



## Quality Education For ALL



By 2030, 193 Heads of State and Governments agree to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all through ensuring

- free access for all boys & girls to quality pre-primary, primary and secondary education
- equal access for all women and men to quality technical, vocational and university education to equip populations with relevant technical, vocational, entrepreneurial and employability skills
- that all youth achieve literacy and numeracy and acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.”

**Good News:** 86% of people over the age of 15 were functionally literate in 2016

**Bad News:** For every 5 boys out of school worldwide, there are 6 girls



In a survey to our network of young people, education came back as the number 1 most important issue for young people to face. We agree - education is universally important, both for achieving the rest of the global goals and for ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, no matter where they happen to be born. With a good education, young people can learn and assess their potential, their human rights and their options, and so can pro-actively work to eliminate poverty in their own lives and in their communities. Imagine what could be done if we finally achieved 100% primary school education worldwide, or secondary school education!

The UN's education goals for education are ambitious. They aim with SDG4 to eliminate inequalities with regards to gender, disabilities and indigenous cultures. This will involve providing institutions, trained teachers, scholarships and curricula that promote sustainability and equality. It has been estimated by UNESCO that 34 million more children born before 2010 will have, by 2015, had access to primary school than if previous trends had continued! We need to keep up that momentum to ensure education for everybody.



## Balance Sheet

### Achievements

**More than half** of countries worldwide have achieved 'universal primary education' of over 95% enrolment rate.

From 2000 to 2017, around **36 million more** young people are in school worldwide.

**91% global literacy rates** for 15-24 year olds, higher than for adults (2016). For adults (ages 15+), there has been a 4% increase in literacy rates every 5 years, with **literacy more than doubling** from 42% in 1960 to 86% by 2015. [3]

**\$1.3 billion** was spent on education scholarships in developing nations, by developed nations in 2017 [2]

**More than two thirds of countries** have reached gender parity in primary education, meaning they have approximately a 1:1 ratio of girls : boys in school. (2016) [4]

### Work Left to Do

Around 617 million children lack minimum proficiency skills in maths and reading - despite two thirds of these having attended school (2016) [2]

There are huge disparities between regions, with Sub-Saharan Africa still having the highest proportion of young people not becoming proficient in maths/reading, at over 80% (2015) [3]

Girls are still more likely to be excluded from education than boys - for every 100 boys out of school globally, there are 118 girls (2017) [3]

Supplies and infrastructure have not kept pace - under half of Sub-Saharan African school possess drinking water or electricity. (2017) [3]



## Sources

1. [SDGs Knowledge Platform Goal 4](#)
2. [SDGs Report 2019, section 4](#)
3. [UNICEF primary education](#)
4. [Our World in Data - Literacy](#)
5. [UNESCO - Education for All 2000-2015](#)
6. [The 2030 Agenda](#)

## Points to Ponder

- Given that 60% of students entering primary school today will be doing jobs when they leave that don't exist yet, how are learning the key skills that you will need to operate in a rapidly-changing labour market?
- What aspect of education could you focus / campaign on? –
  - Lessons and skills training appropriate for a 21st Century labour market?
  - Entrepreneurship / Business Plan creation training?
  - Improving teacher training?
  - Equal access to quality education for girls and boys?
  - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects (STEM)?





- What can be done to persuade young girls in developing countries – and their parents - to stay in school, especially secondary schools?
- The United Nations made Universal Primary Education (UPE) a goal in 1948 – why has it not been achieved?
- With kids getting more and more of their information / learning off the internet (eg. Free online courses & videos like those offered by the Khan Academy) – what is the real purpose of schools? A place to learn inter-personal and team-working skills?
- Should UN Member state governments think more about different approaches to teaching – like coaching, peer-to-peer mentoring, experiential learning-by-doing?
- What can you do if schools do not teach you vital lessons about issues that are of central relevance to your future lives – like climate change, resource depletion, environmental challenges, and political responses to these issues?
- Given how many youth in less-developed countries will have to earn their livelihoods from self-employment and entrepreneurship, why do you think that enterprise start-up is not taught in any school?

## Take Action

- If you are still at school, raise some of these “Points to Ponder” with your student council and / or with your school Senior Management Team;
- How is career guidance at your school? If you don’t feel that enough is being done to prepare you for the labour market / jobs that exist in your area after you leave school, think about creating your own, student-led career guidance service. See:
- Many students complain that their teachers are hopeless – and that they are wasting their time trying to learn from them. Don’t suffer in silence! Take the matter up with your school Senior Management Team – and figure out a way to ensure that the teaching you get from every member of staff is of high quality!