



Photo credits: U-Go

# U-GO INITIATIVE IMPACT FUND

University Education | Empowering Women



## FUND OVERVIEW

### NAME

U-Go Initiative Impact Fund

### FUND OBJECTIVES

This fund aims to increase access to university education for girls from challenged backgrounds, who have the academic ability and the tenacity to overcome obstacles and thrive.

### COUNTRIES OF OPERATIONS

Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam.

### LAUNCH DATE

July 2024

### MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION

SGD20,000 / USD15,000

Multi-year contributions welcome

### FUND TARGET AND DURATION

SGD6,700,000 / USD5,000,000

Over 5 years

## THE ISSUE

Enrolment in tertiary education for women **drops below 50% in many middle-income countries, with fewer than 15% attending university** in some low-income countries. Poverty is a key factor limiting young women's access to higher education, exacerbated by social and cultural resistance, remote locations, and disabilities.

## OUR PARTNER

The U-Go Initiative empowers talented and ambitious young women from financially-challenged backgrounds by funding long-term university scholarships and providing a support infrastructure to teach life skills, build communities, and create networks.

Strategic partnerships are key to the U-Go Initiative's success, **bridging the gap between opportunity and aspiration for girls facing economic barriers**. These partnerships involve local organisations familiar with education systems. A network of 12 educational non-profit partners collaborates with U-Go to facilitate scholarships and support infrastructures.

Since its founding, **more than 2,500 scholarships have been awarded, with an additional 1,700 girls set to receive scholarships in the coming academic year**. This will bring the total to more than 4,200 ambitious, talented, young women who will have begun their university programmes.

# WHAT YOUR FUNDING COULD UNLOCK

## USD32,000

Covers 4 years of university for **10 girls**

## USD80,000

Covers 4 years of university for **25 girls**

## USD160,000

Covers 4 years of university for **50 girls**

## TO GIVE:

### Gemma Byrne

[gemma.byrne@asiacf.org](mailto:gemma.byrne@asiacf.org)

Asia Community Foundation  
1 Lorong 2 Toa Payoh  
#05-01 Braddell House  
Singapore 319637

5% of the total funds raised will cover ACF's fundraising and administrative costs.

Individuals with 'Accredited Investor' status, their associated private wealth entities, or corporate entities that pass ACF's Know-Your-Donor process may give through ACF's various funds.

## KEY FUND PRIORITIES



1

Eliminate barriers towards education



2

Increase access to skills training and relocation services



3

Provide academic support

## CHAMPION DONOR

**“ In many cultures, education for girls and women is restricted. However, it is not widely known, even within their own families, that when girls are educated, it brings significant economic improvements to their families, communities, and countries. Please join me in supporting this vital movement to create better futures for all.**

**ANTHONIA HUI**

Head of Singapore, AlTi Tiedemann Global

Born in Hong Kong to an impoverished family, Anthonia was told by her father to find her own way to get an education. Determined, she walked two hours each way to a factory job to earn her school fees. Now, she aims to provide opportunities for girls like her to pursue education.

## WHY GIVE?

1

### Learn alongside experienced givers

Join the champion's giving journey and learn about the issue and needs.

2

### Fund high-quality social impact organisations

Support impactful nonprofits with a proven track record of driving positive change.

3

### Join a network of donors

Be part of a community of impact-minded donors.

4

### Focus on your giving

Leverage ACF's grant management capabilities to reduce your administrative burden.

5

### Ensure security and accountability

Rely on the ACF team to conduct due diligence and manage grant tracking and reporting.



## THE BACKGROUND

Asia can be thought of as a “tale of two cities.” Many countries including Japan, Korea, and Taiwan have seen significant growth in the enrolment of women in tertiary education over the past decades. Increased education has led to national economic growth and lower poverty levels. However, **the enrolment rate drops well below 50%** in many middle-income countries. In some low-income countries, **fewer than 15% of women are able to attend university.**

Poverty is among the most important factors that determine a young woman’s opportunity to enrol in a tertiary education program. Beyond economic constraints, studies show that girls face additional challenges—societal expectations and traditional gender roles causing cultural resistance, living in remote or underserved areas, safety and security—all contributing **obstacles for young women to attend and complete university education.**

A young woman is not the sole beneficiary of a university education. Women with careers spend **90% of their income** towards care for their families—food, medicine, shelter, clothing, and education. They tend to marry later, have fewer children, and are better able to provide for the children they do have. When they become teachers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, computer scientists, entrepreneurs, society benefits in multiple ways.

“**Parents universally all hope for their children to have better lives than they have had. When we ask what they believe would enable them to thrive and lead a better life, parents always say that education is the key.**”

**JOHN WOOD**  
Founder and CEO of  
The U-Go Initiative

### References:

1. Harun, M.F. and Ibrahim, A. (2022) Female tertiary education across ASEAN countries: A descriptive analysis based on barro-lee educational attainment projection 2015-2020, Atlantis Press. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.220304.012> (Accessed: 10 July 2024).
2. Girls' education (World Bank. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/girlseducation> (Accessed: 10 July 2024).

