

Education Fast Facts*

- Globally, 66 million school-aged girls are not in school.
- Access to education has increased over the last two decades, however, only 30 percent of all girls worldwide are enrolled in secondary school.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, there are now only 76 girls for every 100 boys in upper secondary school. The average girl receives less than two years of schooling and never learns to read and write.
- Canada's literacy rate for men and women is 99 percent. In several sub-Saharan nations, the female literacy rate is 50 percent or less.
- Low levels of income often act as barriers to girls' education. Many families are unable to afford costs such as school fees, books, and uniforms in order to put their children through school. As a result of poverty, many families are forced to choose which of their children to send to school. In many cases, it is the girl that is kept back.
- In more than 100 countries, school is not free and many parents cannot afford the tuition cost or uniforms.
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50 percent more likely to survive past age five.
- Each extra year of a mother's schooling reduces the probability of infant mortality by 5-10 percent.
- Research indicates that approximately half of recent reductions in child death rates are linked to gains in women's educational attainment.
- An extra year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10-20 percent and an extra year of secondary school by 15-25 percent.
- A one percentage point increase in female education raises the average gross domestic product (GDP) of a nation by .37 percent and GDP growth rates by .2 percent.
- In 2010, only 59 percent of the girls from low-income families who enrolled in primary education reached the last grade of primary school compared to a world average of 76 percent.
- Educating girls is one of the most effective strategies to combat child marriage. When a girl remains in school she is six times less likely to marry young. On average, a girl with seven years of education will marry four years later and have 2.2 fewer children.

* **Education statistics:**

- UNICEF (<http://www.unicef.org/>)
- The World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)