



EDUCATION FIRST: Facts and Figures

Evidence shows that:

- Providing all children with quality basic education could boost annual economic growth by two percent in low-income countries.
- 12 percent of people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in poor countries had basic reading skills (over 170 million people).**
- Over the past four decades, the global increase in women's education has prevented more than four million child deaths
- One additional school year can increase a woman's earnings by 10% to 20%
- US\$1 invested in education and skills = US\$10 in economic growth***

Yet

- 61 million children of primary school age are out of school. 42 percent of these children live in conflict-affected poor countries. ***
- At least 250 million children are not able to read, write or count well even for those who have spent at least four years in school. **
- In at least 63 countries, young women from poor households are significantly less educated than poor young men.****
- 775 million adults are illiterate. Almost 500 million of them are women.
- 171 million children in developing countries are stunted by malnutrition by the time they reach age five, which means their ability to learn is likely to be affected.***
- Only two percent of humanitarian aid goes to education. ***

To change this and to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015:

- The world needs two million more teachers.
- The world's poorest countries need almost four million new classrooms to accommodate those who are not in school..*
- US\$16 billion is needed, with a further US\$8 required to achieve universal lower secondary education.

Sources:

*[Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2010](#)

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*** [Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2012](#)

**** Education For All Global Monitoring Report's World Inequality Database on Education (WIDE)