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EDUCATING GIRLS 'AGENDA 2030' SHOULD BE 'GENDER 2030'

BACKSTORY



Our work on international development issues is led by the Development Policy Forum (DPF), which was set up by Friends of Europe in partnership with development actors such as Germany's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), France's Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the United Nations, the World Bank, The Coca-Cola Company and Eni.

The DPF contributes to the global and European conversation on inclusive development. Through its activities and publications, the DPF reflects the rapidly-changing global debate on growth and development and seeks to encourage a multi-stakeholder, fresh, up-to-date thinking on the multiple challenges facing the development community.

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INTRODUCTION

Agenda 2030 highlights the importance of gender equality and insists that every child should have the right to a safe, formal, quality education and access to lifelong learning. Access to education should not be determined by a child's gender. Yet, girls from around the world continue to face discrimination just for being born a daughter and not a son. They experience certain barriers to education that boys do not and, in several parts of the world, a girl's education is less likely to be valued. Girls are also more likely to be forced into early marriage, face violence or have to take over the burden of their families.

Women's education increases their workforce participation, directly affecting their cities' and countries economic growth and productivity. Educating girls can break cycles of poverty in just one generation.

These statistics offer insights on the challenges and also illustrate the lasting impact that education has on girls, families, communities and nations around the world. Some suggested solutions to help boost girls' education have also been gathered.

The information contained in this publication is by no means exhaustive. We have relied on data from a range of sources, including UNICEF, the World Bank, the Malala Fund, Plan International and Save the Children.

This publication is linked to our event "**Educating Girls – Agenda 2030 should be called Gender 2030**" in February 2019, focusing on the actions needed to overcome complex global barriers so more girls go to schools, and to provide them with the required skills to enter the work force.

Only 29% of countries have achieved gender parity at upper secondary level, in fact:

89% of girls complete primary education in developed countries vs 58% in low income countries

77% of girls complete lower secondary education in developed countries vs 30% in low income countries

130 million girls DID NOT go to school today

a number so big that if it was its own country, it would be the **10th largest** in the world

2/3 of the world's 758 million illiterate are women. They wouldn't be able to read this paper...

Illiteracy is a huge barrier for girls and women's ability to take advantage of any technology, including mobile phones, even when these devices are available to them

620 million children

do not have decent toilets at school

355 million girls

are unable to wash their hands after changing sanitary pads at school

1/10 girls

in Sub-Saharan Africa misses school during her period

1/5 girls

in India (23 million) drops out of school after she gets her periods

2/3 girls

in Kenya can't afford sanitary pads, whereas in some countries, like Malawi, sanitary pads can cost the equivalent of an entire day's salary

Period stigma

plays a major role in preventing girls from continuing their education past puberty. Entrenched superstitions and narratives paint women who menstruate as unclean or impure. Many girls themselves do not have complete and accurate understanding of menstruation as a normal biological process



1 billion young people – of which

600 million girls will enter the workforce in the next decade

Over 90% of those living in developing countries will work in the informal sector, in jobs that are not regulated or protected, and where

low or no pay, abuse and exploitation are common

FACT: girls are likely to consider a career in tech 5 times less than boys

Key reasons

why girls are out of school

Early marriage

Child labour

Conflict

Cost

Gender bias

Health

Natural disaster

Poor quality of education

Lack of public investments

No enforcement of compulsory education

Social norms



WHAT ARE THE STEEPEST BARRIERS?

The barriers for girls are manifold and complex, especially in the poorest countries. Here are some of the most challenging:

Cost: on top of school fees, costs for transportation, textbooks or uniforms can be too high to bear, especially for people living in extreme poverty. There can also be indirect costs, as girls who go to school lose out on potential income and spend less time at home contributing to family tasks or taking care of family members.

