

Leveraging the Girls' Leadership Index 2024 for Advocacy & Influencing in the Asia-Pacific Region

The **Girls' Leadership Index (GLI) 2024** provides a unique, data-driven framework to understand the enabling and constraining factors for adolescent girls' and young women's leadership across 33 countries in the Asia-Pacific. This note guides Country Offices on strategically utilizing the GLI report to create greater impact for girls and influence key stakeholders.

1. Engaging Girls and Young People:

Creating Greater Impact:

- **Amplify Girls' Voices:** Share GLI findings with girls and young women, validating their experiences and providing a broader context for their struggles and aspirations. This can be done through integrating into your country's current and ongoing campaign, strategy paper and programs.
- **Develop Leadership Skills:** Utilize the GLI's seven core domains (Education, Health, Economic Opportunities, Protection, Political Voice & Representation, Laws & Policies, Climate Action) as a framework for designing leadership training programs that address specific areas of weakness identified by the Index in your country.

How Girls and Young People Can Use the GLI:

- **Understanding the National Context:** The GLI provides valuable data for girls to understand the overall situation of girls' leadership in their country compared to others.
- **Advocating for Change:** Equip girls with GLI data, such as the concerning lack of laws prohibiting child marriage in many APAC countries to advocate for legal reforms protecting their rights.
- **Peer Learning and Networking:** Facilitate discussions where girls from countries showing positive change in specific domains (e.g., Cambodia's significant improvement in the health domain) can share insights and strategies with girls from countries facing similar challenges.
- **Holding Leaders Accountable:** Girls can use the GLI data on "Political Voice and Representation" to advocate for greater inclusion of young women in political processes and hold leaders accountable for improving their country's ranking in this crucial domain.

2. Influencing Government Agencies:

Evidence-Based Policy Dialogue: Present GLI data to government ministries (e.g., Education, Gender, Youth) to highlight the current status of girls' leadership and identify areas needing policy reform and investment.

Benchmarking and Peer Learning: Showcase the strong performance of top-ranking countries like Singapore and Australia across multiple domains as benchmarks for other governments in the region to aspire to and learn from.

Developing National Action Plans: Advocate for the integration of GLI domain indicators into national gender equality and youth empowerment strategies, using the Index as a tool to identify priority areas for action and track progress.

Monitoring Progress: Utilize the GLI's baseline data to advocate for regular national data collection aligned with the GLI's seven domains to monitor the impact of government policies and interventions on girls' leadership over time.

Cross-Ministerial Collaboration: Use the GLI's comprehensive framework to highlight the interconnectedness of factors influencing girls' leadership (e.g., the link between education, economic opportunities, and political voice) to encourage collaboration across different government ministries.



3. Collaborating with Partners and Potential Donors:

Strengthening Advocacy Efforts: Share GLI data revealing critical cross-cutting issues like socio-economic barriers and weak legal protections with Women Rights Organizations (WROs) and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to build a stronger evidence base for joint advocacy campaigns.

Identifying Joint Priorities: If the GLI highlights the persistent challenge of social norms perpetuating violence against women, this can become a key focus for collaborative projects aimed at challenging harmful cultural practices.

Resource Mobilization: Leverage the GLI's findings on the overall undervaluation of girls and women to make a compelling case for funding initiatives that directly address the identified barriers to girls' leadership.

Building Coalitions: Use the GLI as a shared framework to convene diverse partners, including youth-led organizations, to develop coordinated strategies for creating supportive environments for girls' leadership.

Tailoring Interventions: Partners can use the GLI's country-specific rankings and domain scores to tailor their on-the-ground programs to address the most significant constraints and leverage existing opportunities for girls' leadership in their specific contexts.



Key Considerations for Country Offices:



Contextualization

Adapt the GLI findings to your specific country context, highlighting local nuances and priorities.



Dissemination

Develop accessible and engaging materials (e.g., infographics, country profile, policy briefs, presentations) based on the GLI report for different audiences.



Capacity Building

Equip Plan staff and partners with the knowledge and skills to effectively use the GLI for advocacy and influencing.



Long-term Engagement

Use the GLI as a starting point for sustained dialogue and action with girls, government agencies, and partners.

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Plan International's 2024 Girls' Leadership Index (GLI) provides a unique dive into the barriers and opportunities shaping the leadership potential of adolescent girls and young women.

Based on data from 33 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, the findings paint a picture of progress punctuated by persistent inequalities, offering a sobering reminder of the work still required to break entrenched cycles of gender disparity.

Report available at:
plan-international.org/publications/2024-girls-leadership-index-report/