

GIRLS & WOMEN

STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE

RATIONALE

Our mission is to align, inspire and activate partners to alleviate poverty and make sustainable, scalable progress possible for all. We achieve this by uniting businesses, non-profits, governments and citizens to turn the spiral of poverty in impoverished communities into a Path of Shared Prosperity by investing in those proven to yield the best results—girls and women.

Our goal? Empower 50 Million people to rise out of poverty by 2020.

Our future, as a global community and company, is directly tied to the development of global economies. In developing countries, girls and women play an essential role in community and economic development. We have witnessed how investments in girls and women have proven to yield the best results in putting communities on a Path to Shared Prosperity.

TALKING POINTS & STATISTICS

- Focus on girls and women drives sustainable social and economic results.
- Around the world, girls face barriers to education that boys do not.
- Educating girls can break the cycle of poverty in just one generation.
- 65 million girls worldwide are not enrolled in school.
- 496 million girls over the age of 15 cannot read or write.
- 33 million fewer girls than boys are in primary school worldwide.
- An extra year of school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10%–25%.

- When the number of girls attending school increases 10%, GDP increases 3%.
- An educated girl reinvests 90% of her income in her family vs. a boy reinvests 35%.
- In Africa and South Asia, boys remain 1.55 times more likely to complete secondary education than girls.

AN EDUCATED GIRL IS MORE LIKELY TO:

- Marry later in life and have fewer children.
- Become pregnant later in life, reducing the number of pregnancy-related deaths. Nearly one in five girls with no education become pregnant before the age of 18. Pregnancy accounts for nearly 70,000 deaths each year among girls 15–19.
- Avoid contracting HIV / AIDS.
- Engage in civic leadership.
- Educate her children equally, passing on hope and opportunity.
- Be healthier and provide better health care and education to her children, which can lift her household out of poverty. These benefits transmit across generations as well as communities at large.

PROGRAMS & INVESTMENTS:

GIRL UP is an advocacy platform educating the next generation of female leaders. The Caterpillar Foundation partners with Girl Up to fund initiatives such as Girl Up Clubs and Teen Advisors to help girls in developing countries reach their full potential by raising awareness and funds for programs that provide access to health care and education.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN COOKSTOVES fuels a market facing solution to smoke inhalation and in-home efficiency. In partnership with GACC, the Caterpillar Foundation supports a youth education program that promotes clean cooking education and awareness.

The U.S. State Department's **AFRICAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM** empowers a generation of African women entrepreneurs through community centers and curriculum. The Caterpillar Foundation invests in the creation of three women's entrepreneur centers in Africa.



“Businesses, non-profits, governments, and citizens combining their strengths to help 50 million people rise out of poverty by 2020.”

TOGETHER.STRONGER.

CATERPILLAR®

OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL offers financial education and access to capital for women entrepreneurs. The Caterpillar Foundation has partnered with Opportunity International to provide financial education products and services to millions of people in countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

SOURCES

EFA Global Monitoring Report 2012, UNICEF—2011, World Bank

For more information visit:

TogetherStronger.com

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