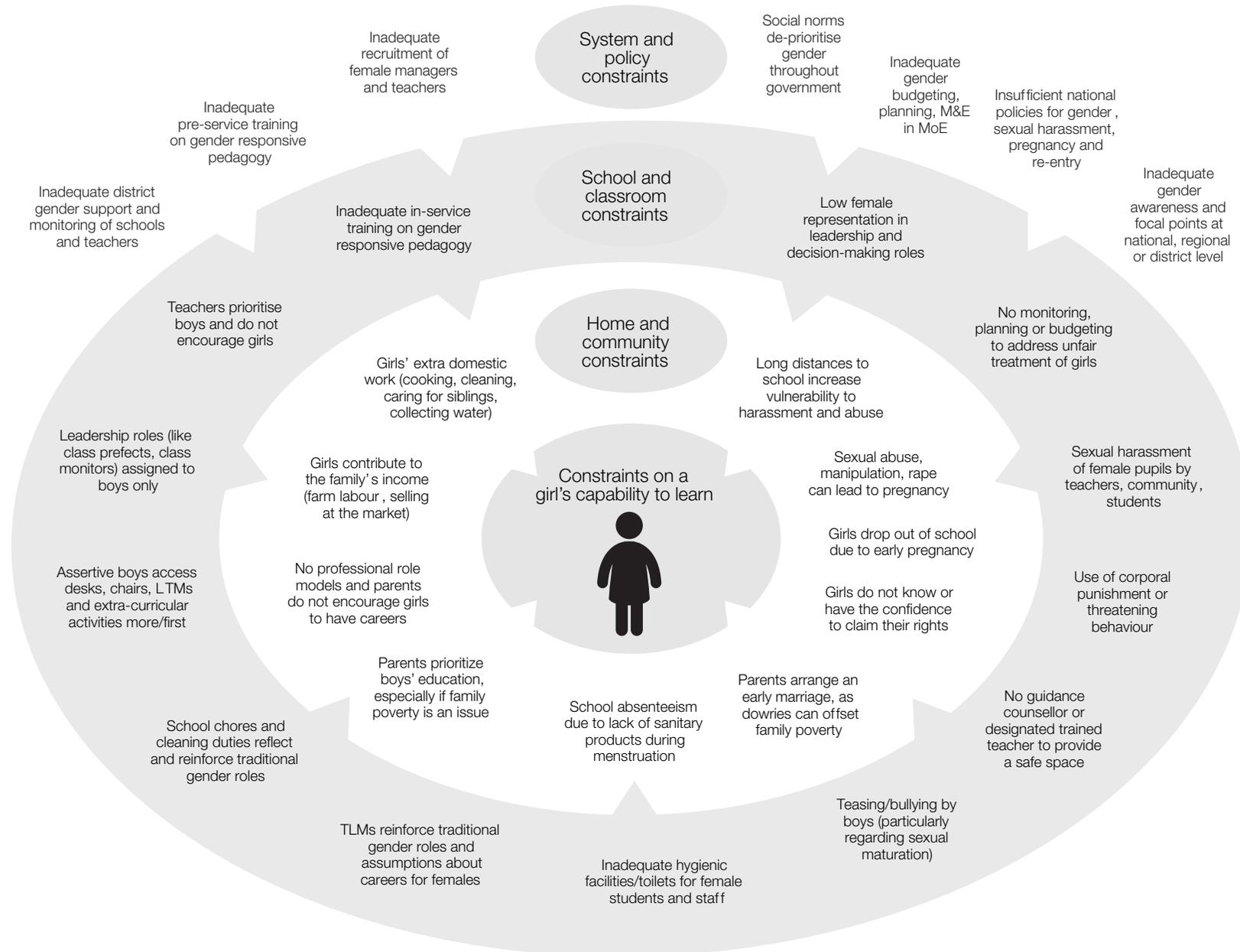
Cultural norms and expectations: many girls are forced to get married before their 15th birthday, give birth and take on household duties. As a result, it may seem less necessary for parents to send their daughters to school.

Violence and security: parents may also be deterred from sending their girls to school, especially in regions where commuting is not safe and where sexual violence against women and girls is widespread. This is a serious concern: between 2000 and 2014, violent attacks on girls' schools occurred three times more often than attacks on boys' schools.

School environment and infrastructure: schools and teachers may fail to create a gender-sensitive environment. For example, schools may not have separate bathrooms, discouraging girls from attending school during their periods. Furthermore, a lack of gender-sensitive teaching can result in girls being excluded from subjects such as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and can generally create a climate where girls are not encouraged to learn.

