THE WORLD FOR GIRLS

GIRLEFFECT.ORG

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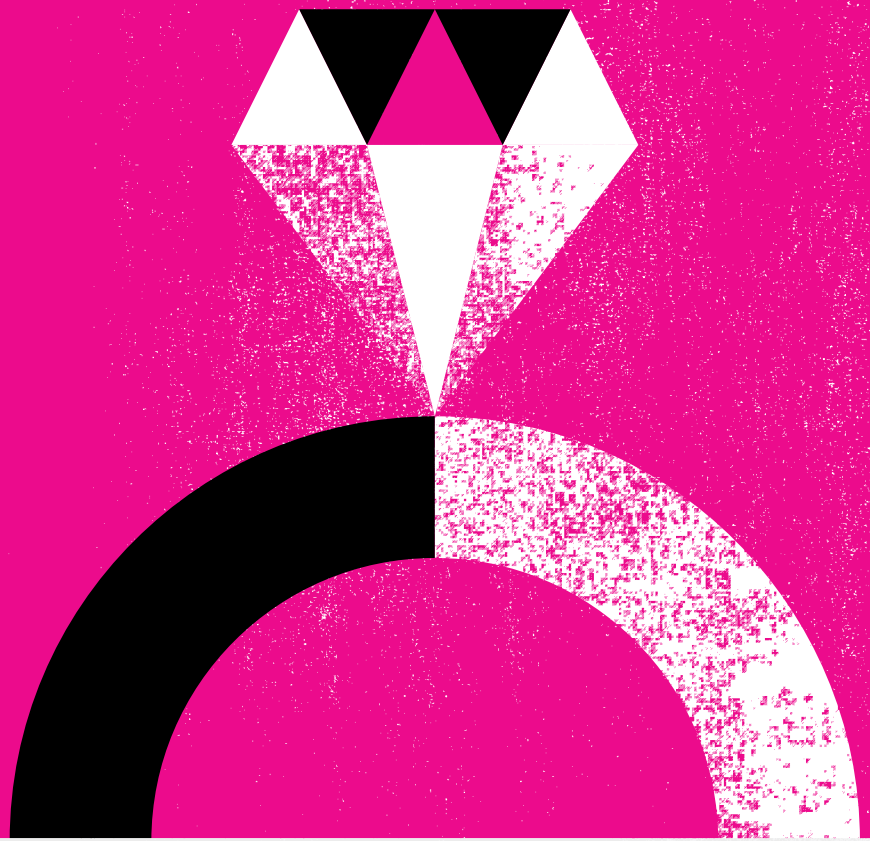
THE GIRL EFFECT

INTRODUCTION

We know girls are the key to changing the world. But sometimes people need convincing. So let's convince them.

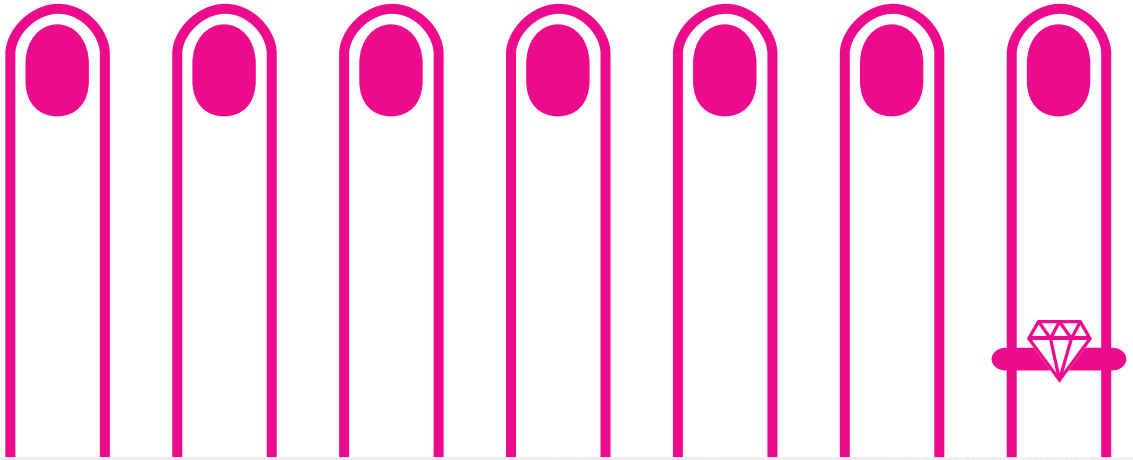
Here are stats and sources you can take away and use in presentations and campaigns to unleash the girl effect and empower girls to change their world.

