

# Global Education Initiative

## Financial Education for Girls



Photo: Plan International

### Global Education Initiative supporting SDG 4 and 5

Education is at the heart of economic empowerment and social mobility. Credit Suisse's Global Education Initiative increases girls' financial capability and awareness of their social and economic rights, and helps girls build better futures for themselves and their communities. The Global Education Initiative includes a unique and dynamic partnership with Aflatoun, Plan International and Room to Read to provide financial education for girls. Credit Suisse also supports Teach for All's Global Girls Education Initiative that fosters teaching strategies that are supportive of girls.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Credit Suisse's Global Education Initiative launched in 2008, targets school-aged children in low-income communities throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region. Working together with our partners, the Initiative reached 100,000 students in 38 countries over the first five years.

### Financial Education for Girls

Based on the success, we launched our Signature Program focusing on Financial Education for Girls in 2014. By increasing girls' financial capability and awareness of their social and economic rights, the program aims to help girls in low-income countries transform their lives and contribute to their communities. Between 2014 and 2017, this program was delivered by our partners Plan International and Aflatoun International and in 2018, Room to Read joined the program. Over 100,000 girls received financial education and life skills education in selected regions of Brazil, China, India, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

Meet some of the girls taking part in the program and hear how they are managing their finances:

- [Juan \(14\) from China](#)
- [Radha \(15\) from India](#)
- [Joy \(14\) from Rwanda](#)
- [Mariana \(14\) from Brazil](#)

### Program goals

Aligned with the core business of Credit Suisse and our Financial Inclusion Initiative, the Financial Education for Girls program aims to ensure that:

1. Over 100,000 girls receive financial education through life skills programs;
2. Girls have increased self-confidence and agency over their future choices;
3. The agenda for educating girls is supported more strongly by families, communities and authorities at the local and national level.

## Context

As a global financial institution, Credit Suisse sees first-hand how important financial skills are to enable people to actively participate in the economy and society. Financial education enables economic empowerment; many young people aged 14–25 in developing countries are already economically active but without a basic education in the key tenets of finance. They are, therefore, not only less likely to maximize the benefits from their economic activity, but also risk making decisions that may result in debt and further poverty over time and into adulthood.

Girls in developing countries, in particular, face many more barriers to education compared to their male counterparts. Thus focusing on financial education for girls can be transformative. Empowered girls can manage their own savings and spending, and make decisions about their futures. Increasing girls' financial capability and awareness of their social and economic rights enables them to better fulfil their potential and take advantage of economic opportunities as they transition into adulthood. Furthermore, financial education for girls also mitigates their vulnerabilities to sexual and domestic violence, school dropouts, illiteracy, early marriage and pregnancy<sup>2</sup>.

Learn more about [Financial Education](#)



Photo: Room to Read

## Partners



**Aflatoun International** offers social and financial education to millions of children and young people worldwide, empowering them to make a change for a sustainable future. Aflatoun International creates high-quality curricula, for different age groups, which are contextualized and implemented by local partners. In addition, educators are provided with training to teach the Aflatoun child-centered active-learning method, boosting life skills and financial education through five core elements. The organization also conducts research projects to validate the impact, effectiveness and quality of its programs. [www.aflatoun.org](http://www.aflatoun.org)



**Plan International** is a global children's charity. We work to give every child the same chance in life.

Not every child is born with the same opportunities. For a girl it's even harder to be safe, be in school and be in charge of her body. We're fighting so every child, especially every girl, knows their value. We're fighting so the communities they're growing up in – and the world around them – value them too. We work to give every child, every chance.

[www.plan-uk.org](http://www.plan-uk.org)



**Room to Read**

**Room to Read** is a global organization transforming the lives of millions of children in low-income communities by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education.

Credit Suisse and Room to Read's relationship spans more than 13 years and has included a wide range of projects, from post-tsunami school and library refurbish-ment in Sri Lanka and India to the launch of pilot literacy programs in Asia and, most recently, girls' financial education in Sri Lanka and Tanzania. Through its partnership with Room to Read, Credit Suisse has supported over 138,000 children.

Credit Suisse also provides free office space for small development teams in Hong Kong and Tokyo, enabling Room to Read to invest more of its funding directly into programs.

[www.roomtoread.org](http://www.roomtoread.org)

## Teach For All

**Teach For All** is a global network of 50 independent partner organizations working to ensure all children are able to fulfil their potential. These organizations recruit and develop promising future leaders to teach in their nations' under-resourced schools and communities and, the global organization works to increase the network's impact by capturing and spreading learning, facilitating connections, accessing global resources, and fostering the leadership development of partner staff, teachers and alumni. Credit Suisse is supporting [Teach For All's Girls Education Initiative](#).

[www.teachforall.org](http://www.teachforall.org)

## More Information

[credit-suisse.com/responsibility/education](http://credit-suisse.com/responsibility/education)

## Contact

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<sup>2</sup> Morcos, Carmen and Sebstad, Jennefer (2011) Financial Education for Adolescent Girls; [http://www.womensworldbanking.org/PDFs/23\\_FinanEducationforAdolescentGirls.pdf](http://www.womensworldbanking.org/PDFs/23_FinanEducationforAdolescentGirls.pdf)