The different types and level of constraint on girls' capability to learn:

Source: UNICEF (<https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/girls-education-improving-not-all>)



WHAT ARE THE TOUGHEST PLACES FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION?*

1. **South Sudan:** 73% of girls in South Sudan don't go to primary school. And South Sudan's government spends just 2.6% of its total budget on education
2. **Central African Republic:** 1 teacher for every 80 pupils
3. **Niger:** only 17% of women between the ages of 15 and 24 are literate
4. **Afghanistan:** has the widest level of gender disparity in primary education, with only 71 girls in primary school for every 100 boys
5. **Chad:** many social and economic barriers to girls and women getting education
6. **Mali:** only 38% of girls finish primary school
7. **Guinea:** the average time in education among women over the age of 25 is less than one year
8. **Burkina Faso:** only 1% of girls complete secondary school
9. **Liberia:** almost 2/3 of primary-age pupils out of school
10. **Ethiopia:** 2 in 5 girls are married before the age of 18, and nearly 1 in 5 before the age of 15

*Index according to the ONE Campaign

A note on Data Gaps: The countries missing from these rankings are just as important as the ones ranked. Of 193 UN member states, 37% were missing data for four or more indicators for the period 2010–2016. This left the ONE Campaign with 122 countries, and over half (52%) of these were also missing data points. This meant that just 58 of the 193 original countries (30%) had complete data. Among the countries with insufficient data to include in the index are Canada, France, Germany, Somalia and Syria.

WHY DO WE NEED EDUCATED GIRLS?

- A girl with an extra year of education can earn **20% more** as an adult
- She'll **reinvest 90%** of her earnings in her family
- She'll be **3 times less** likely to become HIV-positive
- She'll marry later and have a smaller, healthier family. For instance, in Malawi, **45% of adolescent girls** with no education become pregnant, but with a secondary education, the number is **reduced to 4%**.
- She'll resist **gender-based violence** and discrimination, and change her community from within
- Her children would be **50% more likely to survive** past the age of 5 and would be twice as likely sent to school
- **70% decrease in maternal mortality** in sub-Saharan Africa if every girl completed a primary education
- The impact of addressing the gender gap in education could yield **over \$112 bn a year** to developing countries (e.g. if India enrolled 1% more girls in secondary school, their GDP would rise by \$5.5 bn)
- Millions of educated girls, means more working women, with the potential to add up to **\$12 tn to global growth**
- The Brookings Institution calls secondary schooling for girls the most cost-effective and best investment against climate change. Research also suggests that **girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability** to natural disasters
- When a country gives all its children secondary education, they cut their risk of war in half. **Education is vital for security around the world** because extremism grows alongside inequality
- The gender technology gap also negatively impacts countries' potential for economic growth and development. According to Intel, if 600 million women were connected to the internet in 3 years, this would translate to a rise in global GDP of between \$13 bn and \$18 bn

FURTHER READING

UNICEF

<https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality/international-day-of-the-girl-2018>

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fast-facts-nine-things-you-didnt-know-about-menstruation>

CAMFED

<https://camfed.org/why-girls-education/>

Right to Education

<https://www.right-to-education.org/girlswomen>

World Vision International

<https://www.wvi.org/girl-rising/10-facts-about-girls%E2%80%99-education>

Save the Children

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/global-programs/education/girls-education>

The ONE Campaign

<https://www.one.org/international/blog/25-facts-poverty-sexist/>

https://s3.amazonaws.com/one.org/pdfs/IDG_2017_media_briefing_en_web.pdf

The Malala Fund

<https://www.malala.org/girls-education>

CARE

<https://www.care.org/work/education/girls-education>

BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-41558486>

UNGEI

http://www.ungei.org/whatisungei/index_2593.html

Human Rights Watch

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/11/12/shall-i-feed-my-daughter-or-educate-her/barriers-girls-education-pakistan#>

The World Bank

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/girlseducation#1>

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/education/globally-periods-are-causing-girls-be-absent-school>

The European Union

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-development/education_en

Global Citizen

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/menstrual-hygiene-day-education/>

Thank heaven for educated girls: why gender equality is key to sustainable development

Frankly Speaking by Shada Islam, Director of Europe and Geopolitics at Friends of Europe

<https://www.friendsofeurope.org/publication/thank-heaven-educated-girls-why-gender-equality-key-sustainable-development-shada-islam>



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