To enhance gender equality in education in Tanzania, UNESCO’s work has focused on addressing the gender-specific issues contributing to the low performance and drop out of girls, particularly in poor rural areas. These challenges are particularly acute for adolescent girls, who are failing or being forced out of school disproportionately, due to gender related barriers like early pregnancies, early marriage, domestic labour, discrimination, and other economic and socio-cultural factors.

UNESCO’s response aims to support adolescent girls in and out of school, through prevention, retention and remedial support by developing alternative opportunities for learning, income generation and life skills. Using innovative approaches to expand equal access to general secondary and technical and vocational education, current pilot programmes seek to tackle key issues identified in three districts: Shinyanga Rural and Kahama in Shinyanga region, Tanzania Mainland, and Micheweni district in Pemba Island, Zanzibar, in school wards, villages and shehias. Developing proven practices, these initiatives have been developed with partners and stakeholders to inform and scale up broader inclusive and gender responsive education policies at a national level.

For more information on UNESCO’s global support to Gender and Education, click here.