



# GIRL RISING

## FACT SHEET

Around the world, girls face barriers to education that boys do not. But educating girls can break cycles of poverty in just one generation.

1. In July of 2016, UNESCO reported that there are 130.3 million girls out of school worldwide, a much higher number than previously reported.\* The breakdown by age is: 32.1 million girls of primary school age (about 6 to 11 years), 29.1 million of lower secondary (about 12 to 14 years old), 69.1 million of upper secondary (about 15 to 17 years old). ([UNESCO, 2016](#))
2. Women make up nearly two thirds of the world's illiterate adults. ([UNESCO, 2016](#))
3. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 75% of girls start primary school but only 8% finish secondary school. ([Brookings, 2016](#))
4. Just 39% of rural girls attend secondary school. ([UN Women](#))
5. Girls who complete secondary school are up to 6x less likely to marry as children. ([USAID, 2015](#))
6. Each extra year of secondary school can help a girl increase their future earnings by 10-20% ([USAID, 2015](#)) and some countries lose more than \$1 billion a year by failing to educate girls to the same level as boys. ([CARE, 2016](#))
7. 13.5 million children, most of them girls, will be married before they turn 18 - about 4.4 million of them will be married before they turn 15. That's 37,000 girls today. ([UNFPA, 2015](#))
8. Globally, about one third of women aged 20 to 24 were child brides. ([UNICEF, 2016](#))
9. With each additional year of a mother's education, the probability of infant mortality drops by 5%-10%. ([USAID, 2015](#))
10. Every 10 minutes, somewhere in the world, an adolescent girl dies as a result of violence ([UNICEF, 2014](#))

*\*This marks the first-ever estimate to include school-aged children ages 15-17 and this staggering statistic points to many more girls being out of school than when we first premiered the Girl Rising film in 2013.*