

THE GIRL EFFECT FACTSHEET



CHILD MARRIAGE

- 1** One in seven girls in the developing world (excluding China) will be married before the age of 15.
► [Source 1.1](#)
- 2** If nothing changes, there will be 142 million child marriages in developing countries between now and 2020. That's 37,000 girls a day.
► [Source 1.2](#)
- 3** Child brides have a pregnancy death rate double that of women in their 20s.
► [Source 1.3](#)
- 4** One-third of girls in the developing world will be married before the age of 18.
► [Source 1.4](#)
- 5** Girls from poor families are nearly twice as likely to marry before 18 than girls from wealthier families.
► [Source 1.5](#)

AGE AT FIRST BIRTH

- 1** Half of all first births in the developing world are to adolescent girls.
► [Source 2.1](#)
- 2** Medical complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls aged 15-19 worldwide.
► [Source 2.2](#)
- 3** Girls between the ages of 10 and 14 are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than women aged 20 to 24.
► [Source 2.3](#)
- 4** If a mother is under the age of 18, her infant's risk of dying in its first year of life is 60 per cent greater than that of an infant born to a mother older than 19.
► [Source 2.4](#)

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- 1** Closing the joblessness gap between girls and their male counterparts would yield an increase in GDP of up to 1.2 per cent in a single year.
► [Source 3.1](#)
- 2** An extra year of primary school education boosts girls' eventual wages by 10-20 per cent. An extra year of secondary school adds 15-25 per cent.
► [Source 3.2](#)
- 3** Giving women the same access to non-land resources and services as men could increase yields on women's land by up to 30 per cent, raise total agricultural output in developing countries by up to four per cent and reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 100-150 million.
► [Source 3.3](#)

EDUCATION

- 1** When a girl in the developing world receives seven years of education, she marries four years later and has 2.2 fewer children.
► [Source 4.1](#)
- 2** Secondary school completion rates for adolescent girls is below five per cent in 19 sub-Saharan African countries.
► [Source 4.2](#)
- 3** In sub-Saharan Africa, fewer than one in five girls makes it to secondary school.
► [Source 4.3](#)
- 4** Girls who stay in school during adolescence have a later sexual debut, are less likely to be subjected to forced sex and, if sexually active, are more likely to use contraception than their age peers who are out of school.
► [Source 4.4](#)
- 5** On average, only 70 per cent of girls with 28 hours or more per week of household chores attend school. When that chore burden is reduced to less than 14 hours, 90 per cent attend school.
► [Source 4.5](#)

HEALTH + SAFETY

- 1** Worldwide, nearly 50 per cent of all sexual assaults are against girls aged 15 years or younger.
► [Source 5.1](#)
- 2** Among those whose first experience of sexual intercourse was forced, 31 per cent were less than 15 years old at the time. Another 14 per cent were aged between 15 and 17.
► [Source 5.2](#)
- 3** Worldwide, an estimated five million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are living with HIV. More than 60 per cent – 3.2 million – of young people living with HIV are girls.
► [Source 5.3](#)
- 4** Each year, an estimated three million girls experience genital mutilation or cutting.
► [Source 5.4](#)

SOURCES

CHILD MARRIAGE

- **1.1** 'Supporting Married Girls: Calling Attention to a Neglected Group', Population Council 2007, http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/TABriefs/GFD_Brief-3_MarriedGirls.pdf
- **1.2** "Marrying Too Young: End Child Marriage," UNFPA 2012, <http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2012/MarryingTooYoung.pdf>
- **1.3** Bruce, Judith. Reaching The Girls Left Behind: Targeting Adolescent Programming for Equity, Social Inclusion, Health, and Poverty Alleviation. Prepared for: 'Financing Gender Equality: a Commonwealth Perspective,' Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting, Uganda, June 2007, <http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/Bruce2007CommonwealthFullText.pdf>
- **1.4** 'The State of the World's Children 2011', UNICEF 2010. Retrieved Aug 29 2012 from <http://www.unicef.org/uk/Documents/Publication-pdfs/sowc2011.pdf>
- **1.5** ICRW 2007 – Knot Ready, p9. Accessed on Aug 30 2012, <http://www.icrw.org/files/publications/Knot-Ready-Lessons-from-India-on-Delaying-Marriage-for-Girls.pdf>

