

YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

- There are more young women and adolescent girls in the world than there has **ever** been – approximately 900 million.¹
- While **gender gaps in youth academic participation** rates have narrowed over the past decade, they remain wide in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.²
- Girls' primary school completion rates are **below 50%** in most developing countries.³
- Each year of primary school **boosts girls' eventual wages** by 10-20%. An extra year of secondary school will boost them by 15-20%.⁴
- A World Bank study of 100 countries found that every 1% increase in the proportion of women with secondary education **boosts a country's annual per capita income growth rate** by about 0.3%.⁵
- Secondary school completion for girls in 19 African countries is **less than 5%**. Even if girls do attend secondary school, they are the first to leave when needed for domestic chores or to be caregivers, and are often forced to leave due to **child marriage or pregnancy**.⁶
- One in seven girls in developing countries is **married before age 15**, and 38% are married before age 18.⁷
- The **social isolation** that results from child marriage also often translates in child brides having little or no ability to leave abusive partners and secure social and legal support to remedy their situation.⁸
- Globally up to 50% of **sexual assaults** are committed against girls under 16.⁹
- Pregnancy- and childbirth-related complications are the **number-one killers** of girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide.¹⁰
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¹ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

² United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

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⁵ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

⁶ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

⁷ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

⁸ United Nations Youth *Girls and Young Women* <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx> Accessed on

⁹ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

¹⁰ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

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- **Still Birth and death** are 50% more likely for babies with mothers under age 20.¹¹
- Each extra year of a mother's schooling **cuts infant mortality** by between 5 and 10%.¹²
- Only **19%** of young women have the comprehensive and correct knowledge they need to protect them selves from acquiring the HIV when it is in their power to do so.¹³
- Globally, young women aged 15–24 are **most vulnerable to HIV**, with infection rates twice as high as in young men.¹⁴
- Young adolescent girls are not only **biologically more susceptible to HIV** infection; they are more likely to have older sexual and partners who use injecting drugs, thus increasing their potential exposure to HIV.¹⁵
- Women and girls provide up to **90%** of the care needs generated by HIV/AIDS. A considerable burden of this care work is carried by children, two-thirds of whom are young girls.¹⁶
- Women and girls make up **80%** of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked across national borders annually.¹⁷
- Young women and girls in **conflict zones** are often raped, recruited into armed forces, taken out of school and denied food that instead goes to male family members and livestock.¹⁸
- Despite the negative impact of living in conflict zones on young women and girls, recovery programs and aid distribution often **bypass** them because they are not seen as direct combatants.¹⁹
- Young Australian females continue to participate in full-time education at higher rates than males and are more likely than males to remain at school until Year 12.²⁰
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¹¹ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

¹² United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton> 13 March 2014

¹³ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton> 13 March 2014

¹⁴ United Nations Youth *Girls and Young Women* <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx> Accessed on 13 March 2014

¹⁵ United Nations Youth *Girls and Young Women* <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx> Accessed on 13 March 2014

¹⁶ United Nations Youth *Girls and Young Women* <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx> Accessed on 13 March 2014

¹⁷ United Nations International Year of Youth *Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women* <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton> 13 March 2014

¹⁸ United Nations Youth *Girls and Young Women* <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx> Accessed on 13 March 2014

¹⁹ United Nations Youth *Girls and Young Women* <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx> Accessed on 13 March 2014

²⁰ Foundation for Young Australians *How Young People are Faring – Report 2013* <http://www.fya.org.au/research/hypaf2013/> Accessed on 12 March 2014



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- Despite this, young Australian females are more **likely to be underemployed** (14%) than young Australian males (11%).²¹
- Many young Australian females not engaged in employment, education or training are occupied with **childcare or domestic duties**, while young Australian males are more likely to be travelling or on holidays.²²

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²¹ ²² Foundation for Young Australians *How Young People are Faring – Report 2013* <http://www.fya.org.au/research/hypaf2013/> Accessed on 12 March 2014

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