

ACTION GUIDE

Investing in the Education of Adolescent Girls

February 2021





XOCO

Unlimited

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 deductible¹.

Let's connect on social media:



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¹Please 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 **130¹ 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.² 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^{3,4,5,6}. 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 ACCESS TO EDUCATION	
	SCHOOL POLICIES BARRING "VISIBLELY PREGNANT GIRLS" FROM ENTRY	UPPER SECONDARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Up to 96.6% increase in potential earnings ▶ Reduce early childbearing by 75% ▶ Increase in labor force participation by 10% 	
	CULTURE OF UNDERVALUING WOMEN'S EDUCATION			
	UNEVEN BURDEN OF UNPAID LABOR IN THE HOUSEHOLD			
LACK OF ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS & APPROPRIATE SANITATION FACILITIES	CHILD MARRIAGE & EARLY CHILDBEARING	LOWER SECONDARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Up to 19.3% increase in potential earnings ▶ 5x less likely to marry as children ▶ Decrease in maternal death 	
				COST AND LOW QUALITY OF EDUCATION
				FEAR OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
LACK OF FEMALE TEACHERS	POVERTY AND INEQUALITY	PRIMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 12% drop in global poverty if basic reading & literacy skills are obtained 	
POVERTY AND INEQUALITY				

References:

¹ UNESCO, *Fact Sheet no. 56*, September 2019

² Malala Fund, *Girls' Education and Covid-19*, April 2020

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/girlseducation#2>

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