ACTION GUIDE

Investing in the Education of Adolescent Girls

February 2021
WHO WE ARE

XOCO is a non-profit social venture with a bold vision to change the game for girls.

Across Africa, Asia and Latin America, the Covid-19 crisis is pushing adolescent girls into sexual exploitation. We need to be faster and more innovative in our response. In partnership with grassroots organizations and world-class companies, we are developing a powerful digital education model, empowering adolescent girls to leapfrog from basic education to digital jobs of the future. Combining edtech with digital skills development and on-the-job training, we create new pathways for marginalized adolescent girls to escape sexual exploitation and access skilled jobs in the digital economy.

Find out more on our website: www.xocounlimited.org.

Let’s change the game for girls!

This Action Guide Preview is part of a creative fundraising strategy to fund XOCO’s digital education programs for adolescent girls in the global South. If you like this tool, please consider giving our crowdfunding campaign a boost and sign up to our website to access XOCO’s resource hub. XOCO is registered as a charity in Germany; your donation may be tax deductible.

Let’s connect on social media:

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1 Please check if donations to a German charity are tax deductible in your country.
ACTION GUIDE PREVIEW

This document provides an overview of the opportunities available for investments in girls’ education. Sign up to our website to get the full toolkit once it is published.

An estimated 130 million girls are out of school, 75% of secondary school-age. It is estimated that an additional 10 million more secondary school-aged girls could be out of school after the pandemic. With the increase in poverty due to this crisis, girls are at a higher risk of facing sexual exploitation with many forced into transactional sex. Investing in girls’ education creates positive ripple effects for the community, the economy, and a country’s progress towards all SDGs.

Achieving these rewards is not straightforward. Women and girls around the world face cross-cutting issues that hinder them from reaching their full potential. This makes a strong case for innovative finance, new partnerships and unconventional solutions.

WAYS TO INVEST:

Invest
patient debt or equity capital

Fund
non-profits that address cross-cutting barriers to education

Partner
with grant providers and educational institutions

Support
gender-smart research and capacity building

Making an Impact

The chart below illustrates at what level of education these cross-cutting barriers usually surface, and highlights the impact of intervention. Do note that the challenges faced in early childhood may persist throughout the education cycle.

CROSS-CUTTING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

LEVEL | POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF ENSURING SAFE ACCESSSS TO EDUCATION

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UPPER SECONDARY | 
SCHOOL POLICIES BARRING “VISIBLY PREGNANT GIRLS” FROM ENTRY | Up to 96.6% increase in potential earnings
CULTURE OF UNDERVALUING WOMEN’S EDUCATION | Reduce early childbearing by 75%
UNEVEN BURDEN OF UNPAID LABOR IN THE HOUSEHOLD | Increase in labor force participation by 10%

LOWER SECONDARY | 
LACK OF ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS & APPROPRIATE SANITATION FACILITIES | Up to 19.3% increase in potential earnings
CHILD MARRIAGE & EARLY CHILDBEARING | 5x less likely to marry as children
COST AND LOW QUALITY OF EDUCATION | Decrease in maternal death

PRIMARY | 
FEAR OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE | 12% drop in global poverty if basic reading & literacy skills are obtained
LACK OF FEMALE TEACHERS |
POVERTY AND INEQUALITY |

References:

1 UNESCO, Fact Sheet no. 56, September 2019
2 Malala Fund, Girls’ Education and Covid-19, April 2020
4 World Bank Group, The Cost of Not Educating Girls, July 2018
5 Global Partnership for Education, 12 Years to Break Down the Barriers to Girls’ Education, September 2018
6 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Millions of Girls Are Out of School, March 2019