



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME ISP

Continued work to promote gender equality in 2019

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



In 2015 ISP has introduced ear-marked extra funds for activities promoting an increased gender equality and balance in mathematics and physics at the supported institutions; i.e. the Gender Equality Grants. These grants have allowed for an impressive variety of activities targeting gender bias at different education levels, and, even if representing only a very little part of the total budget that the groups dispose during the year, have been catalysts for focusing on gender issues.

In addition to the Gender Equality Grants, Eastern Africa Network for Women in Basic Sciences (EANWoBAS) receives ISP core funding from 2019. The network consists of students and staff members in mathematics and physics from universities in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and is the first ISP supported network of this kind. In parallel, chemistry partners have initiated gender equality promoting activities within the frame of their regular budgets.

ISP sees three different main “tracks” for the activities that were carried out in 2019:

1. To encourage female university students to continue to Master studies and/or PhD studies in mathematics and physics through

- New scholarship programs (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe).
- Science Camps, Seminars, Laboratory visits and Hands-on experiments directed to female students (Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Uganda).
- Mentoring, training and identifying the needs that the female students can have (Burkina Faso, Kenya).

2. To inspire female students through role-model sessions through

- Inviting distinguished female academics to visit the universities and to give a plenary talks on women in sciences and how to break the glass ceiling (Zimbabwe, Kenya).
- Organizing meetings for motivating discussions as well as arranging mentorship days with senior female faculty members to address different career paths (Kenya).
- Organizing the 1st EANWoBAS regional workshop “Harnessing Women and Girls Potential in STEM”, on Gender Equality in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop aimed at addressing the gender gap in STEM through initiatives that can inspire and nurture the interest in STEM among girls at a very early age, while motivating women at tertiary level to avoid falling in the cracks of the leaky pipeline in the STEM careers. The audience consisted of high school and university students, high school teachers, university lecturers and researchers, STEM professionals and stakeholders from six African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana and Cameroon).

3. Many groups see the need to engage female students in primary school and high school in the basic sciences

- ISP funded groups visited girls’ schools in rural parts of the countries, where girls do not continue to higher education and where the drop-off rate girls is already high at high school level (Kenya, Uganda).
- ISP funded group organized workshops about science and career opportunities in science, e.g. “The use of mathematics in other sciences”, for female secondary school mathematics. Astronomy was used as a tool to motivate and inspire girls to science (Ethiopia, Uganda).
- A five-week training program was organized for 20 high school students (50% females) on scientific measurements, conducting simple physics experiments and writing lab reports to make physics more accessible (Ethiopia).

Visit www.isp.uu.se/gender for more info