

# Leveraging the power of partnership to bridge the gender digital divide in Afghanistan

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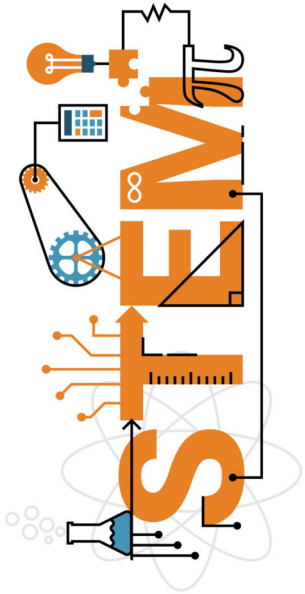
EQUALS In Afghanistan



EQUALS  
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

# Introduction

- Ensuring women have equal access to STEM education and ultimately STEM career is an imperative from the **human rights, scientific, and development** perspectives.



1. All people are equal and should have equal opportunities, including to study and work in the field of their choice;
2. The inclusion of women promotes scientific excellence and boosts the quality of STEM outcomes, as diverse perspectives aggregate creativity, reduce potential biases, and promote more robust knowledge and solutions;
3. Gender inequalities in STEM education and employment perpetuate existing gender inequalities in status and income.

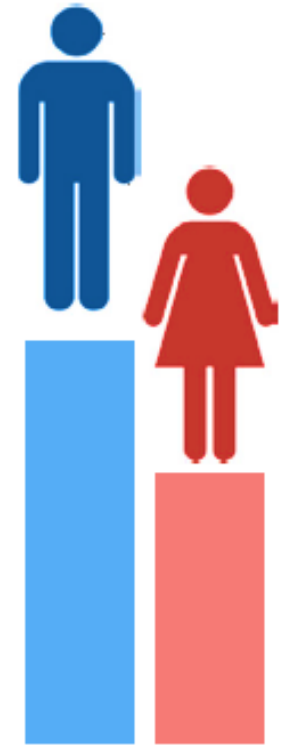
# Bridging the gender digital divide

- if existing digital divides are addressed, particularly low and middle-income nations, where the digital gender gaps are the largest, could experience a leapfrogging process towards development.
- It would enable developing nations to leverage new technologies for long-standing challenges, including effective healthcare, education, political participation, and civil rights, among others.

- Existing gender gaps in digital inclusion, if not properly addressed, are likely to lead to gender inequalities in many other areas, including inequalities in labor markets and less financial inclusion of women.
- The gender technology gap also negatively impacts countries' potential for economic growth and development. If 600 million more women are connected to the internet in 3 years, this would translate to a rise in global GDP of between 13-18 billion dollars.

# What are the barriers?

- Some people believe that biological and psychological factors such as **brain structure and function, genetics and hormones, self perception, stereotypes and interest** are the reasons of this situation.
- But family, school and social factors such as:
  - ✓ Parental beliefs, expectations and inherent gender biases,
  - ✓ Parents' education and profession (economic situation),
  - ✓ Teacher-student interactions,
  - ✓ Socio-cultural norms,
  - ✓ Policies and legislations,are the most important factors in this regard.



**There are 250 million fewer women online than men.**

# EQUALS in Afghanistan

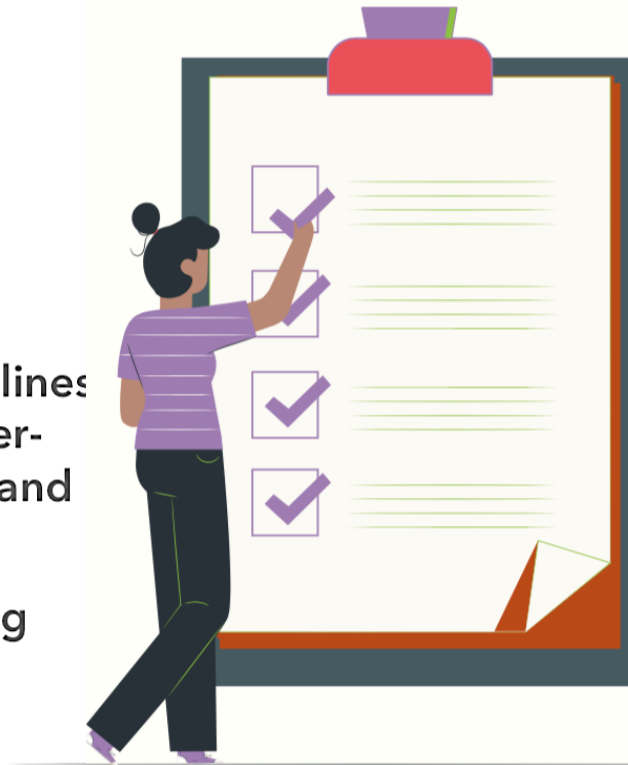
- To achieve gender equality, girls and young women need equal access to technology, digital training and to be safe online.

## Access Coalition:

- ✓ Reducing the gender gap in internet access and use

## Skills Coalition:

- ✓ Developing principles, guidelines and good practices for gender-transformative skills training and evaluation.
- ✓ Providing digital skills training available to girls and women throughout life



## Leadership Coalition:

- ✓ Address the barriers that prevent women from rising to the top of their chosen technology field

## Research Coalition:

- ✓ Generating knowledge about the existence, causes and remedies for gender tech inequalities
- ✓ Motivating key stakeholder groups to collect and share gender-relevant data

# EQUALS Secretariat at ATRA

- Lack of coordination and mismanagement are the main causes of project failures and waste of budget/aids in Afghanistan.
- This secretariat would be the coordination unit for the EQUALS project in Afghanistan and a bridge between national and Int'l stakeholders.

## Job Description:

- ✓ To identify the main partners at national level (Government & Non-Government);
- ✓ To develop agile and innovative model for collaboration of government and civil society;
- ✓ To create a Steering Committee (national);
- ✓ To conduct a comprehensive research to develop our national framework for digital skills, taking into account specific development and educational context;

# EQUALS Secretariat at ATRA (cont.)

- ✓ To develop the implementation plan (in coordination with ITU & partners);
- ✓ To create a Web Portal under the ATRA website;
- ✓ To manage all resources effectively and efficiently;
- ✓ To collect data from all relevant stakeholders;
- ✓ To assist ITU in data collection;
- ✓ To organize regular meetings at national and international levels to ensure advancement and progress of the project;
- ✓ To study and analysis the quarterly report of ITU and give feedback/input whenever required;

# EQUALS Secretariat at ATRA (cont.)

- ✓ To maintain a good and effective liaison link with all national and international stakeholders;
- ✓ To establish a single POC with ITU and put the Int'l Relations Department on Cc in any sort of communication;
- ✓ To coordinate and organize the annual celebration of **Girls in ICT Day** in Afghanistan (ATRA + national and Int'l partners);



# Recommendations

- Clear definition of milestones is recommended to be included in the project document.
- Experts from ITU and ITU's Int'l co-partners (planned to collaborate in this activities) shall be identified and introduced to us.
- A clear action plan including roles of all stakeholders in implementation of EQUALS in Afghanistan is solicited to be shared with us.
- Expert/s Job Description is highly recommended to be shared with us.

We are fully committed to work with our partners and truly leverage the power of digital technologies for women's empowerment in Afghanistan.

**Thank You!**