CHILD MARRIAGE AND EARLY CHILDBIRTH



1

ONE IN SEVEN GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD* WILL BE MARRIED BEFORE THE AGE OF 15



Source 1.1
* Excluding China

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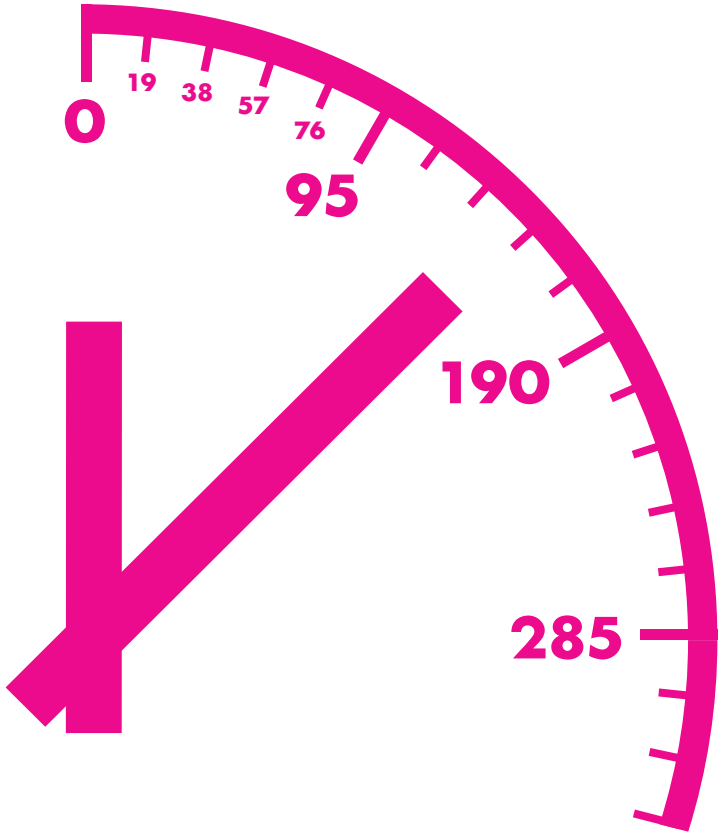
2

APPROXIMATELY 19 TEENAGE GIRLS ARE MARRIED EVERY MINUTE. THAT'S 10 MILLION A YEAR



Source 1.2

THE GIRL EFFECT

3

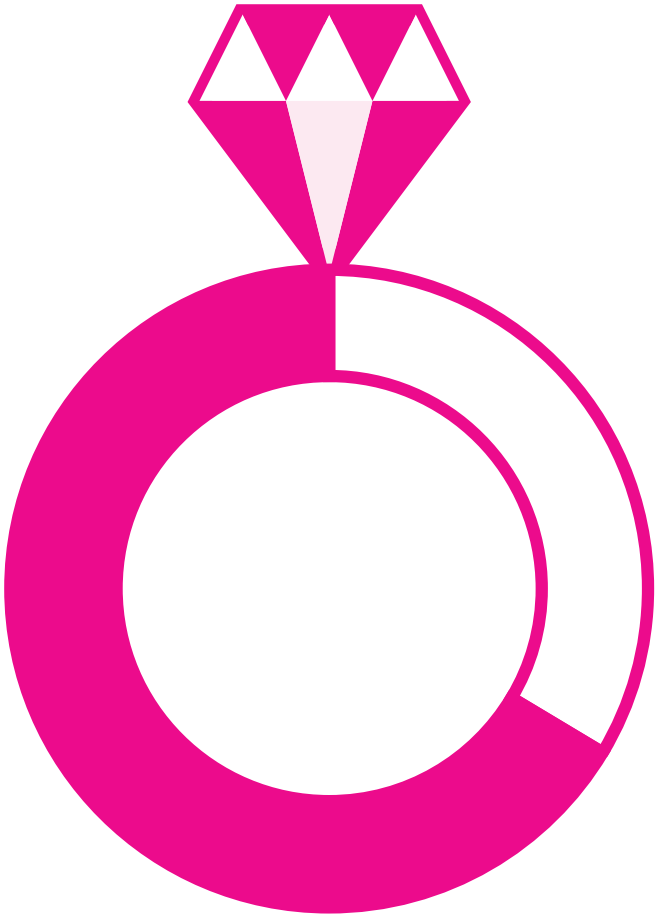
CHILD BRIDES HAVE TWICE THE PREGNANCY DEATH RATE OF WOMEN IN THEIR 20s

Source 1.3

4

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE-THIRD OF GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD WILL BE MARRIED BEFORE THE AGE OF 18

