

# Girls' education in **PAKISTAN**



**22.8**  
MILLION

children are  
out of school  
in Pakistan

**#2**

The second highest  
number of any  
country in the world<sup>1</sup>.

## in Pakistan



MORE THAN

**50%**

of out-of-school  
children are **GIRLS**<sup>2</sup>.



LESS THAN

**1/3**

of all eligible girls  
are enrolled in upper  
secondary school<sup>3</sup>.



TWO-THIRDS

**2/3**

of the poorest **girls aged  
between 7 and 12** have never  
set foot inside a classroom<sup>4</sup>.

Of all boys and girls aged 5–16 in Pakistan<sup>5</sup>:



**43%**

BOYS



**36%**

GIRLS

are able to **read a sentence**  
in Urdu, Sindhi and Pashto.



**40%**

BOYS



**33%**

GIRLS

are able to **read words**  
in English.



**44%**

BOYS



**36%**

GIRLS

are able to do  
**subtraction in arithmetic.**



## 12 years of quality education

Pakistan's Right to Education Act 2012 guarantees every child aged 5 to 16 the right to a free and compulsory education. However, the act is not implemented — and girls are left without the education they need to build a better future for their families, communities and country.

Pakistan's education system is also critically under-resourced. The 2017 National Education Plan recognised the low levels of investment in public education and set a target to allocate 4% of GDP and 25% of the national budget for education. However, currently just 2.7% of GDP is allocated to education. There remains no specific strategy to improve girls' access to education.

### The government is conducting an education policy review.

As part of the review, we are calling for:

- A commitment to **allocate 4–6% of GDP or 20% of annual budgets to education.**
- Enforcement of the right to a **full cycle of 12 years free schooling.**
- A new National Education Plan to be agreed in consultation with provinces through an **all-party joint ministerial conference.** The plan will guide all provincial education sector plans.
- Inclusion of non-discrimination and equality principles in the National Education Plan — including specific **targeted strategies for girls' inclusion** as well as indicators to measure progress.
- Creation of a **Girls' Education Task Force** to address the low rate of girls' participation at the secondary level and oversee new strategies — including an investment plan for new girls' middle and secondary schools.

### The benefits of educating all girls for 12 years:



**SAFER**

- Doubling the percentage of students finishing secondary school could cut the risk of conflict in half<sup>7</sup>.
- Girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is one of the most cost-effective strategies to tackle climate change<sup>8</sup>.



**HEALTHIER**

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>9</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>10</sup>.



**WEALTHIER**

- If every girl around the world received 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by up to **\$30 trillion**<sup>11</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost **twice as much** as those with no education at all<sup>12</sup>.

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