

MEDIA

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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)