

Women and Girls in Science

Think Science ... Think Girls ... Think Global Education

IFGE Online Lunchtime Event, 28th February

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science

The Irish Forum for Global Education invited to an online event in commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, which was celebrated on 11th February.

We celebrated the ninth International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Established by the United Nations, this day highlights the critical role women and girls play in science and technology and is implemented by the [UNESCO](#) and [UN Women](#). It is a day to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, a cause the [IFGE](#) and its members are fully committed to.

The Event

The IFGE invited all its members, development & humanitarian NGOs, educational agencies, and teachers unions, state agencies and all other interested parties to join the event to collaboratively collate **lessons learned** from the **interview with Liberian Youth Advocate Jamesetta Pinky Gibson** and inputs from the **Liberian Girls Tech Club** and one of the IFGE members, **Misean Cara**.

The IFGE

The Irish Forum for Global Education is a voluntary network of civil society actors and education stakeholders committed to promoting knowledge and effective responses to global education issues, with a particular focus on education in development and emergencies and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). The Forum is affiliated to the [Global Campaign for Education](#). We strive to serve as the national platform for knowledge, dialogue, and networking on global education issues.

AGENDA

- 1 Interview with Jamesetta Pinky Gibson, Liberian Youth Advocate about her path in science**
- 2 Context: Liberia and Women in Science Education | Kate Daminatu Hunder, executive Director Girls Tech Club**
- 3 Empowering Women & Girls in STEM: The Role of Misean Cara Members | Tom Carroll, Project Officer Education Misean Cara**
- 4 Questions & Answers**
- 5 Lessons Learned Session**

[Watch the Recording](#)



Lessons Learned Outcomes

Collated by Participants during the Event

Gender biases a significant barrier – Gender based negative stereotyping and gendered societal expectations need to be tackled. Creating awareness for the barriers and challenging and overcoming gender biases is paramount. Great results can be achieved through dialogue with parents, carers, and teachers. Other means: advocacy at community level, engaging with the communities, engagement from within the communities, social media engagement.

Lack of Facilities – Need for investment. The lack of proper facilities poses an additional barrier to women and girls who already have to overcome so many challenges. Labs need to be available and properly equipped to provide proper practical learning and equip female students with competitive skills.

Female teachers – Investing in the teaching workforce & intentionally pursuing women educators. Women need to be encouraged and facilitated to pursue a career as secondary level teachers. E.g. in Liberia, statistics show that women educators stay in primary education. Their peripheral skills can be built upon to take it to secondary schools where the need is great.

Teacher training – Equipping teachers to teach STEM to girls. Capacity building needed for teachers to equip them with skills to dismantle gender stereotypes in education, provide gender-responsive learning and employ methods that include girls and boys equally.

Curriculum development – Assist with the curriculum development in schools promoting a gender-transformative approach and introducing science from an early age, including for girls.

Role models – Workshops, conferences, mentors. Invite female scientists as role models to inspire girls, build confidence with parents and communities, and serve as the girls' mentors.

IFGE Online Lunchtime Event 28th February
Women and Girls in Science
Think Science ... Think Girls ... Think Science

Career counselling – Inspire and inform girls early on about career opportunities in STEM. Girls and their parents need to be taught about opportunities early on and regularly to inspire the girls, create an interest, get their parents support, and provide families and girls with options.

Rural areas – Creating awareness with specific focus on rural areas. Engage with rural communities to create awareness, host workshops, and invite role models to schools in the most remote areas to inform about opportunities and create an awareness for the need of girls and women in STEM.

Lack of resources – Supporting from an angle of resources both in primary and secondary level, this can be labs, teachers' training, materials for experiential learning.

Scholarships – Increase and wider reach of scholarships to provide those who cannot afford fees with opportunities, access, and ensure retention and incentives to families and communities.

Advocacy at national level – Girls in Science and investment. Bring advocacy also to national level, advocating both for investment in science and for promoting girls and women in science.

