Gender Equality = Smarter Development

At USAID, we believe that gender equality and women's empowerment are not just a part of development but at the core of development. Women and girls have tremendous, and often untapped, power to contribute to the advancement of their communities and countries. However, women and girls lack access to resources and opportunities; they often face stigma and violence; and are unable to realize their full potential. That's why throughout our programs in over 80 countries, we're closing gender gaps, reducing gender-based violence, and empowering women and girls.

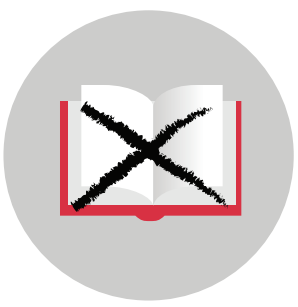
USAID Gender Goals

1
Reduce
Gender Gaps

2
Address Gender
Based Violence

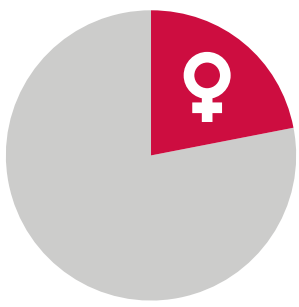
3
Empower
Women and Girls

The Problem



Around the world ***62 million*** girls are not in school. [1]

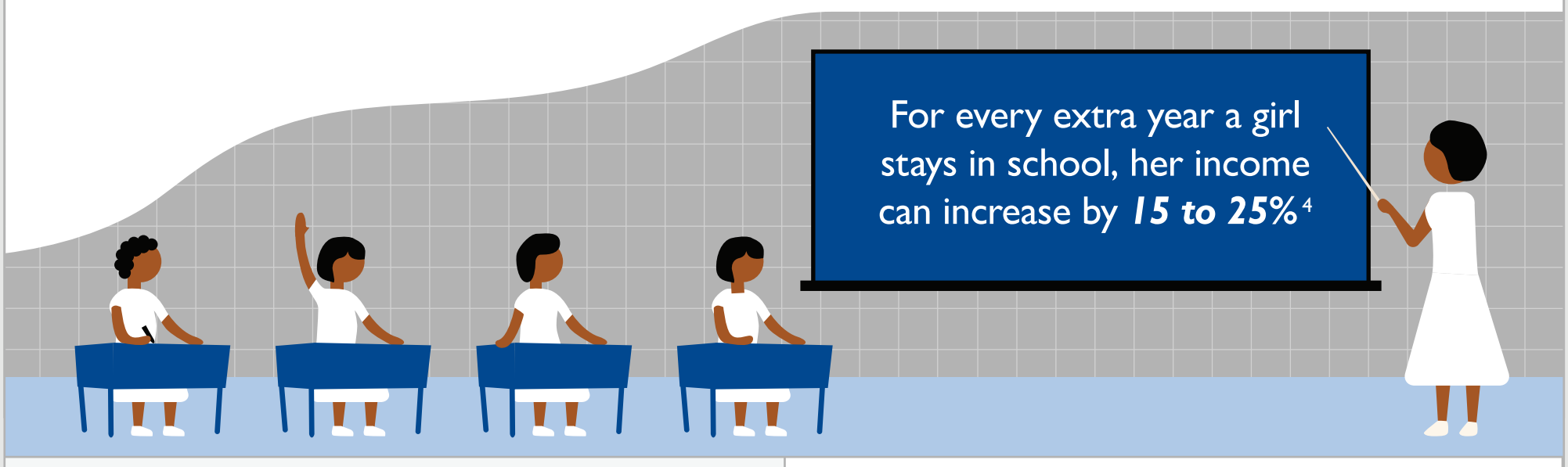
Globally, ***1 in 3*** women will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime. [2]



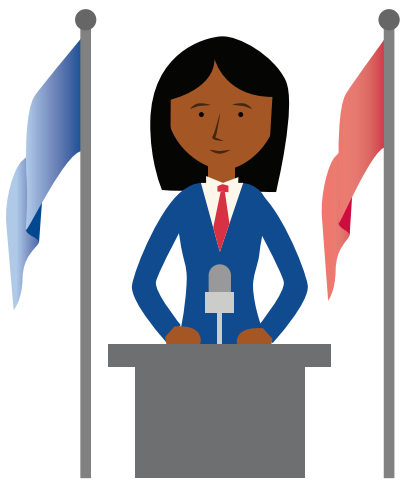
Only ***22 percent*** of all national parliamentarians are female. [3]

The Potential

Investing in women and girls can unlock
human potential on a transformational scale



5.2% of global GDP could be added to the world economy if domestic violence was stopped. [5]



Women's leadership is strongly linked to positive developments in education, infrastructure and health standards at the local and global level.

Program Examples

Reducing Gender Gaps

Lifelong Learning Project

In Guatemala, we are improving access to quality education for 10,000 adolescent girls by training teachers to improve classroom learning environments, and engaging parents and communities on student learning.

Addressing Gender Based Violence

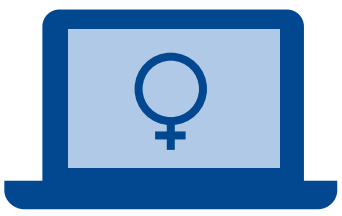
Addressing Violence Project

In Ethiopia, we are addressing the high prevalence of child marriage through increasing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Empowering Women and Girls

Empowering Women in Kivu Project

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, USAID encourages women's inclusion in leadership positions in peace committees and other community structures, such as local farmer groups and development committees, in 15 target geographic areas in North and South Kivu.



Women and the Web Alliance

We are working to reduce the internet gender gap by bringing more than 600,000 young women online in Nigeria and Kenya. Alongside partners, USAID is transforming the lives and livelihoods of girls and women in Africa through digital literacy training, relevant content, policy work, and online social networks.

Boys to Men Project

In Zambia, we are working to reduce social acceptance and the occurrence of gender based violence by promoting positive, non-violent male development. The project engages boys and young men in strengthening bonds with traditional leaders to support violence prevention and response in rural areas and shift attitude and promote awareness.

Promote

In Afghanistan, we are educating, promoting, and training 75,000 Afghan women between 18-30 years of age. The project will strengthen women's rights groups, boost female participation in the economy, increase the number of women in decision-making positions within the Afghan government, and help women gain business skills.

Sources

1. http://becauseiamagirl.ca/girlseducation
2. World Health Organization, Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women, http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf, p. 2.
3. Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women, "Women in Politics: 2015". *Stat as of January 2015
4. http://becauseiamagirl.ca/girlseducation
5. https://agenda.weforum.org/2014/09/domestic-violence-cost-war-development-goals/