

Fact Sheet

October 2013

Girls' education – the facts



A fifth of girls in the world are out of school

Millions of girls around the world are still being denied an education

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

- There are still 31 million girls of primary school age out of school. 17 million of these girls are expected never to enter school in their lifetime. There are 5 million fewer girls than boys in primary school
- Three countries have over a million girls not in school. In Nigeria there are almost five and a half million, Pakistan, over three million, and in Ethiopia, over one million girls out of school.

LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL:

- There are also 34 million female adolescents out of school, missing out on the chance to learn vital skills for life.

SKILLS:

- Slow education progress for our children today will have lifelong effects: Almost a quarter of young women aged 15-24 today (116 million) in developing countries have never completed primary school and so lack skills for work (compared to a sixth – 83 million – of young men)

LITERACY:

- Two-thirds of the 774 million illiterate people in the world are female

Girls' education has a huge impact on all of society



Educated women are less likely to die in childbirth:

If all mothers completed primary education, maternal deaths would be reduced by two-thirds, saving 189,000 lives

In sub-Saharan Africa, if all women completed primary education, maternal deaths would be reduced by 70%, saving 113,400 lives.



Educating girls can save millions of lives:

If all women had a primary education, there would be 15% fewer child deaths.

If all women had a secondary education, child deaths would be cut in half, saving 3 million lives.



Mothers' education improves child nutrition

If all women had a primary education, 1.7 million children would be saved from stunting from malnutrition.

If all women had a secondary education, 12 million children would be saved from stunting from malnutrition



Girls with higher levels of education are less likely to have children at an early age

10% fewer girls would become pregnant under 17 years in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia if they all had a primary education

Almost 60% fewer girls would become pregnant under 17 years in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia if they all had a secondary education.



Educating girls is a key factor in hastening the demographic transition to lower birth rates.

In sub-Saharan Africa, women with no education have 6.7 births, on average. The figure falls to 5.8 for those with primary education and more than halves, to 3.9, for those with secondary education.



Girls with higher levels of education are less likely to get married at an early age

If all girls had a primary education, there would be 14% fewer child marriages

If all girls had a secondary education, there would be two-thirds fewer child marriages



Education narrows pay gaps between men and women

In Pakistan, women with a primary education earn 51% what men earn. With a secondary education, they earn 70% what men earn

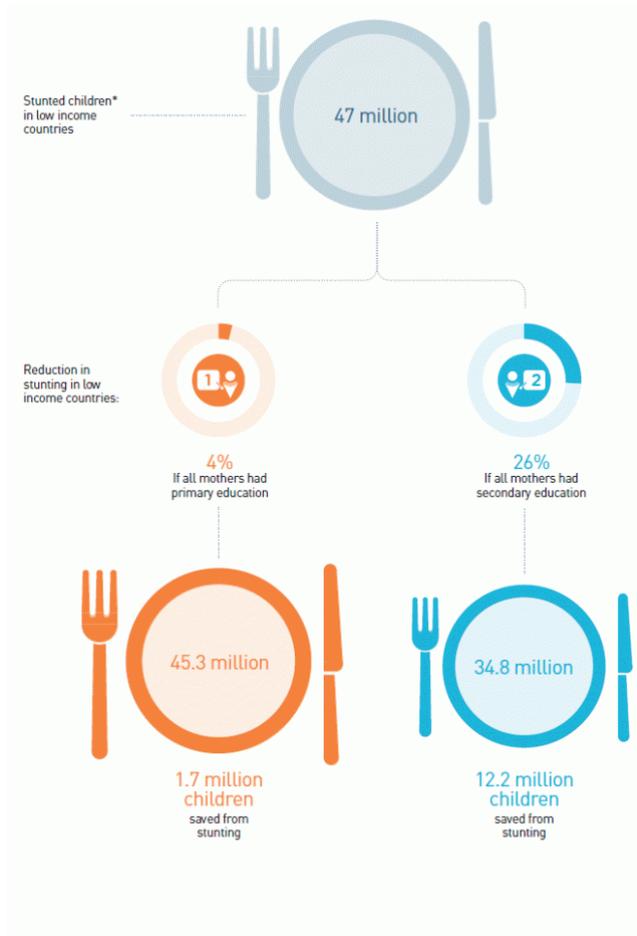
In Jordan, women with a primary education earn 53% what men earn. With a secondary education, they earn 67% what men earn



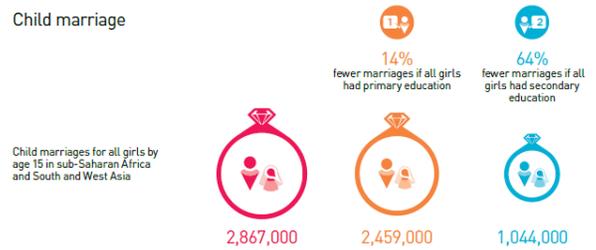
Educated women are more likely to find work:

In Brazil, only 37% of women with less than primary education are in work. This rises to 50% if they have a primary education, and 60% with a secondary education

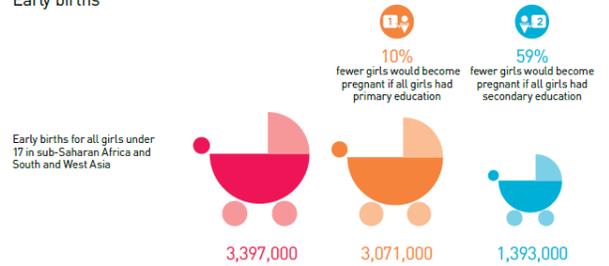
Education Transforms



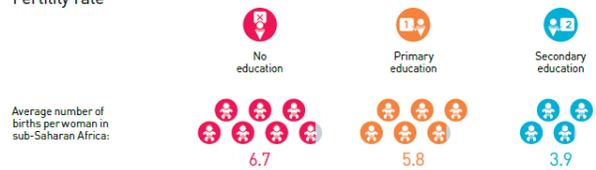
Child marriage



Early births



Fertility rate*



Birth complications

A literate mother is on average:



23% more likely to seek support from a midwife

The bottom ten countries for female education



The EFA GMR's World Inequality Database in Education, WIDE, provides us with a global scorecard ranking the extent of education poverty for girls in countries around the world.

In seven countries around the world, almost two-thirds of the poorest girls have never been to school. The long term neglect of education means that the poorest young women in these seven countries have only spent only a year or less in school on average.

Without a real step change by the government to give these children and young people the education and training they need, including a second chance for those who have missed out, they will be denied equal opportunities in work and life forever.

Percentage of poorest females aged 7-16 who have never been to school			Average years of education for the poorest 17-22 year old females		
Rank	Country	%	Rank	Country	Years
1	Somalia	95%	1	Somalia	0.3
2	Niger	78%	2	Niger	0.4
3	Liberia	77%	3	Mali	0.5
4	Mali	75%	4	Guinea	0.5
5	Burkina Faso	71%	5	Guinea-Bissau	0.8
6	Guinea	68%	6	Yemen	0.8
7	Pakistan	62%	7	Central African Republic	0.8
8	Yemen	58%	8	Burkina Faso	0.9
9	Benin	55%	9	Pakistan	1.0
10	Côte d'Ivoire	52%	10	Benin	1.1