



African Union International  
Center for Girls & Women's  
Education in Africa

# AFRICA EDUCATES **HER**

*Let's get our girls back to school*



[cieffa.au.int](http://cieffa.au.int)





## African Union International Center for Girls & Women's Education in Africa



The African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (African Union CIEFFA) launched an advocacy campaign in September 2020 to rally African Union Member States to safeguard girls' education in Africa and ensure girls continue learning during and post the COVID-19 related school closures and disruptions.

#AfricaEducatesHer seeks to amplify the voices of the most vulnerable groups on the impact of COVID-19 on learning by highlighting the challenges and issues at primary, secondary and higher education levels as well as offering solutions and recommendations at continental, national and community levels to promote, encourage and protect girls' right to education, especially during times of crisis.

### **The campaign has the following objectives:**

- Build awareness around the importance of keeping girls in schools during and after COVID-19;
- Document the different innovations and efforts made by African youth to address the impacts of COVID-19 on girls' and women's education at national or community levels;
- Capture the voices and learning experiences of female learners in formal education during the COVID-19-related school lockdown on the continent;
- Share best practices and initiatives of responses on girls accessing continued learning during the COVID-19, led at community and national levels within the AU Member States.



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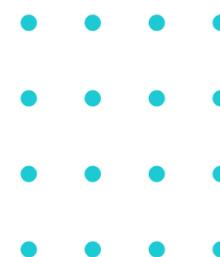
## AU Member States

### Law and policy makers

African governments through their Ministries of Education, Gender and ICT have participated in #AfricaEducatesHer partner meetings and inter-generational dialogues to share best practices on COVID-19 education responses, as well as engage with girls and young women on their concerns and recommendations related to learning recoveries.

In the second phase of the campaign, we are engaging the different AU Member States and partners to champion girls' education and the campaign at regional and international levels.

In June 2022, AU/CIEFFA is co-organising a special expert meeting on learning recovery with the government of Senegal, bringing together education experts from the 55 AU Member States.





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## Partners

### Key collaborators in safeguarding girls education

International Development Partners have committed to the campaign by co-organizing #AfricaEducatesHer dialogues, co-branding, blogging, data and information sharing and offering their platforms for our Champions to speak on issues affecting girls' and women's education.

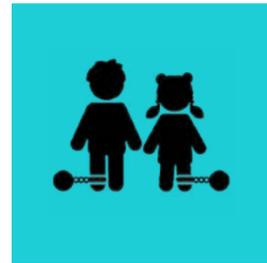
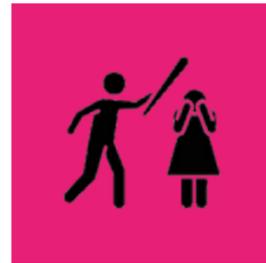
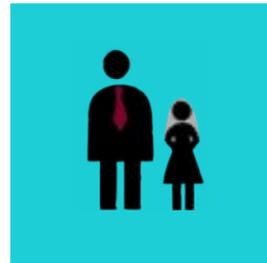
### Several Public and Private Partners have come on board including;

- Permanent Delegation of Norway to the African Union
- Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
- United Nations Agencies (UNGEI, UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF)
- Save the Children
- Plan International
- Equal Measures 2030
- Magamba Network



# Campaign Priority Areas

International Development Partners have committed to the campaign by co-organizing #AfricaEducatesHer dialogues, co-branding, blogging, data and information sharing and offering their platforms for our Champions to speak on issues affecting girls' and women's education.



- Widened digital gender gap;
- Increase in Child Marriages & Early Pregnancies;
- Increased Sexual & Gender-Based Violence;
- Increased Child labour, including unequal share of household work and burden of care;
- Decrease in school feeding programs affecting nutrition and health;
- Lack of psycho-social support services.

Take the Survey →

[bit.ly/3gWoDsS](https://bit.ly/3gWoDsS)



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## CALL TO ACTION

### #AfricaEducatesHer Girl Child Champions

The campaign engages young girls in primary schools and gives them a platform to share their views and recommendations on how best to meet their learning needs during the pandemic. From 2020 to 2021 our girl champions underlined their expectations to policy-makers and leaders in the development sector and participated in events organized by the AU/CIEFFA.