AGE AT FIRST BIRTH

- **2.1** Bruce, Judith. Reaching The Girls Left Behind: Targeting Adolescent Programming for Equity, Social Inclusion, Health, and Poverty Alleviation. Prepared for: 'Financing Gender Equality: a Commonwealth Perspective,' Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting, Uganda, June 2007, http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/Commonwealth_FullText.pdf
- **2.2** Source: Mortality, G.C., et al. "Global Patterns of Maternal and Infant Mortality." The Lancet 374.9693 (2009): 881-892. Retrieved from <http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140673609607418.pdf?id=e16241398b8eb460:61453979:12f087a24d6:14711301520582196>

- **2.3** 'Fact Sheets: Young People', UNFPA. Retrieved 28 March 2011 from <http://www.unfpa.org/public/factsheets>
- **2.4** 'Why is giving special attention to adolescents important for achieving Millennium Development Goal 5?', World Health Organization 2008. Retrieved 28 March 2011 from http://www.who.int/making_pregnancy_safer/events/2008/mdg5/adolescent_preg.pdf

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- **3.1** Source: Chaaban, Jad and Wendy Cunningham. 'Measuring the Economic Gain of Investing in Girls: the girl effect dividend', World Bank 2011, http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?entityID=000158349_20110808092702&pagePK=64165259
- **3.2** Psacharopoulos, George, and Harry Anthony Patrinos. 'Returns to Investment in Education: A Further Update', World Bank 2002. Retrieved from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099079934475/547667-1135281504040/Returns_Investment_Edu.pdf
- **3.3** Chaaban, Jad and Wendy Cunningham. 'Measuring the Economic Gain of Investing in Girls: the girl effect dividend', World Bank 2011, http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?entityID=000158349_20110808092702&pagePK=64165259

EDUCATION

- **4.1** Levine, Ruth, Cynthia B. Lloyd, Margaret Greene, and Caren Grown. Girls Count a Global Investment & Action Agenda: A Girls Count Report on Adolescent Girls', Center for Global Development. Girls Count, 2009, http://www.cgdev.org/files/15154_file_GC_2009_Final_web.pdf
- **4.2** Lloyd, Cynthia and Juliet Young. 'New Lessons: The Power of Educating Adolescent Girls'. Population Council 2009 pp. 23. Retrieved 25 March 2011 from http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/2009PGY_NewLessons.pdf

- **4.3** Rihani, May. 'Keeping the Promise: Five Benefits of Girls' Secondary Education', Academy for Educational Development: Center for Gender Equity 2006. Retrieved from <http://www.aed.org/Publications/upload/Girls-Ed-Final.pdf>
- **4.4** Levine, Ruth, Cynthia B. Lloyd, Margaret Greene, and Caren Grown. Girls Count a Global Investment & Action Agenda: A Girls Count Report on Adolescent Girls. Center for Global Development. Girls Count, 2009, http://www.cgdev.org/files/15154_file_GC_2009_Final_web.pdf
- **4.5** 'The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics', The United Nations Statistics Division 2010. Retrieved from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010pub.htm>

HEALTH + SAFETY

- **5.1** Garcia-Moreno, Claudia; Henrica; Ellisberg, Mary; Lori Heise and Charlotte Watts. 'Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women'. World Health Organization 2005. Retrieved from http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2005/924159358X_eng.pdf
- **5.2** 'WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women', World Health Organization 2005. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/summary_report/summary_report_English2.pdf
- **5.3** 'Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with equity'. UNICEF 2010 pp. 30. Retrieved 29 March 2011 from http://www.unicef.org/immunization/files/Progress_for_Children-No.9_EN_081710.pdf
- **5.4** 'Women's and Children's Rights: Making the Connection'. UNFPA, UNICEF 2010 pp. 53. Retrieved 17 March 2011 from http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2011/Women-Children_final.pdf