Universal Primary Education

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True or False

During the past 13 years, the number of children out of school declined by half.
• More than half of children out of school live in sub-Saharan Africa.
• Dropped from 102 million to 57 million
• 57 million = populations of California and New York
True or False

123 million young people are still unable to read or write.
True

- 123 million = populations of 3 California’s and one New York

- Women are at the greatest disadvantage while representing two-thirds of illiterate adults worldwide.
Outline of Key Objectives

1. What is MDG 2?
2. Why is education important?
3. How far have we come and how far do we have to go? Examples?
4. What can be done to achieve MDG 2?
What is Millennium Development Goal 2?

• Universal Primary Education
  – Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
  – Indicators:
    • 2.1 Net enrollment ratio in primary education
    • 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary
    • 2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds
Why is education important?

- Safe, productive environment
- Promotes gender equality
- Speeds up progress towards all other development goals. How so?

“Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jieco-43WNI
Advantages of Education for Girls

- Women represent two-thirds of illiterate adults worldwide.
- Survival rate and economic benefits
- “Multiplier Effect” – educated girls are more likely to marry later and because of that have fewer children.
  - Why is it important to marry later and have fewer children?
Disparities between Men and Women

Literacy rates among adults and youth are on the rise, and gender gaps are narrowing

Youth literacy rate by region and by sex, 1990 and 2011 (Percentage)

Speeds up progress towards other Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development
Why has the goal not been achieved? Overall picture...

- Differing Standards
- Discrimination and Racism
- Lack of Support
- Poor Education System
  - School fees: books, uniforms, salaries
  - Lack of qualified teachers
  - Large classes
  - No focus on secondary school
- Lack of Safety
  - War and bombings
- Exploitation
  - Child labor, child marriages, and child soldiers
Differing Standards

- Some countries have lower standards than others.
  - Differences between U.S., Pakistan, and Africa
Poor Education System

- India and Kenya Case Studies:
  - Overcrowded classrooms
  - Book shortages
  - Fees
  - Lack of qualified teachers
  - Overused and limited supply of toilets
  - Irregular power supply
Lack of Safety

- Attacks on schools
  - Pakistan
    - Taliban
  - Nigeria
    - Boko Arum
  - Syria
    - Civil war
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo
    - M23 rebels
  - Central African Republic
    - Seleka rebels

*Why are schools attacked?*
Exploitation

● Child soldiers
  - Central African Republic
  - Kony’s army
  - Syria civil war

● 200 million children in child labor
  - All over the world- India, China, Africa
  - Agriculture, unpaid family work

● 10 million girls forced into marriage

● Child marriages
  - Family honor
    - Ratni from India
    - Nanuska from Afghanistan
    - Bangladesh
Where are we now?

- 2015 Goal: out of reach
- Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia showed the best record for improvement, but are still off track.
- The other regions are on track to achieve the primary school completion rate target.
- The total number of children out of school fell from 106 million (1999) to 57 million (2011).
  - Half of the children out of school live in sub-Saharan Africa and a quarter live in Southern Asia
Primary School Net Attendance Ratio (2000-2006)
What can we do to fix these issues?

- **Differing Standards**
  - Higher expectations
  - Emphasis on secondary school
- **Discrimination and Racism**
  - Changing culture
- **Lack of Support**
  - More aid
  - Teacher training
- **Lack of Safety**
  - Armed guards
  - Changing culture
  - Tent schools
- **Child Labor and Exploitation**
  - More schools
  - Government funding and support
  - End child marriage
Examples of Positive Progress

- Youth Councils and Berhane Hewana
  - End child marriage

- World Food Programme
  - School meals

- Learning Metrics Task Force
  - High expectations and standards

- Save the Children
  - Education, shelter, and healthcare

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
  - Stop the spread of disease

- Human Rights Watch
  - Equal access to education