



Education

Not everybody across the world gains access to the quality of education which we enjoy. Let's explore the issue.

Facts

- 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 ([UNESCO 2011](#));
- 61 million children of primary school age are out of school. 42% of these children live in conflict-affected poor countries ([UNESCO 2012](#));
- 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 ([UNESCO 2012](#));
- 775 million adults are illiterate. Almost 500 million of them are women ([UNESCO 2012](#));
- In at least 63 countries, young women from poor households are significantly less educated than poor young men ([UNESCO 2013](#));

What is the issue?

Free Primary education is a human right, however, many countries continue to charge fees. These fees are barriers which some of the world's poorest communities just can't break through.

Education is a powerful tool. It teaches people how to think critically, problem solve and develop new skills. However it is not available to everybody. In some of the world's poorest communities education can help people work their way out of poverty, promote gender equality in society, stay healthy through nutritional knowledge and promote sustainable development.

Why is Education such a big issue?

- People living in some of the world's poorest communities need access to education, but often struggle to get even the most basic access;

- Hunger often prevents children living in developing countries from taking the opportunity to gain an education when it is available, as often they can't function fully due to malnutrition;
- There are serious issues with gender inequality in access to education. Women and girls often don't get the same opportunities as men in their societies;

How can I help?

- Talk about the issues – discuss the issue of education with your friends and family;
- Use social media – share this factsheet or other resources with your social media networks;
- Think about what life might be like if you couldn't read or write. Would that change your life? Write down 3 things you wouldn't be able to do without literacy;

Useful links

- [UNESCO Statistics](#)
- [Edudemic](#)