



The Education for All – Fast Track Initiative (EFA FTI) is a global partnership of donors and developing countries, multilateral institutions, and civil society organizations, dedicated to ensuring that all children receive quality basic education. It aims to achieve Education for All by efficiently using international and national resources and matching donors' priorities with developing countries' own education strategies.

### 54%

Of newly enrolled children are girls

In 2008, more than 81 million children were enrolled in classrooms in EFA FTI countries globally, compared to 63 million in 2002. Girls represent 54% of newly enrolled children, showing that girls are at last catching up with boys.

### 68%

Of girls are completing primary school

Girls are increasingly completing school. In 2008, more than two thirds of girls completed the last grade of primary school in all FTI countries compared to only 56% in 2002. EFA FTI is committed to reducing the drop-out rate of girls even further.

### 27 Countries

Number of FTI countries which have either achieved or are close to achieving equal primary school completion between boys and girls\*

Education is considered indispensable to alleviate poverty among girls and young women, according to the UN declaration on the Millennium Goals.

\*Only 7 FTI countries had achieved this goal in 2000

## Promoting girl-friendly schools

The EFA FTI partnership is promoting girl-friendly policies in the education sector plans it supports. Education plans are appraised against girls' enrollment, including female attendance in rural schools. In the near future, data on the enrollment, repetition and completion rates of girls will be closely monitored, leading to more targeted policy advice. EFA FTI currently endorses the national education strategies of 43 developing countries of which 25 are in Africa.

In **Yemen**, FTI funds helped to build 214 girl-friendly new schools in four remote provinces and provided kits with school supplies to 350,000 children. Enrollments in grades 1–6 in the target provinces increased by 23% between 2006–2008, with girls outnumbering boys.



In **The Gambia**, thanks to FTI and other donor support, a set of girl-friendly policies were implemented such as scholarships for girls, separate toilet facilities and increasing the number of female teachers. As a result, the girls' enrollment rate in primary school went up from 77% in 2002 to 92% in 2007 and the enrollment rate of girls in lower secondary education increased from 44% to 57% in the same period.



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