

GIRLS' EDUCATION: THE PATH TO PROGRESS



Students in school in the Sindhupalchowk District of Nepal.
GPE/Jawad Jalali

Far too many girls at the primary and secondary school level remain out of school. That is why the **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** has committed to put gender equality and girls' education at the center of its 2025 strategy.

THE CHALLENGE

- ▶ **119 million girls were already out of school** worldwide before COVID-19. Now 20 million girls are at risk of dropping out because of the pandemic.
- ▶ Girls face multiple barriers to education, including gender, disability and/or poverty, and are still the most educationally marginalized in many countries. In low-income countries, **less than two-thirds of girls complete their primary education** and only one in three completes secondary school.
- ▶ Nearly **one in three adolescent girls** from the poorest households around the world has never set foot in a classroom.
- ▶ Each year, **12 million girls under 18 years old are married**, jeopardizing their education.

GPE RESULTS



82 MILLION

more girls are in school in GPE partner countries since 2002.



67%

of partner countries have as many girls as boys completing primary school in 2022, compared with 42% in 2002.



51%

of girls completed lower secondary school in 2019 in partner countries compared with 46% in 2013.

GPE'S APPROACH

All girls should be educated, healthy and safe. GPE has taken bold steps to realize this vision by:

- ▶ Placing gender at the center of everything we do. GPE helps partner countries diagnose and address gender inequalities so that every girl can get an education.
- ▶ Investing in girls. GPE mobilizes financing and partnerships to help partner countries improve equity, gender equality and inclusion in education. Since 2021, the GPE Girls' Education Accelerator has provided additional funding to speed up progress and dismantle barriers to girls' schooling.
- ▶ Putting gender equality at the heart of education systems. GPE helps partner countries identify gender barriers within education systems and ensure that strategies and policies are in place to address them so that all girls can learn and thrive.
- ▶ Putting girls' education on the world stage. GPE has helped elevate girls' education as a priority issue in key global settings, from advocating for gender equality in and through education in the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, to ensuring gender was a priority at the Transforming Education Summit in 2022.

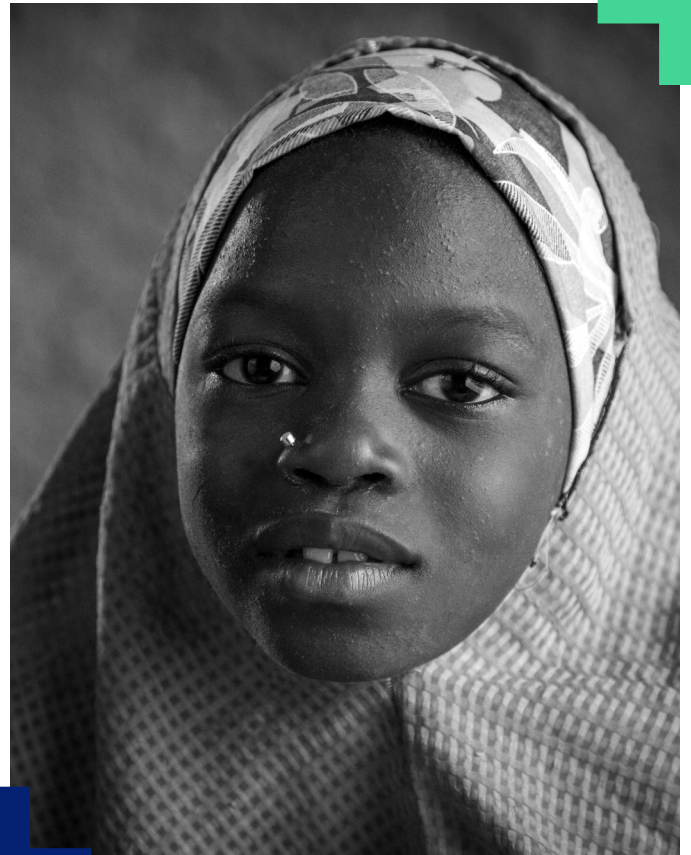
WHY EDUCATING GIRLS MATTERS

Educating girls generates huge dividends for economic prosperity, gender equality, climate resilience, public health, and lasting peace and stability.

- ▶ If every girl completed primary school, maternal deaths would decline by two-thirds.
- ▶ A child whose mother can read is 50 percent more likely to live past the age of 5, 50 percent more likely to be immunized, and twice as likely to go to school.
- ▶ If every girl received 12 years of schooling, child marriage would plunge by two-thirds, and girls' higher lifetime earnings would grow economies by as much as US\$30 trillion.
- ▶ For every additional year of schooling a girl receives, her country's resilience to climate disasters improves, indicating increased economic, governance and social readiness to cope with climate change events.

SUPPORTING OUT-OF-SCHOOL GIRLS IN NIGERIA

Nigeria has a large number of out-of-school children, 65 percent of them are girls, and many children attend only religious schools. GPE has supported the country through the Nigeria Partnership for Education Project (NIPEP) to integrate religious schools and train teachers to ensure more children attend and stay in school. More than 417,000 girls from low-income families received scholarships to attend these integrated primary schools. The project also gave female teachers scholarships to update their teaching skills, enabling them to serve as advocates and role models for girls. Also, public campaigns raised awareness on the importance of girls' education.



A girl from Tsamiya Goma village in school in the Jigawa State of Nigeria.
GPE/Kelley Lynch