

Education for All

The Linchpin of Global Development and Security

Empower Women and Girls

- Particularly for women and girls, education provides the economic and personal empowerment that allows them to make healthier choices for themselves and their families.
- Benefits of girls' education include not only the reduction of the impact of HIV/AIDS, but reduction of poverty, improvement of the health of women and their children, delay of marriage, reduction of female genital cutting, and increase in self-confidence and decision making power.¹
- A child born to an uneducated mother is more than twice as likely as a child born to an educated mother to die before the age of five.
- On average, for a girl in a poor country, each additional year of education beyond grades three or four will lead to 20 percent higher wages and a 10 percent decrease in the risk of her own children dying of preventable causes.²

Improve Child Survival and Maternal Health³

- A child born to an uneducated mother is more than twice as likely as a child born to an educated mother to die before the age of five.
- Educated mothers are 50 percent more likely to immunize their children than mothers with no schooling.
- Women with six or more years of education are more likely to seek prenatal care, assisted childbirth, and postnatal care, reducing the risk of maternal and child mortality and illness.

Reduce Hunger⁴

- Expanding education for girls is one of the most powerful ways to fight hunger.⁵ Gains in women's education made the most significant difference in reducing malnutrition, outperforming a simple increase in the availability of food. A 63-country study by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) found that more productive farming as a result of female education accounted for 43 percent of the decline in malnutrition achieved between 1970 and 1995.
- Crop yields in Kenya could rise up to 22 percent if women farmers had the same education and inputs (such as fertilizer, credit, investment) as men farmers.⁶

¹ UNFPA. Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis. <http://www.unfpa.org/hiv/women/report/chapter5.html>

² *What Works in Girls' Education*. Council on Foreign Relations Press. Barbara Herz and Gene B. Sperling, Senior Fellow for Economic Policy and Director of the Center for Universal Education, April 2004. http://www.cfr.org/publication/6947/what_works_in_girls_education.html

³ "The Economic and Human Development Costs of Missing the Millennium Development Goal on Gender Equity." World Bank Discussion Paper 29710. D. Abu-Ghaida and S. Klasen. (Washington: World Bank, 2004).

⁴ "Explaining Child Malnutrition in Developing Countries." International Food Policy Research Institute Research Report No. 111. L. Smith and L. Haddad. (Washington DC: International Food Policy Research Institute).

⁵ "Hunger Report 2005." Bread for the World.

⁶ UNFPA, UN Population Fund, *State of World Population 2005: The Promise of Equality*. UNFPA, New York, 2005, p. 47.

Fight HIV/AIDS

- Educated people are healthier people. HIV/AIDS infection rates are halved among young people who finish primary school. If every girl and boy received a complete primary education, at least 7 million new cases of HIV could be prevented in a decade.⁷
- A Ugandan study showed that rural Ugandans with secondary education have a 75 percent lower rate of HIV infection than those with no education.⁸
- The ability of girls to avoid HIV infection is so strongly associated with attendance at school that education is known as a “social vaccine” against the virus. A Zambian study found that AIDS spread twice as fast among uneducated as among educated girls.⁹

Fight Poverty and Spur Economic Growth

- Education is a prerequisite for short- and long-term economic growth: No country has achieved continuous and rapid economic growth without at least 40 percent of adults being able to read and write.¹⁰
- Failing to offer girls the same educational opportunity as boys costs developing countries \$92 billion each year, according to a study by Plan International. That’s \$1 trillion per decade in forgone earnings and unnecessary costs.¹¹
- A person’s earnings increase by 10 percent for each year of schooling they receive, translating to a one percent annual increase in GDP if good quality education is offered to the entire population.¹²
- As President Obama's top economic advisor Lawrence Summers said when he was chief economist of the World Bank, “educating girls yields a higher rate of return than any other investment available in the developing world.”¹³

Build Peace and Security

- Education nourishes peace. Across society, every year of schooling decreases a male’s chance of engaging in violent conflict by 20 percent.¹⁴
- People of voting age with a primary education are 1.5 times more likely to support democracy than people with no education.¹⁵ Countries with higher primary schooling and a smaller gap between rates of boys’ and girls’ schooling tend to enjoy greater democracy, and democratic political institutions (such as power-sharing and clean elections) are more likely to exist in countries with higher literacy rates and education levels.¹⁶
- The 9/11 Commission Report: “To Muslim parents, terrorists like Bin Laden have nothing to offer their children but visions of violence and death. America and its friends have a crucial advantage — we can offer these parents a vision that might give their children a better future . . . That vision of the future should stress life over death: individual educational and economic opportunity.”¹⁷

⁷ “Learning to Survive: How education for all would save millions of young people from HIV/AIDS.” *Global Campaign for Education*. (London: GCE, 2004).

⁸ What Works in Girls’ Education.

⁹ What Works in Girls’ Education.

¹⁰ “Millions Miss Out.” Global Campaign for Education. <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/why-education-for-all/millionsmissout>

¹¹ “Paying the Price: The Economic Cost of Failing to Educate Girls.” Plan International. (Plan International, 2008). <http://plan-international.org/about-plan/resources/publications/education/cover-of-school-improvement-program-paying-the-price-the-economic-cost-of-failing-to-educate-girls>

¹² “Education on the Brink: Will the IMF’s new lease on life ease or block progress towards education goals?” Global Campaign for Education. 2009. http://www.campaignforeducation.org/docs/reports/IMF%20paper2_low%20res.pdf

¹³ Investing in All the People: Educating Women in Developing Countries. Lawrence H. Summers. (Washington, DC: World Bank, 1994).

¹⁴ Save the Children. September 2009.

¹⁵ UNESCO, Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009.

¹⁶ World Bank. Education and Development. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099080118171/EducationBrochure.pdf>

¹⁷ What to Do? A Global Strategy.” National Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States. http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report_Ch12.htm