

# LITERACY

PEACE  
DEVELOPMENT  
POVERTY ERADICATION  
GENDER EQUALITY  
HEALTH  
EMPOWERMENT



LITERACY IS A HUMAN RIGHT. IT IS A TOOL FOR PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT AND, ESSENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION, GENDER EQUALITY, MATERNAL HEALTH, CHILD MORTALITY REDUCTION, AND PEACE AND DEMOCRACY. LITERACY IS AT THE HEART OF BASIC EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROMOTION OF LIFELONG LEARNING SOCIETIES.

## LITERACY IN THE WORLD

### GLOBAL ILLITERATE POPULATION

781,000,000



### ADULT ILLITERATE POPULATION

Age > 15



### YOUTH ILLITERATE POPULATION

Age 15-24



### COUNTRY WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ILLITERATE ADULTS



THAT'S OVER 4 TIMES THE POPULATION OF FRANCE



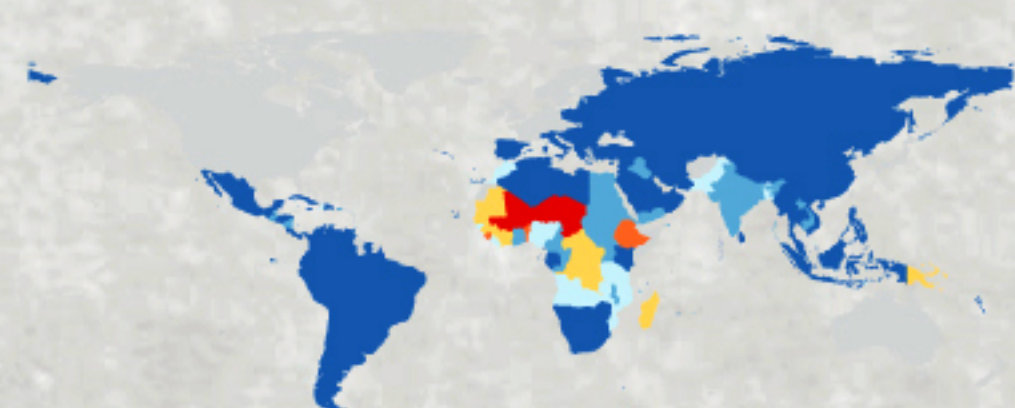
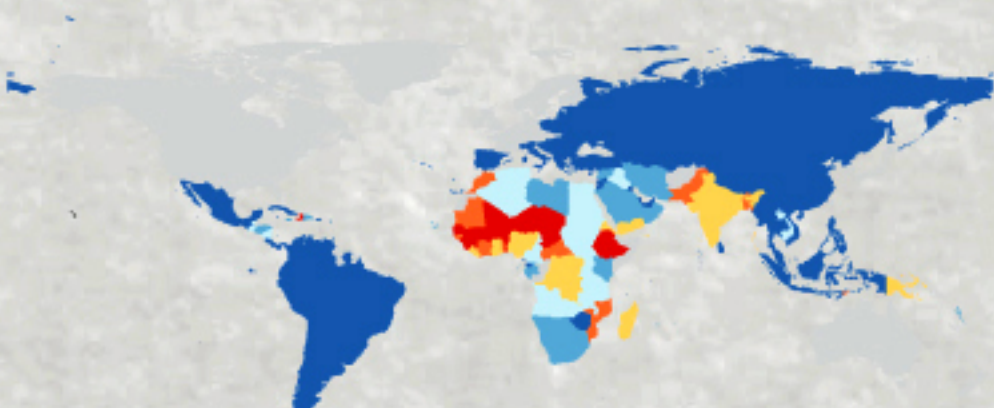
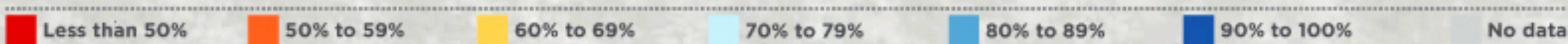
"Newly literate women have a positive ripple effect on all development indicators"

Irina Bokova



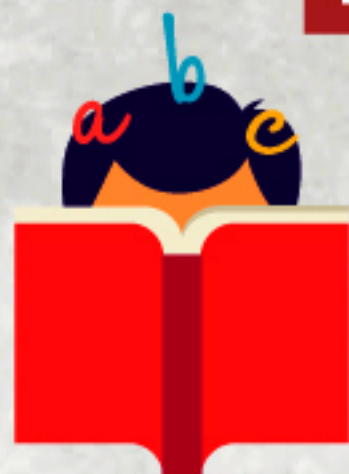
### ADULT LITERACY RATE

### YOUTH LITERACY RATE



## LITERACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### EVERY LITERATE PERSON IS A VICTORY OVER POVERTY



171 MILLION

PEOPLE WOULD BE OUT OF POVERTY IF ALL STUDENTS IN LOW INCOME COUNTRIES LEFT SCHOOL WITH BASIC READING SKILLS



UP TO

10%

INCREASE IN INCOME FOR EACH ADDITIONAL YEAR OF SCHOOLING

### EDUCATED MOTHERS = REDUCED CHILD MORTALITY

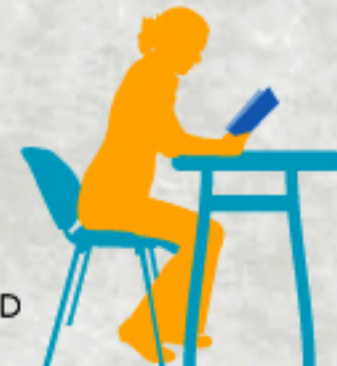


2.1 MILLION

CHILDREN UNDER 5 WERE SAVED BETWEEN 1990 AND 2009 BECAUSE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN GIRLS' EDUCATION

	DIARRHOEA	CHILD DEATHS
IF ALL MOTHERS HAD PRIMARY EDUCATION	-8%	-15%
IF ALL MOTHER HAD SECONDARY EDUCATION	-30%	-49%

WOMEN WITH POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION ARE 5x MORE LIKELY THAN ILLITERATE WOMEN TO BE EDUCATED ABOUT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, DIARRHEA AND SEEK MEDICAL GUIDANCE



"Literacy provides tools for men and women to better understand the world and shape it to meet their aspirations." Ban Ki-moon

## PEACE AND DEMOCRACY



POORLY-LITERATE INDIVIDUALS ARE LESS LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND HAVE FEWER CHANCES TO FULLY EXERCISE THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS.

LIVING IN A CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREA INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF NOT BECOMING LITERATE OR OF NOT GAINING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



42%

of children in poor and conflict-affected countries are out of school



LITERACY HAS TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL. IT EXPANDS INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AND PEOPLE'S CHOICES; ENGAGES PEOPLE IN MEANINGFUL SOCIAL PARTICIPATION PROCESSES AND HELPS INDIVIDUALS RESIST ABUSE AND MANIPULATION.

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope" Kofi Annan



### SOURCES

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The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012  
UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2011, The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education, Data for 2009  
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