#### The Girl Champions' Call to the African Union Member States:

- Re-open schools;
- Make digital tools and the internet accessible for all, especially for girls living in fragile, conflict and violent contexts;
- Ensure catch-up strategies and remedial education are available to all children who have missed out on school due to COVID-19-related school closures and lockdowns;
- Prioritize gender and inclusivity in national school reopening policies and strategies.

**Watch Adanna's Speech**

[bit.ly/3zJwwiB](https://bit.ly/3zJwwiB)

**Adanna Nwagagbo, 12 year old, Nigeria**



**Arshiya Kallychurn, 16 year old, Mauritius**





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## 200 YOUTH PLEDGES

African youth are taking the #AfricaEducatesHer Pledge of Action, a commitment to take positive actions in their local communities and countries to ensure continued learning for girls/young women in the COVID-19 context.

We have received 200+ pledges from young people committing to champion girls' education and call on their governments to adopt, ratify and domesticate laws and policies that promote and safeguard girls' education during COVID-19.

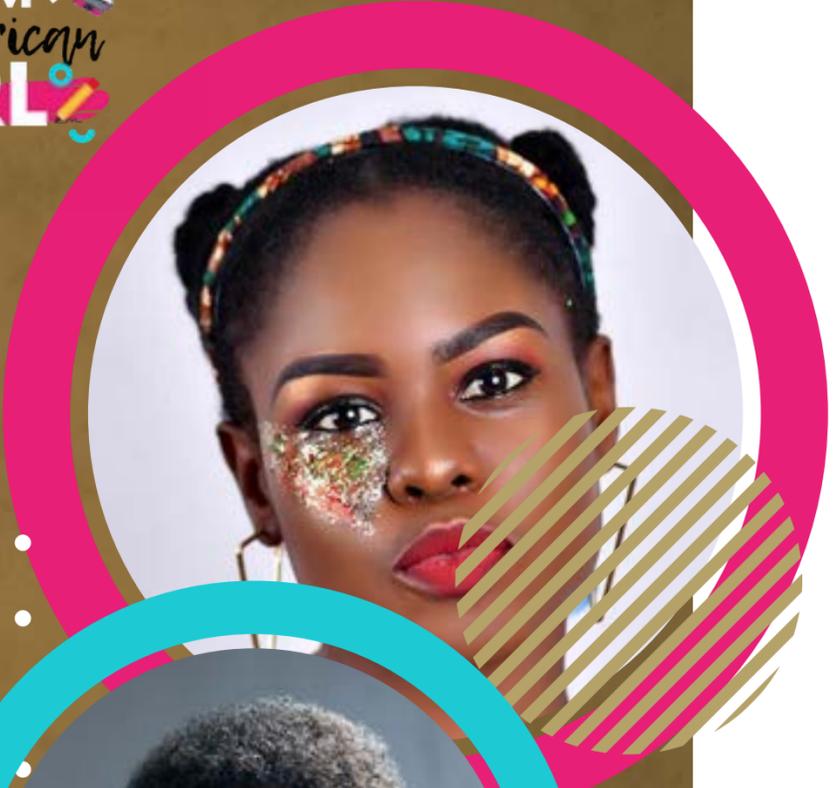
### Categories of youth pledges received include:

- Build gender-friendly schools; Support girls with tuition fees;
- Offer community-based remedial classes;
- Support girls without access to digital tools or skills with computers and internet access;
- Educate local community leaders on the importance of keeping girls in school;
- Advocate for policy-makers to allow pregnant girls to continue with school and pass laws that prohibit child marriages.

Take The Pledge

[bit.ly/3gWoDsS](https://bit.ly/3gWoDsS)





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## Youth Champions

### #AfricaEducatesHer Youth Champions

The African Union CIEFFA selected 2 young award-winning musicians, Afrie from Uganda and Ifé from Nigeria to be the Youth Champions for the campaign. Afrie and Ifé are using their music and artistic talents as tools to amplify the call made by African girls to safeguard girls' education and rally youth to take positive action in their local communities that ensure girls continue learning and are kept in school.