Source 1.4



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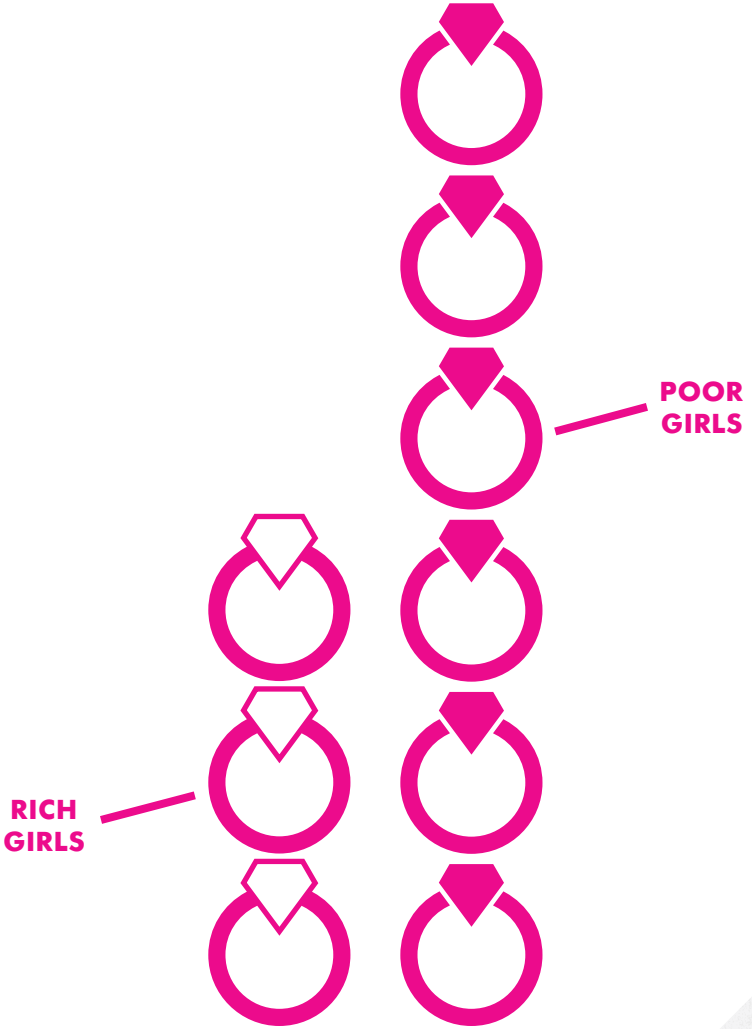
5

GIRLS FROM POOR FAMILIES ARE NEARLY TWICE AS LIKELY TO MARRY BEFORE 18 THAN GIRLS FROM WEALTHIER FAMILIES

Source 1.5



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AGE AT FIRST BIRTH

1

HALF OF ALL FIRST BIRTHS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD ARE TO ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Source 2.1

THE GIRL EFFECT

2

MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS FROM PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG GIRLS AGED 15-19 WORLDWIDE

Source 2.2

3

GIRLS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 14 ARE **FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE IN PREGNANCY OR CHILDBIRTH** THAN WOMEN AGED 20 TO 24

