

girls' education



the facts

- Nearly two-thirds of the 77 million out-of-school children in the world are girls.
- Girls from marginalized and excluded groups suffer disproportionately; nearly three-quarters of girls out of school are from excluded groups even though these groups represent only 20 percent of the population.
- Female education consistently demonstrates a positive influence on the health of a country's economy.
- Educated girls have fewer and healthier children, and bear them later in life.
- Educated women have greater control over their financial resources than their uneducated peers, and are more likely than men to spend discretionary resources on health, education and food.



CARE's Response

CARE understands the special needs of marginalized girls who may be living and working in abusive conditions, at risk of being trafficked, or denied their childhood through early marriages and young motherhood. Many girls are living with HIV or

AIDS, or caring for others with the disease. Other girls are orphaned, isolated physically or socially, disabled or shunned. That is why, together with governments and other partners, CARE's holistic, cross-cutting program approaches to girls' education seek to:

Improve the quality of learning through teacher training, updated and relevant curriculums, active student learning methodologies, and improved classrooms and teaching materials.

Remove barriers by offering conveniently located schools, flexible hours, fast-track curricula, and bilingual and intercultural education, and by collaborating with others to overcome obstacles such as limited access to water, poor nutrition and lack of economic opportunity.

Engage communities by empowering women through mothers' groups, re-engaging and strengthening parent/teacher associations and other education committees,

developing education networks across communities, strengthening local organizations through management and financial training, and establishing coalitions to monitor government policy.

Advocate for government investment by influencing local and national policy to direct resources toward girls and uphold their rights, working with ministry officials, and seeking increased financial support for formal and non-formal education.

CARE empowers families, communities and education systems to help them better understand and address gender inequities. When systems are improved to accommodate the most vulnerable, all children benefit from improved quality learning environments that fight discrimination and inequality.

Girls' Education Highlights

The following are some of the highlights of CARE's current work in girls' education:

In Afghanistan, an accelerated learning project helped girls who have been denied their right to learn because of conflict or the Taliban's restrictions on girls' education. CARE's innovative approach allowed girls to complete more than a single grade of education in a year, helping them to join age-appropriate classes in government schools as soon as possible.

In Honduras, CARE is engaging community stakeholders and the local government to protect, support and advocate for the rights of particularly vulnerable girls who live on the outskirts of the capital city. This successful innovation will serve as a model for community-based support for especially marginalized girls.

In Kenya, girls in the Dadaab refugee camps are empowered through an inclusive project that draws them into schools through sports. Through the project, CARE and our partners are encouraging girls to go to school and to participate in sports activities. The successful pilot will help shape future learning approaches aimed at marginalized adolescent girls.

Contact

To learn more about CARE's work in girls' education, please contact Margaret Meagher, Senior Technical Advisor, Girls' Education, Basic and Girls' Education Unit, CARE USA, mmeagher@care.org, 404-979-9194.



Where We Support Girls' Education

CARE currently supports programs with a focus on educational opportunities for girls in the following countries:

Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia

Asia

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, India, Nepal, Tajikistan

Latin America and the Caribbean

Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru

Middle East and Eastern Europe

Egypt, Kosovo, Yemen

