



GPE/Carine Durand

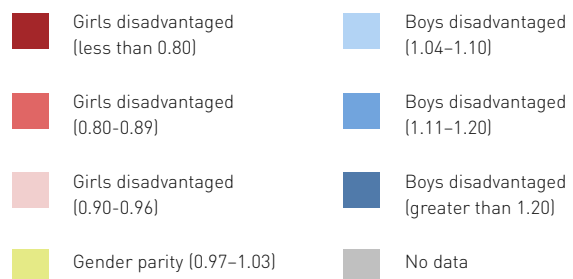
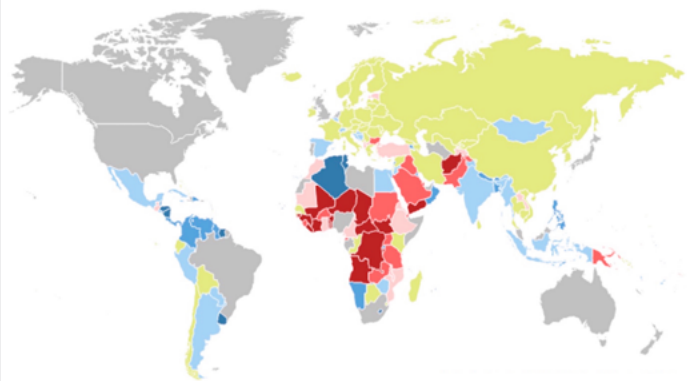
The Global Partnership for Education supports inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all.

CHALLENGE

Only 26% of low-income countries have as many girls as boys in primary school. At the secondary level, gender parity exists in only 10% of low-income countries.

- Despite encouraging progress made since 2000, **61 million girls remain out of primary and lower-secondary school**. Girls are still more likely than boys to never enroll in school, and more than half will almost certainly not.
- **Poverty is the biggest barrier to gender equity**, especially when coupled with one or more additional factors, such as unfavorable school environments, discriminatory social and cultural factors, disability, language, early marriage and school-related violence.
- **Fragility and conflict are also significant barriers**. In GPE partner countries affected by fragility and conflict, there are 37% more girls than boys not in primary school, compared to only 4% more girls out of school in other GPE partner countries.
- **Dropping out of school is an acute problem** for both girls and boys in many GPE partner countries. Boys can fare worse in certain countries, particularly at the secondary level.

How many adolescent girls compared to boys reach the last grade of lower secondary education? (gross intake ratio)



UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

BENEFITS OF GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

- Gender equality in education has proven **impacts on many Sustainable Development Goals**, including economic growth, health, nutrition and agricultural productivity.
- Educated girls grow up to be educated mothers, and **educated mothers invest more** than others in their children's education. Some countries lose more than US\$1 billion a year by failing to educate girls at the same level as boys.
- Educated girls and young women are usually **healthier** than girls who didn't go to school; they also have healthier children, who are likely to live past the age of 5. Over the past four decades, the global increase in women's education has prevented more than 4 million child deaths.

GPE APPROACH

GPE's *Gender Equality Policy and Strategy 2016–2020* reflects a shift in the global agenda from a narrower focus on girls' education to gender equality. Hence, it also includes areas where boys are disadvantaged, as well as gender issues concerning teachers, administrators and systems.

SECTOR PLANNING

- GPE grants help countries conduct **in-depth education sector analyses** that identify barriers to gender equality and strategies for overcoming them. The grants also expand countries' capacity to collect and analyze gender equality data.
- GPE and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) have produced **guidelines for countries to conduct gender analysis** as part of their education sector planning.

Also, with UNICEF and UNGEI, GPE has funded efforts in several countries to **analyze school-related gender-based violence** and raise awareness on this issue.

- GPE supports **policy dialogue** on gender equality led by national governments and including civil society and other partners, to foster strong mutual accountability.

FINANCING

- GPE provides up to **US\$100 million in grants** for interventions that promote gender equality. At least 33 GPE implementation grants totaling US\$1.5 billion supplement domestic investments in gender equality.
- GPE's **results-based funding model** helps to prioritize gender equality.

GPE RESULTS

- GPE support has contributed to an **additional 9.3 million girls enrolled** in school across GPE partner countries.
- The primary school completion rate of girls in GPE partner countries has risen **from 57% in 2002 to 71% in 2014**. For boys, this number has grown from **68% to 75%**.
- The lower secondary completion rate of girls in GPE partner countries increased **from 35% to 47%**; for boys it has increased **from 41% to 52%**.
- In GPE countries affected by fragility and conflict, the number of girls completing school for every 100 boys has risen **from 74 to 88** for primary, and **from 68 to 82** for lower secondary, since 2002.

Nepal Despite damage to schools affecting more than 1 million children following the 2015 earthquakes, nearly all of Nepal's children are in primary school, and enrollment rates for secondary school have increased significantly since 2009, when the country joined GPE. Girls' enrollment rates between 2009 and 2014 have increased from 45% to 62%. Nepal has now essentially achieved gender parity in enrollment for preprimary, primary and secondary education.

In Nicaragua, which joined GPE in 2002, both girls and boys face gender discrimination. Recent research shows that only 40% of boys complete lower secondary school compared with 52% of girls. In 2016, a GPE grant helped fund an analysis that looks closely at gender disparities in access, and it details concrete steps for greater retention and learning among Nicaraguan girls and boys.