### I AM AN AFRICAN GIRL

The African Union CIEFFA co-produced a theme song with Afrie, featuring Ifé and Smarty, a Hip-Hop artist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Burkina Faso, titled I AM AN AFRICAN GIRL. The song is a remix of Afrie's song "Let Her Know" and has become an anthem for girls' and women's education across Africa, even receiving a nomination at the 2021 AFRIMA Awards.

**Afrie and Ifé are using their influence as musicians to champion girls' and women's education through speaking engagements at youth events and high-level global, and continental events, including;**

- GPE Global Education Summit;
- UNGEI's Day of the Girl Child Events & Transform Education Platform;
- Malala Foundation, Day of the Girl Child Celebrations in Nigeria;
- 2022 African Union-European Summit;
- 2022 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;



**Music Video: [bit.ly/3NU9w4F](https://bit.ly/3NU9w4F)**





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## Key Events & Activities Organised (2020 and 2021)

### Communications Campaign in Burkina Faso

As African Union CIEFFA is based in Burkina Faso, we launched 2 massive billboard messaging campaigns in October 2020 and October 2021 to promote the campaign and advocate for girls' return to school.

### 1st #AfricaEducatesHer Pop-up Concert In September 2020

In September 2020 we launched a call for creative content from girls and youth on learning during the pandemic and received music submissions, poems and videos from across Africa. In December 2020, we organised the first #AfricaEducatesHer virtual pop-up Concert to showcase the submitted music and poems on education & COVID-19.

### Partners Meetings

Hosted 2 (two) #AfricaEducatesHer Partners & Stakeholders Meetings after the launch of the campaign and for the 1st Anniversary of the Campaign. Partners committed during these two meetings to support the campaign and put forward recommendations on the best ways to collaborate.

### Reflections on Girls' & Women's Education in Africa on Women's Day 2021 (Virtual Dialogue)

We have used the opportunity presented by International Women's Day to bring our partners and youth to reflect on the state of girls' and women's education in Africa.





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## Events & Activities (2020 and 2021)

### **Community Engagement of Traditional and Religious Leaders (TRLs) in Girls' Education Virtual Dialogue**

AU/CIEFFA, UNICEF/ESARO and UN WOMEN co-organised a dialogue with TRLs as custodians of culture, community leaders and social behavioural change agents at grassroots and national levels. During this meeting, they committed to advocating for girls' continued learning.

