



**POLICY BRIEF**

**September 2016**

**TeachHer 2016: Training of a Master Corps of Educators from 6 African countries to inspire adolescent girls age 13 to 16 to pursue STEAM careers**

**Addis Ababa, August 29- September 2**

**Introduction**

The United States Mission to UNESCO developed the TeachHer Master Teacher Training workshop through a new public-private partnership, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), other UNESCO Member States, the Institute of International Education (IIE), the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTE), and other leading NGO and private sector partners such as Microsoft and Fitbit. IICBA was responsible for the technical organization of the workshop and brought together the regional partners.

This workshop, meant to help inspire young girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Design, and Mathematics (STEAM) subjects, took place during the week of August 29-September 2, 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and included participants from six African countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tanzania. The participants included teachers, head teachers and administrators, and ministers of education officials from these countries. TeachHer had previously been officially launched by Dr. Jill Biden, the Second Lady of the United States, at an event on June 14, 2016, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.



*Group photo of the TeachHer participants and facilitators*

The **objectives** of this workshop included:

1. Share strategies for how to use gender-responsive pedagogies (GRP) in one's classroom
2. Teach teachers to incorporate Information Communication Technology (ICT) into their teaching, especially in the STEAM subjects
3. Help teachers better understand how to create suitable learning environments for all their students, especially the female students
4. Inspire teachers to find ways to use locally available resources in their teaching

### **Summary**

The workshop brought together 58 educators from six African countries, as well as a number of educational organizations and NGOs. FAWE made a number of important presentations about gender-responsive pedagogy. CEMASTEIA provided a number of important demonstrations and discussion regarding how to use locally resources materials and be innovative in one's teaching through the development of lesson plans. Microsoft also made two presentations, familiarizing teachers with some of their educational programs, which can enhance their teaching and students' learning. IICBA made a presentation on how to incorporate ICTs in STEAM education with a focus on gender. Each day, the participants focused on different themes regarding GRP and the teaching of STEAM subjects. Some of these themes included: raising awareness and understanding the importance of STEAM for girls, how to make STEAM more fun for girls, and preparing innovative and exciting lessons and teaching/learning materials. Going forward, teachers are very motivated and excited to use the strategies and innovations they learned about during the workshop.



*Teachers working together to create learning materials for a Physics lesson*

## **Recommendations**

In order to reach the goals set out by the TeachHer workshop, the following action steps are recommended:

1. Open lines of communication, collaboration, and follow-ups among teachers, administrators, ministers of education officials, and the organizing partners must be created and used continuously
2. Advocating for policy changes regarding GRP, ICT, and teaching STEAM subjects is needed
3. Dependent on funding, this workshop should be done annually in order to reach more education professionals in Africa

## **Conclusion**

This inaugural workshop marks only the beginning of a long-term commitment to using gender-responsive pedagogies and ICT to teach the STEAM subjects. All partners and participants emphasized the need for follow-up after the initial training. If we hope to see improvements in girls' interest in STEAM subjects in Africa, then all organizing partners must continue providing support to teachers and provide opportunities for further collaboration.

## **For more information**

For further information on this issue, please contact [info.iicba@unesco.org](mailto:info.iicba@unesco.org)