Fact Sheet

THE BENEFITS OF LITERACY ARE MANY

- Despite all the many known benefits of literacy, in the developing world more than half of all children (ages 6 -14) are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading – and globally an estimated 750 million adults are illiterate. *(Source: United Nations)*

- In sub-Saharan Africa, alone, 88% of children (ages 6 -14) – or 202 million – are not meeting minimum proficiency levels in literacy. *(Source: More than Half of Children not Learning, UNESCO Institute of Statistics)*

- 274 million primary school children worldwide are not learning basic foundational skills necessary to lead productive and healthy lives. *(Source: Calculated based on data in The Learning Generation, Education Commission)*

REACHING ALL CHILDREN REQUIRES A GLOBAL VISION

- Only 2.7% of humanitarian aid was invested in education in 2016. *(Source: GEM Report, Policy Paper 31)*

- $39 billion annually is the financing gap to achieve quality primary and secondary school for all children in the developing world. *(Source: GEM Report, Policy Paper 18)*

TEACHERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE OR QUALIFIED

- An additional 69 million school teachers are required to provide every child with primary and secondary education by 2030. *(Source: Fact Sheet, UNESCO Institute for Statistics)*

- 17 million qualified teachers are needed in sub-Saharan Africa, alone, to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goal. *(Source: Fact Sheet, UNESCO Institute for Statistics)*

THE BENEFITS OF LITERACY ARE MANY

- A child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of five. *(Source: The Learning Generation)*

- A women who can read is twice as likely to send her children to school *(Source: The Learning Generation)*

- An estimated 420 million people would be lifted out of poverty with a secondary education, for which mastering literacy skills at an early age is absolutely key. *(Source: UIS/GEM Report Policy Paper 32/Fact Sheet 44)*