board member of the Global Partnership for Education representing northern civil society, Yona helps turn rhetoric on the transformative power of education into action and impact. She prioritizes amplifying girls' voices and experiences and partnering with youth-led organization in all aspects of her work. Her career spans nearly two decades working at both national and global levels, championing feminist principles and education that shifts power.

## Mamookho Phiri



The Hon. Mamookho Phiri is the Minister of Education and Training in Lesotho, appointed to lead the Ministry in 2021. She has previously served as the ministry's Deputy Minister. The Minister has a background in business and executive administration.

## Natasha Ridge



Natasha Ridge is the founding Executive Director of the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research. Prior to this appointment, she was the Acting Director of Research at the Dubai School of Government. Natasha has over 20 years of experience working in the international education sector including in Singapore and Australia. In addition to being a founding Executive Board member and former President of the Gulf Comparative Education Society, Natasha is also serves on several boards including the NORRAG Advisory Board, EduAlliance and the RAKEZ Academic Zone Board.

## Helena Reuterswärd



Helena Reuterswärd is the the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida's) Senior Policy Specialist since 2019, after four years of coordinating Sweden's education support in Tanzania. She has worked in development cooperation since 1984 in social development, education, health, human rights and democracy, gender equality and methodological development, with international and national CSOs, UNHCR and Sida. Helena has a long field experience mainly from Latin America.

## Amílcar Peter Sanatan



Amílcar Peter Sanatan is an artist, academic and activist from Trinidad and Tobago. He is a PhD. candidate in Cultural Studies at The University of West Indies. His research and activism focus on men and masculinities in the Caribbean and Latin America, youth and student development, socio-economic development in urban planning and cultural geography.

## Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC



Patricia Scotland is the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. Her career has been marked by a number of extraordinary firsts, including being the first woman to serve as Her Majesty's Attorney-General for England and Wales and for Northern Ireland and now as the first Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. In these and other senior ministerial offices, she has been responsible for portfolios including, inter alia gender equality, domestic violence, forced marriage, and international child abduction. She is a staunch advocate for diversity and equality of opportunity, particularly for women and girls.

## François Staring



François Staring currently works as a Higher Education Policy Analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). Prior to joining the OECD, François worked as a Senior Research Manager at Ecorys, where he led a European Commission-funded study on Gender Behaviour and its Impact on Education Outcomes, which included a special focus on the performance of boys and young men in education.

## Fayval Williams



The Hon. Fayval Williams is the Minister of Education and Youth, Jamaica. She is a Chartered Financial Analyst, a former Executive Director of Kingston Properties Ltd, and has been serving as Member of Parliament for St. Andrew Eastern since March 2016. Prior to Kingston Properties, Mrs Williams served as Chief Investment Officer of JMMB Ltd with investment responsibilities spanning the trade, investment research and pensions. She also consulted with JMMB in market risk management and investment research, where she led efforts to develop investment research capabilities. Mrs. Williams also served as the Head of the Valuation and Pricing team for JMMB's public offering. Her investment experience also includes approximately five years as Vice President at Wellington Management Company in Boston, Massachusetts.