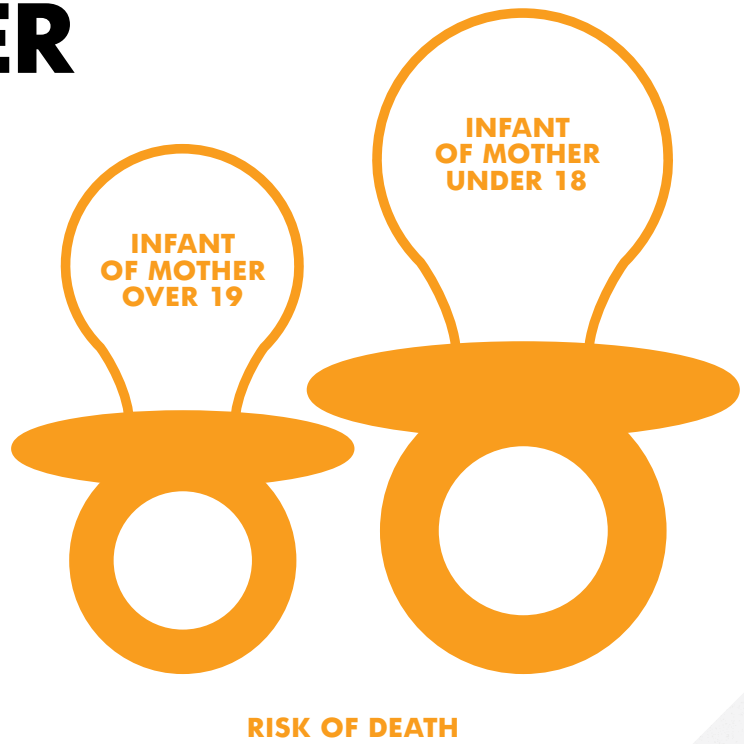
Source 2.3

THE GIRL EFFECT

4

THE INFANT OF A MOTHER UNDER 18 HAS A 60% GREATER RISK OF DYING IN ITS FIRST YEAR THAN THE INFANT OF A MOTHER OVER 19

Source 2.4



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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1

CLOSING THE JOBLESSNESS GAP BETWEEN GIRLS AND THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS WOULD YIELD AN INCREASE IN GDP OF UP TO 1.2% IN A SINGLE YEAR

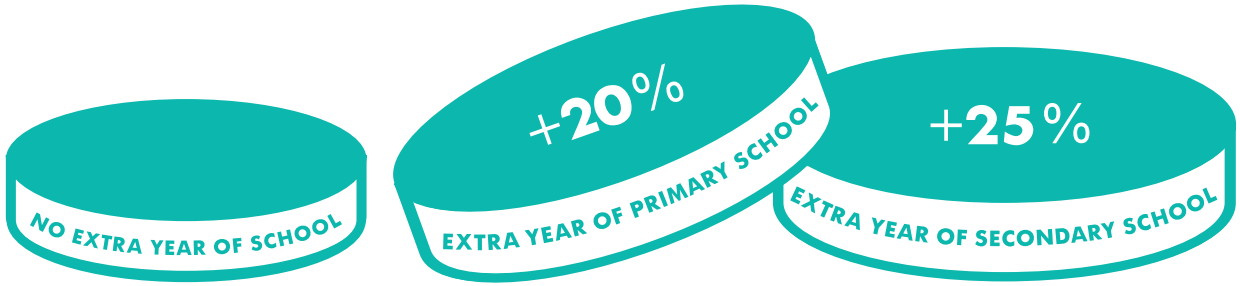
Source 3.1

THE GIRL EFFECT

2

AN EXTRA YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION BOOSTS GIRLS' EVENTUAL WAGES BY 10–20%. AN EXTRA YEAR OF SECONDARY SCHOOL ADDS 15–25%

Source 3.2



THE GIRL EFFECT

3

GIVING WOMEN THE SAME ACCESS TO NON-LAND RESOURCES AND SERVICES AS MEN COULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HUNGRY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD BY 100-150 MILLION

Source 3.3

EDUCATION

THE GIRL EFFECT

1

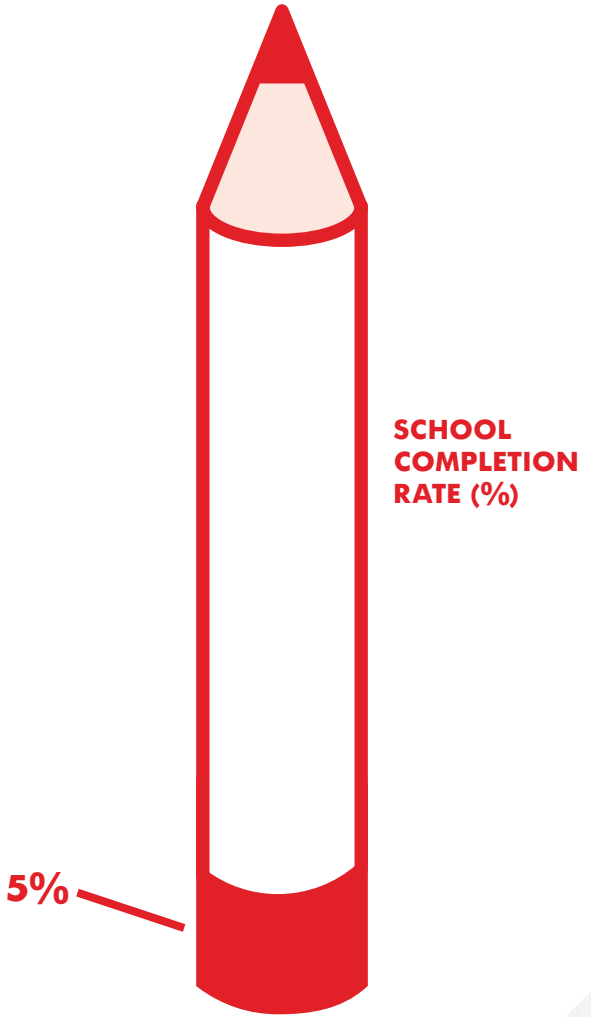
WHEN A GIRL IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD RECEIVES SEVEN YEARS OF EDUCATION, SHE MARRIES FOUR YEARS LATER AND HAS 2.2 FEWER CHILDREN

