



It is the end of summer, and the children are back in school. We are so blessed to be able to say that since over 120 million of God's children will not go to school this year. As we kiss our young ones good-bye each morning, let's say a prayer to expand our hearts and minds beyond borders to God's entire family—our brothers and sisters across the globe:

Education Fact Sheet

- 96% of unschooled children live in developing countries.
- Studies predict 150 million children currently in school will drop out before completing their primary education.
- In 2000, through the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders pledged to achieve universal primary education by 2015.

How does education fight poverty?

Raises Income: One additional year of schooling can raise income by as much as 20%.

Improves Health: Educated mothers are 50% more likely to immunize their children than mothers with no schooling.

Reduces H.I.V./AIDS: Young rural Ugandans with a secondary education are 3 times less likely than those with no education to be HIV+.

Aids Economic Growth: No country has ever achieved continuous and rapid growth without reaching an adult literacy rate of at least 40%.

Increases Productivity & Reduces Malnutrition: More productive farming due to increased female education accounted for 43% of the decline in malnutrition between 1970 and 1995.

What barriers restrict access to education?

Cost: It can cost a month's wages or more to send a child to public primary school. Many families depend on the income generated by their children to survive.

HIV/AIDS: HIV/AIDS has led to a sharp decline in school participation for those orphaned by the disease. In Zambia in 2000, 45% of the teachers trained that year died of HIV/AIDS.

Safety: In rural areas, the nearest school may be 5-10 miles away. In regions with political instability, it can be unsafe for children to walk to school.

Gender Insensitivity: Few female teachers and a prevalence of sexual harassment in schools prevent parents from sending their daughters to school.

How can we help put more children in school?

Eliminate Fees: When governments eliminate school fees, as they did in Kenya, Uganda and Malawi, enrollments can double or even triple.

Provide Stipends: An aid program that provided school meals and take-home rations increased girls' attendance by at least 50% in targeted countries.

Increase Aid: Many countries do not share their wealth to fund basic education. The U.S. gives \$435 million, the cost of building 17 U.S. high schools.

Relieve Debt: Foreign debt payments prevent many poor countries from establishing essential social services. Niger, for example, is using 40% of the resources freed up by debt relief to fund its universal primary education program.

(Facts & figures obtained from www.netaid.org)

Next Social Justice Mtg.: Thurs.9/28/06; 7:30-9:30, Rm. 227
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