ISSUE FACT SHEET: THE IMPACT OF EDUCATING GIRLS

What changes when girls are educated? Everything!

- Research is proving again and again that educating girls has a huge impact not only on the girls themselves, but on their communities and countries as well. Educating a girl is the fastest way to end generational poverty and help grow communities.

Worldwide, how many girls are out of school?***

- 130 million girls are out of school. (Although the film quotes 66 million, Girl Rising has updated this number to 130 million due to new data from UNESCO).***
- 33 million fewer girls than boys are in primary school.

How many girls are born into extreme poverty?

- Worldwide, girls have a 1 in 4 chance of being born into extreme poverty.

Changing Communities

- Educating girls has one of the highest returns on investment available in the developing world. When girls are educated, they get married later, have healthier children, and they value educating their own children.
- A girl with even one extra year of education can earn 10-20% percent more as an adult.

Why aren’t some girls in school?

- Educating girls is not valued in many parts of the world. In developing countries, young girls are often expected to work taking care of younger siblings, fetching water, earning income, or caring for sick family members.
- Many times when families live in poverty, the parents will choose to send only their boys to school.
- In more than 50 countries, an education is not free. Parents need to pay for school, books, and uniforms. Sometimes they need to pay for exams and report cards. Some families simply cannot afford the expense: often it is a choice between paying for school, or food. If you were in that situation, which would you choose?

***A Note on Statistics:
Statistics regarding out-of-school girls change over time as new information becomes available. See Statistics Used in Girl Rising (found in the Resources section) for updated data.