Source 4.1

2

SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS ARE BELOW 5% IN 19 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Source 4.2



THE GIRL EFFECT

3

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, FEWER THAN ONE IN FIVE GIRLS MAKE IT TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Source 4.3

4

GIRLS WHO STAY IN SCHOOL DURING ADOLESCENCE...

- **HAVE A LATER SEXUAL DEBUT**
- **ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE SUBJECTED TO FORCED SEX**
- **IF SEXUALLY ACTIVE, ARE MORE LIKELY TO USE CONTRACEPTION**

Source 4.4

... THAN THEIR AGE PEERS WHO ARE OUT OF SCHOOL

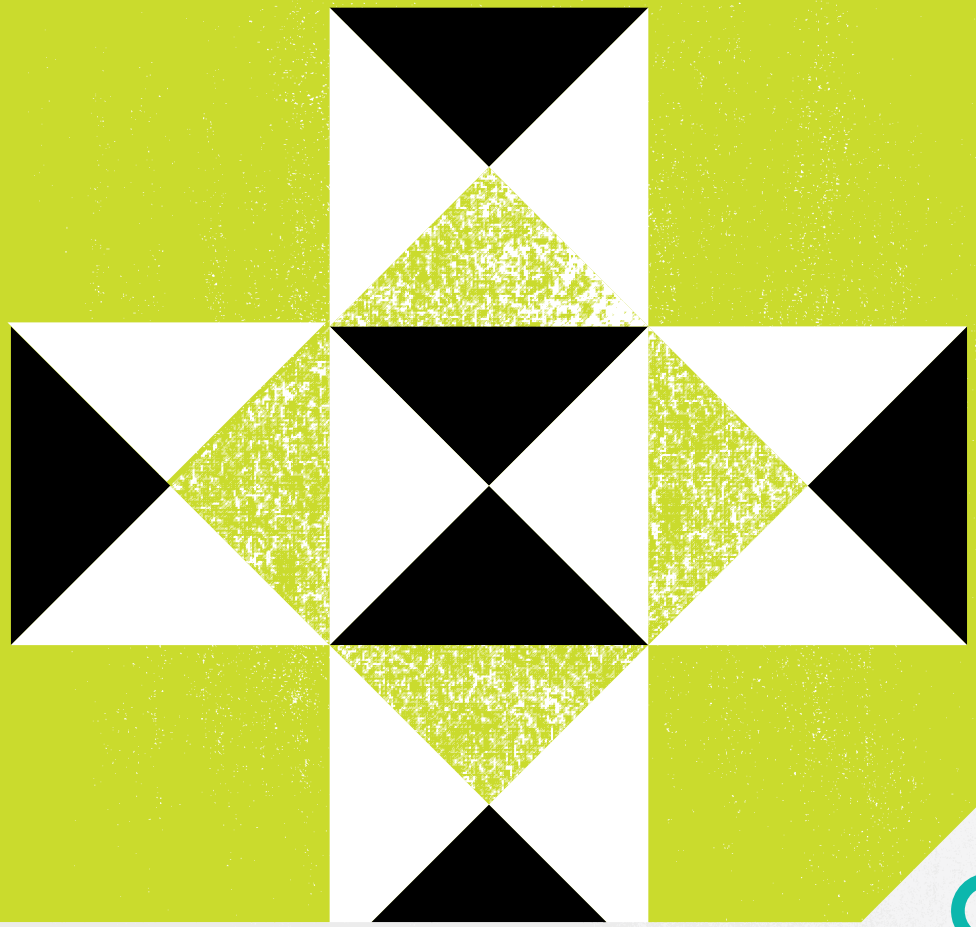
5

ON AVERAGE, REDUCING GIRLS' HOUSEHOLD CHORE BURDEN, FROM 28 HOURS OR MORE A WEEK TO LESS THAN 14 HOURS, INCREASES SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FROM 70% TO 90%

