The AU/CIEFFA, as a specialized institution of the AU, has the mandate the promotion of girls and women’s education in Africa as well as the coordination of actions and interventions with all relevant stakeholders working together towards achieving women’s economic, social and cultural empowerment, basing itself on Agenda 2063 as well as CESA and STISA.

In order to increase retention rates for girls and Women in African education systems, AU/CIEFFA has advanced the dialogue for gender equality in and through education among the most relevant stakeholders. AU/CIEFFA has worked hand-in-hand with relevant partners whilst addressing retention and achievement rates for girls and women in teaching and learning processes.

AU/CIEFFA’s 2nd Strategic Plan 2018-2020 focused on 4 strategic axis: (i) Legal and institutional frameworks for girls and women’s rights to education; (ii) Gender-sensitive Teaching and learning environments; (iii) STEM education-focused TVET for girls and women; (iv) Advocacy and communication.
Every year, the AU/CIEFFA convenes on the margins of the African Union Summits in January/February and June/July, high-level dialogues as well as breakfast meetings to raise awareness on issues relating to girls and women’s education.

AU/CIEFFA organized in collaboration with its partners three HLD’s and 2 Breakfast meetings with government representatives, development partners, civil society to share experiences and discuss strategies in order to promote girls’ access and retention in educational systems.

Two Workshops with Pan African parliamentarians were also organized to discuss strategies to accelerate the implementation of legal frameworks ratified by AU Member States.

During conflicts and crises, education is on the front line, schools are often the first to close but last to reopen, if they ever do”

H.E. Mrs. Sahle Work Zewde, President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia
African youth are considered as a strategic asset to harness for the achievement of the aspirations of Agenda 2063. Working alongside African youth is key to advancing girls’ rights to quality education.

AU/CIEFFA has trained over 200 young African women and men in Entrepreneurship, STEM, Digital literacy, Financial Literacy.

Through its Alumni, AU/CIEFFA has built a strong network of young advocates working in their communities advancing the agenda of retaining girls in educational systems.
REINFORCING COLLABORATION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Knowing the importance of traditional and religious leaders in Africa, AU/CIEFFA has organized dialogues with this group of stakeholders to break the ice, facilitate interaction and engage them. The support and leadership of traditional and religious leaders is essential for sustained positive transformations. They are very willing to reflect and search for durable solutions to improve the retention of girls in educational systems.

Engaging others key actors

The main concern of the meeting with partners on “Out of school girls” was to develop a better perception of the problem and to reflect on actions and strategies for impact and sustainability of continuous delivery of education and strengthening capacity of girls and young adolescents in vulnerable situations.

In collaboration with UNGEI, AU/CIEFFA supported Gender-Responsive Education Sector Planning Regional Workshops to help AU Members States to understand mainstreaming gender in Education sector plans and use the Gender Equality Strategy for CESA

Innovation Education Africa Expos have provided a springboard for several innovators to meet with potential partners and gain insights to help catalyse the growth of their incubators and their replication across the continent.

Field visits and celebration of international days

AU/CIEFFA has also used the opportunity of the celebration of international days to engage relevant stakeholders on girls’ and women’s education through video messages, poem competitions, official visits to government officials and joint activities with the host countries.
Evidence has shown us that public health outbreaks have distinct gendered impacts, and that preparedness and response efforts must understand the gender dimensions of these crises to avert widening inequalities.

Concerned by the increasing vulnerability of girls in Africa due to COVID-19 school closures, the AU/CIEFFA organized a series of webinars under the theme “Addressing impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on girls’ and women’s Education”.

The AU/CIEFFA officially launched, on the 11th of September 2020, the #AfricaEducatesHer campaign, to bring awareness around issues that hinder girls and women from accessing education and a rallying call for youth, educators, CSO’s and AU Member States to take positive action to guarantee girls and young women return to school as institutions are slowly re-opening.

Within the context of the #AfricaEducatesHer campaign launched on 11th September 2020, AU/CIEFFA organized on 18th December 2020, the 1st edition of its Pop-Up Concerto to showcase the creative contents received and the talents of young African people standing up for girls and women's education on the continent.

You can read our publications using this link: www.cieffa.org/Publications – AU/CIEFFA | International Centre for Girls' and Women’s Education in Africa of African Union