### **Day of the African Child: Inter-generational panel dialogue**

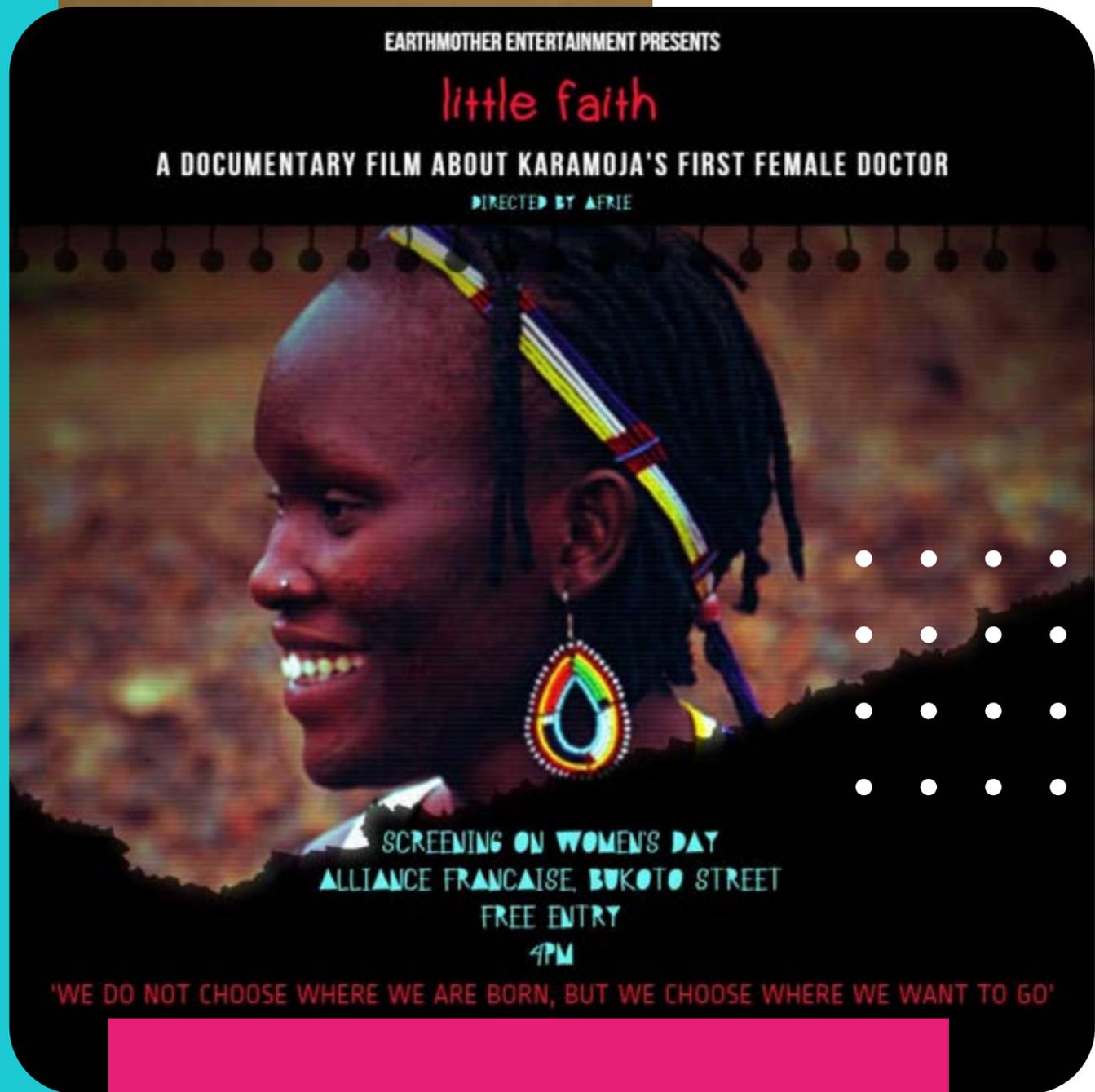
Young people from different countries met in Ouagadougou for a panel discussion with leaders in the development sector and government. The young panellists called for the re-integration of victims of gender-based violence, early pregnancies and marriage in school.

### **Global Education Summit: Artists as key influencers in getting more girls to school post-COVID-19**

The discussion looked at how culture and art can be incorporated into education to encourage communities and girls' access and retention in school. African Artists joined the campaign and committed to supporting the retention of girls in school during COVID-19 through different forms of art including music, performing arts and film, and fine art.

### **#AfricaEducatesHer Youth Corners**

Launched the #AfricaEducatesHer Youth Corners as a platform for youth within the #AfricaEducatesHer network to share experiences and foster youth-led collaborations and conversations that promote girls' education.



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## Little Faith

Documentary film

Little Faith is a short documentary film produced by #AfricaEducatesHer Youth Champion, Afrie, as part of her contribution to the campaign. The film explores the impact and power of girls' education in ending Child Marriage and building more resilient communities. It follows the story of a female medical doctor named Faith who refused to be married off as a young girl and demanded, from her father, to be allowed to go to school. After graduating as a Medical Doctor, she returned to her home village to work and is helping other girls escape from being forced into child marriages through education.

As part of the campaign, the film is being screened in local schools, communities and organizations of AU/CIEFFA Alumni and #AfricaEducatesHer youth changemakers to spark discussions on girls' education and socio-cultural behavioural change at grassroots levels across Africa.

**To screen the movie in your community, school or organisation**



**Apply Here: [bit.ly/3xQnejc](https://bit.ly/3xQnejc)**

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# #AFRICAEDUCATESHER

"Girls' education is one of the smartest investments a country can make. I raise my hand to ensure all girls receive the education they deserve."

**Dr. Rita Bissoonauth**

Head of Mission African Union CIEFFA



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