Fulcrum for the Future
Girls’ Education and Voluntary Family Planning: The Best Investments for Development and Security in the Sahel

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The population of the G5 Sahel region is expected to more than double from 85 million to nearly 200 million.

If the Sahel’s population grows as projected, maintaining its current per capita GDP would require 11% annual GDP growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mauritania</th>
<th>Mali</th>
<th>Burkina Faso</th>
<th>Niger</th>
<th>Chad</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women of reproductive age</td>
<td>1,138</td>
<td>4,541</td>
<td>4,891</td>
<td>5,097</td>
<td>3,739</td>
<td>262,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>(in thousands)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Women using modern contraception</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women with an unmet need for contraception</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls’ primary school completion rate</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls’ lower secondary school completion rate</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** DHS, FP2020, World Bank Indicators, and UN World Population Prospects 2019
What type & level of funding would create transformational change in the Sahel?
Family planning and education are the critical areas for impactful investment.

Mutually-reinforcing benefits:

- Health benefits grow
- Economic growth & productivity soar
- Labor market participation & earnings rise
- Education levels increase, even across generations
- Family size reduces
- Resilience increases
- Stability & peace improve
- Social programs savings expand

Together, these investments enable the women of the region to voluntarily lay the groundwork for a demographic dividend to the benefit of all the Sahel.
Family planning and education are the critical areas for impactful investment.
Methodology

Estimating what full funding means for education & family planning

Educate and empower adolescent girls


Universal education will cost 6.3% of GDP for each country.
- 3.9% of GDP from domestic resources
- 2.4% of GDP from international donors

Expand access to voluntary family planning

2019 Guttmacher Institute Report, *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health*

Bringing unmet need for modern contraceptives down to 0 will cost $29.40 per contraceptive user in the Africa Renewal Sahel target countries
Key Finding: Education

Full funding for education (from donors) is ~$1.5 billion/year

An additional $1.2 billion/year is needed

The education sector is only 16% funded currently.
Key Finding: Family Planning

Full funding for family planning is ~144 million/year

An additional $107 million/year is needed

The family planning sector is only 26% funded currently.
Key Finding: Transformational Funding in the Sahel

For 1.3 billion dollars we could close the family planning and education gaps in all G5 countries.

*That is half a billion dollars less than what was pledged for humanitarian response in just 3 countries at the 2020 UN Central Sahel Summit.
Fulcrum

Proper application of funding and support now can leverage the Sahel onto a new path.