

# Breaking down barriers to girls' education

Girls need to be educated, healthy and safe. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) works with partners to put gender equality at the heart of national education systems so that all girls have the chance to learn and thrive.

## GPE results

With GPE's support, developing country partners have achieved remarkable progress:

**41 million**



**ADDITIONAL GIRLS** were enrolled in school across partner countries between 2002 and 2016

**75%**



**OF GIRLS** finished primary school in 2016 in partner countries compared to 57% in 2002

**67%**



of partner countries had **AS MANY GIRLS AS BOYS** completing school in 2016 up from 42% in 2002

**50%**



**OF GIRLS** completed lower-secondary school in 2016 in partner countries compared to 35% in 2002

## The challenge

- Despite impressive gains in GPE countries, **130 million girls remain out of primary and secondary school worldwide** and millions more are in school but not learning.
- In low-income countries, **less than two thirds of girls complete their primary education** and only one in three complete secondary school.
- Globally, girls are **1.5 times more likely** than boys to be excluded from primary school. It is 2.5 times in countries affected by fragility and conflict.
- The **poorest girls** face the most extreme barriers, which get worse with higher education levels.

# A strategic investment: Education...

## ...MAKES WOMEN HEALTHIER

If all mothers completed primary education, **maternal deaths would be reduced by**

**2/3** saving **189,000** lives



**Each extra year of education decreases the probability of contracting HIV by**

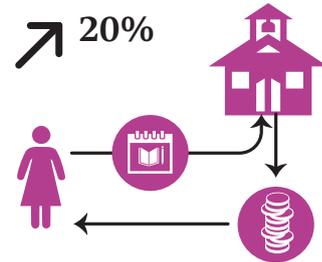
**6.7%**



## ...IMPROVES WAGES & JOBS FOR WOMEN

**One additional school year** can increase a woman's earnings by up to

**20%**

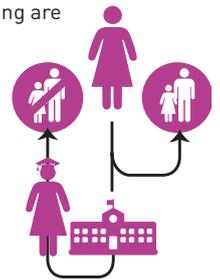


## ...PROTECTS GIRLS FROM HARMFUL PRACTICES

Across 18 of the 20 countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage, girls with secondary schooling are

**5x less likely**

to marry as children compared to girls who have little or no education



## GPE approach

Addressing the systematic barriers that are holding girls back requires systematic solutions that identify, address, and eliminate gender biases.

- **Building the evidence base.** GPE helps countries to analyze barriers to gender equality as a basis for gender-responsive sector planning.
- **Monitoring and analysis of results.** GPE collects gender-disaggregated data and supports governments to establish data systems to reveal inequalities.

- **Funding gender-responsive strategies for girls' education,** including awareness-raising campaigns, community gender training, female teacher recruitment and separate toilets, among others.
- **Investing in global goods.** GPE's new Knowledge and Information Exchange (KIX) will support research, data, and peer learning on gender equality.



**Brishna**  
Afghanistan

Alghan Ministry of Education

"Getting an education is my only dream"

Gains in education are a particularly heartening aspect of Afghanistan's still difficult recovery since the Taliban were overthrown in 2001. Under the Taliban the number of children in school was extremely low, especially girls, but the situation has improved markedly, with the rate of girls enrolling in primary school, rising from 44 percent in 2001 to 84 percent in 2017. Even so, many challenges remain for girls getting an education in Afghanistan beyond that level, especially in remote areas.

One of the main obstacles is the lack of female teachers and schools in rural areas, such as Helmand province where Brishna lives. GPE is tackling both problems in its support for Afghanistan's national education sector plan. Under the GPE program, female teachers are being recruited, trained and deployed to community-based schools in some of the country's poorest districts. GPE is also working with the government on reforming governance and management of the education sector.



**Juliana**  
Cote d'Ivoire

GPE/Carine Durand

"I would like to be a teacher"

"My parents never went to school. I am the first girl in my family to go to school. My favorite subjects are mathematics, science and geography. I would like to be a teacher."

GPE contributed to Cote d'Ivoire's recovery from over a decade of civil war by supporting the development of a new education sector plan. School was made compulsory for boys and girls, and the state budget for education increased by 25 percent. An important outcome of both measures was the rate of girls completing primary school, rising from 33 percent in 2000 to 60 percent in 2016. A US\$ 41 million GPE grant helped to train teachers and build schools in underserved remote areas.

GPE's support for rehabilitating Cote d'Ivoire's education system, and the backing the partnership's work is getting from local communities, has brought tangible benefits for many children. Juliana's new school is closer to her home, making her walk to classes safer, and giving her more time to spend on homework.