GIRLS Inspire uses a holistic approach that brings together key stakeholders within the entire community to support girls’ and women’s education and learning for empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

GIRLS Inspire improved girls’ and women’s ability to gain desirable employment linked to the labour market and acquire financial skills by providing:

- **WOMEN AND GIRLS LIFE SKILLS TRAINING, INCLUDING FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- **COMMUNITIES JOB FAIRS**
- **LOCAL EMPLOYERS CAREER COUNSELLING**
- **IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS INTERNSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENTS**
- **MICROLOANS**

Reaching the Unreached (RtU) was a one-year project that provided educational opportunities to 25,000+ women and girls who had either never attended school or dropped out due to barriers such as child, early and forced marriage, distance to school, cultural barriers, security concerns and cost of schooling.

[girlsinspire.col.org]
Participants’ earnings and income rose fivefold.

Before the program, less than 10% of participants felt they had the skills/capacity to find employment; by the program’s end, 98% felt ready to enter employment.

25,284 women and girls successfully completed vocational skills training. Of these, 4,724 moved into employment or self-employment.

To achieve SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS WITH THE LABOUR MARKET, policy discussions should address how to make employment opportunities and resources accessible, which includes offering FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS to encourage and accommodate women and girls, whose traditional roles in most of the targeted communities are homemaker and mother.

Participants gained the confidence to pursue employment, and the belief that they had choices about their work and finances. Connecting them to employment resources and formal financial platforms were key for results.