Source 4.5

THE GIRL EFFECT

HEALTH AND SAFETY



1

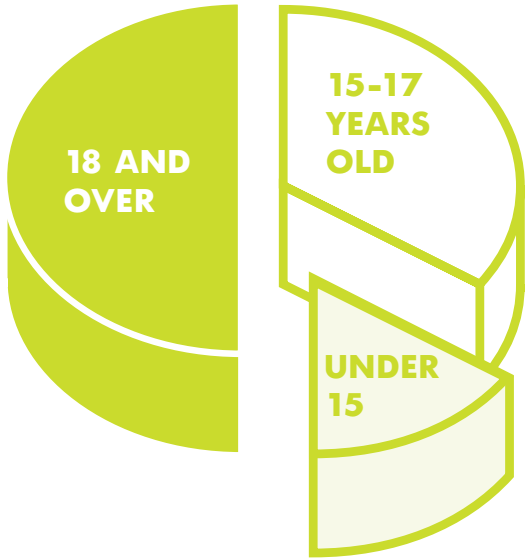
WORLDWIDE, NEARLY 50% OF ALL SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE AGAINST GIRLS AGED 15 YEARS OR YOUNGER

Source 5.1

2

AMONG THOSE WHOSE FIRST EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WAS FORCED, 31% WERE LESS THAN 15 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME. ANOTHER 14% WERE AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 17

Source 5.2



THE GIRL EFFECT

3

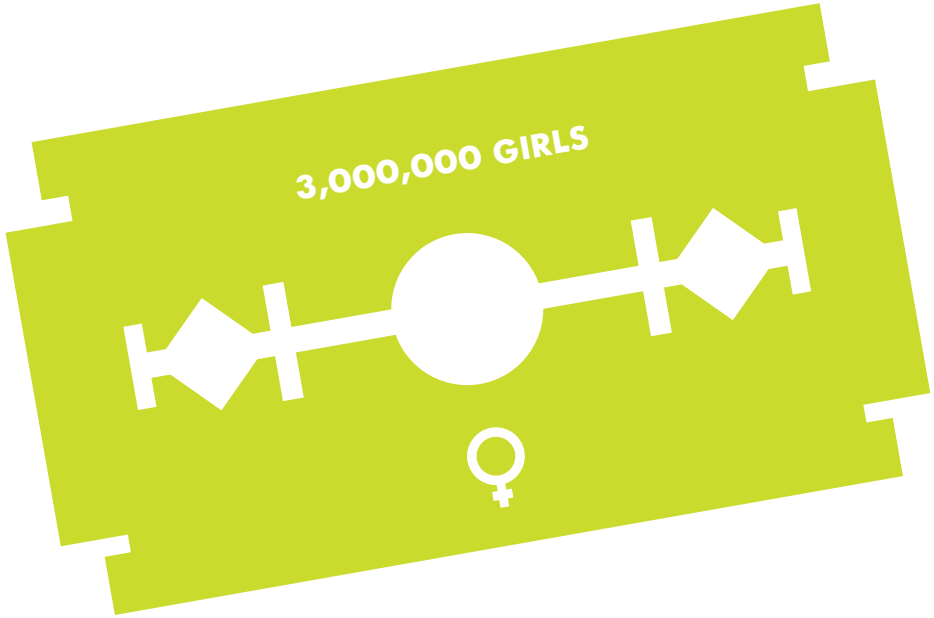
WORLDWIDE, MORE THAN 60% OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV ARE GIRLS, A TOTAL OF 3.2 MILLION

Source 5.3

THE GIRL EFFECT

4

EACH YEAR, AN ESTIMATED THREE MILLION GIRLS EXPERIENCE GENITAL MUTILATION OR CUTTING



Source 5.4

THE GIRL EFFECT

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CHILD MARRIAGE

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- **1.3** Bruce, Judith. Reaching The Girls Left Behind: Targeting Adolescent Programming for Equity, Social Inclusion, Health, and Poverty Alleviation. Prepared for: 'Financing Gender Equality; a Commonwealth Perspective,' Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting, Uganda, June 2007, http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/Bruce2007CommonwealthFullText.pdf
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THE GIRL EFFECT

ADOLESCENT GIRLS HAVE THE POWER TO END WORLD POVERTY. WE CALL IT THE GIRL EFFECT.

GET INSPIRATION AND TOOLS TO UNLEASH THE GIRL EFFECT AT GIRLEFFECT.ORG