

Factsheet

KS2 & 3 – Education and Girls



In the past 15 years, billions of pounds have been spent on giving education to girls, and huge improvements have been made. But much more has to be done. At the United Nations General Assembly in August and September 2015, world leaders must renew efforts to get ALL children into school, including girls.

Facts

- Of the 781 million illiterate people in the world, two thirds are female.
- In the developing world, 31 million girls do not go to school.
- Three countries have over a million girls out of school: In Nigeria there are almost five and a half million, Pakistan, over three million, and in Ethiopia, over one million girls.

What are some of the challenges for girls?

Girls are often expected to work at home. Even when they do go to school, they can be treated differently to boys.

Educate a girl and you educate a community

Meet Jemimah Bulus and her daughter Jessica. They live in Manchok, central Nigeria. Jemimah is helping her daughter to read and write. This is something she couldn't do herself not too long ago. Jemimah dropped out of school when she got pregnant, but her friend Abigail persuaded her to return.



A child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of five.

Photo: Jon Hughes/ActionAid



Flexible schools

Flexible schools are useful for girls who are often expected to help at home instead of going to school.

Eight-year-old Nasra Hassan from Somaliland goes to literacy classes for a few hours in the middle of the day. This means her family do not have to choose between education and earning enough money to survive.



Photo: Africa Educational Trust

Safety

[Many girls do not get the chance of an education because the journey to school is not safe. In Nigeria, almost five and a half million girls do not go to school.](#)

[Meet eleven-year-old Sefiyat from central Nigeria. Sefiyat's father does not want her to go to school until a bridge is built across the river separating their village from school. Until it is safe for Sefiyat to go to school she will continue working at home. Here she is, planting sweetcorn.](#)



Photo: ActionAid

What can you do to make school a safer place for ALL children?

58 million children are missing out on school – 2015 could change their future. Remind world leaders that they promised ALL children an education by 2015. Speak up for the right to education for every child.

www.sendmyfriend.org

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