



for every child

# HELP EMPOWER GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION



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## The Keeping Girls in School Act addresses the barriers that keep girls from receiving a long-term, quality education.

Prior to the pandemic, 132 million girls ages 6-17 were out of school. Barriers such as child marriage, violence, care burdens and negative gender norms keep girls from long-term, quality education, perpetuating poverty and increasing girls' health risks and social disenfranchisement. As a result of COVID-19 school disruptions, **UNESCO estimates 11 million additional girls may not return to school.**

### The Keeping Girls in School Act (H.R.4134 / S.2276)

is designed to harness the power of the U.S. Government to holistically tackle the barriers that prevent girls from accessing education through smart investments, including new technologies and evidence-based approaches. The bipartisan bill complements and builds on existing guidance and legislation on education and child marriage in U.S. foreign policy and programmatic efforts.

Evidence shows that investing in girls' secondary education is one of the most transformative development strategies. Completion of secondary education has significant positive benefits on girls and societies – from dramatically increased lifetime earnings to reductions in child marriage, stunting, and child and maternal mortality. Empowering girls through education is the key to realizing their rights and potential to become active citizens who can help build better communities and a better world.

## UNICEF IN ACTION

- UNICEF partners with governments and community actors in **157 COUNTRIES TO ADVOCATE FOR GIRLS**, promote gender equality, and realize the rights of girls and women.
- UNICEF is working to **INCREASE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR GIRLS**, improve learning outcomes and promote gender-responsive education systems.
- Girls are almost two and a half times more likely to be out of primary school if they live in conflict affected countries, and **90% MORE LIKELY TO BE OUT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL** than their counterparts in countries not affected by conflict.
- In 2020, **UNICEF HELPED 48 MILLION CHILDREN ACCESS EDUCATION**, nearly half of whom were girls.