



GIRL VISION

SCHOOL AGE & ADOLESCENTS (AGES 11-18)

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL

Girls face numerous barriers to access, and succeed in, a safe educational environment. Poverty, discrimination and exploitation keep millions of girls out of school. In fact, over half of all girls in lower-income countries do not finish primary school.¹

World Vision is a champion for girls' education in the communities where we work. We identify and break through these barriers so girls can have equitable access to a transformational education. This requires that key actors in a girl's life, such as families, schools, faith leaders, government officials, traditional leadership, boys, men—and the girls themselves—understand the value of education and the opportunity it creates for girls.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 75 per cent of girls start primary school, but only 8 per cent finish secondary school.² This is often due to barriers to girls' education such as: a lack of female teachers, school-related gender-based violence or violence on the way to school, early marriage,

the cost of schooling, the low value placed on girls' education, poverty, and other social and cultural factors. Children, especially girls, also feel safer at school when they have access to private washroom facilities and rest areas.

Research shows that every extra year of primary school boosts girls' future earnings by 10 - 20 per cent, and each extra year of secondary school by 15 - 25 per cent.³ Some countries lose more than US\$1 billion a year by failing to educate girls to the same level as boys.⁴

World Vision's aspiration for all girls and boys is that they are "educated for life." This requires that children attain core cognitive, emotional, social, and essential life skills to lead productive and fulfilling lives. We are committed to empowering girls and communities to identify and tackle hindrances affecting their school attendance and abilities to learn. We envision an environment where young adolescent girls successfully transition from primary to lower secondary grades, and then complete their secondary school education in order to reach their full potential.

When families have to make decisions about which children they can afford to send to school, **GIRLS** are disproportionately EXCLUDED, with preference given to boys.⁵

GIRLS in developing countries MISS UP TO 5 DAYS of school/month when they menstruate.⁶

TRADITIONAL **SOcial-CULTURAL** NORMS & EXPECTATIONS often negatively impact girls' chances to succeed in secondary school.

CHILD MARRIAGE affects up to **41,000 GIRLS** under the age of 18 worldwide today, often putting an end to the girl's formal education.⁷

Girl Vision

Girl Vision is a multi-functional, cross-sectoral approach to girls' education, based on the use of contextual analyses that prepares adolescent girls to successfully transition to, and complete, secondary school. It addresses the key barriers they face to attending and staying in school. This often involves:

- Analysing the barriers that affect a girl's access to quality education, and engaging and empowering girls in a safe and supportive environment
- Changing social norms (knowledge, attitudes and practices) in the community, including with families, boys, men, and local leaders
- Training teachers on gender-responsive pedagogy to ensure girls and boys have an equal opportunity to learn
- Prioritising access to education for girls in crisis and conflict situations
- Working across sectors such as health and child protection, and at the family, community, school, and government levels

In addition, this can be complemented using an array of World Vision's models and approaches including:

- **Safe and Nurturing Schools**, to create a positive and violence-free learning environment
- **Channels of Hope for Gender**, which engages and mobilises faith communities to address gender-based violence and attitudes
- **Citizen Voice and Action**, World Vision's proven local-level advocacy approach for social accountability

EDUCATING
CHILDREN *for life*

World Vision

For more information, please visit wvi.org/education

¹ Primary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group).¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics., n.d. Web. 28 Feb. 2017. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.CMPT.FE.ZS?locations=XM>

² Brookings Institution (2016). What Works in Girls' Education. <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/whatworksingirlseducation1.pdf>

³ UNICEF (2011). https://www.unicef.org/media/media_58417.html?p=printme

⁴ CARE (2016). <http://www.care.org/our-work/education/girls-education/barriers-education>

⁵ Brookings (2016), p7.

⁶ Menstrual Hygiene Day Alliance (2016), Infographic. http://menstrualhygieneday.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/MHD_infographic_MHM-SDGs.pdf

⁷ Wodon Q, et al. The Economic Impacts of Child Marriage: Preliminary findings from analyses of existing data (2015). <http://www.costsofchildmarriage.org/publication/economicimpacts-child-marriage-preliminary-findings-analyses-existing-data> When families must make decisions about which children they can afford to send to school, GIRLS are disproportionately EXCLUDED, with preference given to boys.5 GIRLS in developing countries MISS UP TO 5 DAYS of school/month when they menstruate.