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The Global Partnership for Education works to help more girls to enroll and stay in school and receive a quality education.

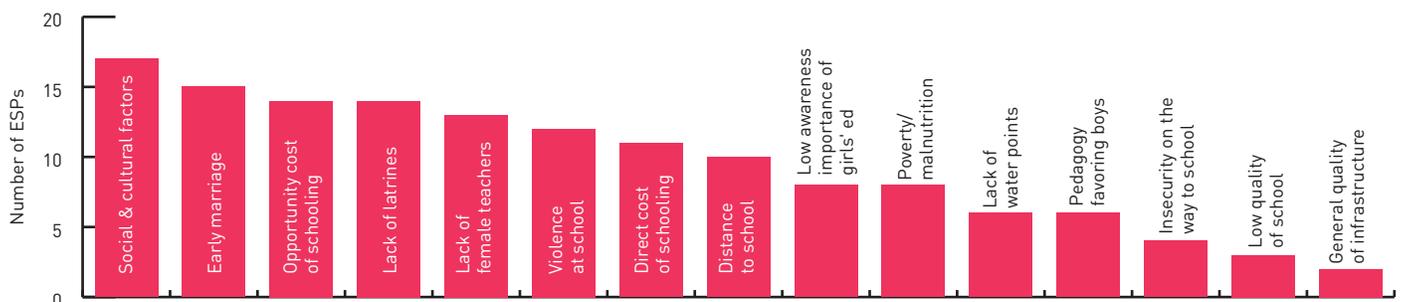
CHALLENGE

Despite encouraging progress since 2000, the global goal of educating all the world's girls is still elusive. Of the estimated 124 million children out of school, **63 million are girls**. Girls remain more likely than boys never to enroll in school, and more than half will almost certainly not¹.

- In about **80 countries**, progress has stalled in enrolling girls and closing the gap between them and boys at both primary and secondary levels.
- In **30 countries**, girls are in school but learning levels are low, as many do not acquire the basic literacy and numeracy competencies that a primary education should deliver².

- The **largest gender gaps in enrollment are in the poorest countries**, and girls who face multiple disadvantages are the furthest behind.
- **Poverty remains the most important factor linked to educational inequality**³ alongside where a girl lives, her ethnicity, the language she speaks at home and whether she has a disability.
- There are **multiple barriers to educating girls**, including: unfavorable school environments, discriminatory social and cultural factors, early marriage and school-related violence⁴.
- **Lower expectations** and ambitions of parents and teachers hinder girls' ability to stay in school.
- Women still represent **two thirds of the world's illiterate** adults.⁵

Barriers to girls' education identified in GPE partner countries' Education Sector Plans



BENEFITS OF EDUCATING GIRLS

- Educating girls benefits the girls themselves, their families, communities and countries.
- Educated mothers invest more in their children's education. Some countries lose more than \$1 billion a year by failing to educate girls at the same level as boys⁶.
- More educated girls and young women are healthier and go on to have healthier children, and they are likely to live past the age of five⁷. Over the past four decades, the global increase in women's education has prevented more than 4 million child deaths⁸.
- Ensuring that girls stay in school and learn is one of the most effective ways to prevent child marriage and forced marriage. If all girls completed primary school in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia, the number of girls getting married by age 15 would fall by 14%; with a secondary education, 64% fewer girls would get married.⁹

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP'S APPROACH

In the Global Partnership's current strategic plan (2012 to 2015) a primary objective is to ensure that "all girls in GPE-endorsed countries successfully complete primary school and go to secondary school in a safe, supportive learning environment."

Supporting gender-responsive education sector plans

- The Global Partnership supports countries' efforts to develop and finance the implementation of gender-responsive education sector plans, which form the basis of education sector reforms that substantially advance gender equality.
- These plans typically include specific measures to reduce gender disparities and make teaching and learning more responsive to the needs of both girls and boys. This includes teachers' competencies and behaviors, curriculum, teaching and learning materials and teaching techniques.

- Improvements in the physical environment are equally important, such as separate toilets for girls and access to menstrual hygiene products.
- In partnership with the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, the Global Partnership is generating guidelines for gender analysis in education sector planning.

Tackling school-related gender based violence

- Acknowledging the prevalence of school-related gender based violence (SRGBV) and its impact on girls' education, the Global Partnership funds baseline studies in four countries (Ethiopia, Zambia, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire) to better understand the nature and incidence of SRGBV, examine effective approaches and strategies to address SRGBV and support countries' design, implementation and monitoring of appropriate interventions.

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP'S RESULTS

GPE developing country partners are making progress with gender equity:

- In 2013, **91 girls** for every 100 boys completed primary school, **compared to 81 girls** in 2002.
- **69% of girls** completed primary school in 2013, compared to **54%** in 2000.
- The number of girls out of school has **dropped by 22% between 2000 and 2012** in GPE partner countries.¹⁰
- 31 GPE partner developing countries are close to or have **achieved gender parity** in primary school enrollment.

South Sudan has some of the lowest indicators for girls' education in the world. In 2013, only 500 girls attended the last grade of secondary school in the whole country. But with support from the Global Partnership and other education partners, the country is prioritizing interventions that benefit girls, such as building girl-friendly schools to fight gender-based violence.

Teachers and school directors will receive training on gender sensitivity. Finally, the whole curriculum is being revised to promote social cohesion, gender awareness, and ensure that girls are safe in school.

In Yemen, more girls are in school because of GPE funds which enabled mapping exercises and subsequent school construction closer to girls' homes, training of more women teachers, eliminating school fees for the poorest families, and running information campaigns encouraging girls' education in local media and through traditional leaders. Girls' enrollment was up 51% between 2002 and 2012 (and 23% in GPE targeted areas between 2006 and 2012). Given the current crisis it remains to be seen how much of this progress can be sustained.

1 UNESCO. [2014]. EFA Global Monitoring Report – Teaching and learning: Achieving quality for all
2 King, E. M. and Winthrop R. (2015). Today's challenges for girls' education
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4 GPE analysis of 42 education sector plans June 2015
5 UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report 2000-2015
6 Plan International: Paying the Price. The economic cost of failing to educate girls.

7 EFA Global Monitoring Report [2011]. Education Counts
8 Gakidou E, Cowling K, Lozano R, Murray CJL, Increased educational attainment and its impact on child mortality in 175 countries between 1980 and 2009: a systemic analysis. Lancet 2010;
9 ICRW 2007: How to End Child Marriage
10 UIS data