Millions of children are destined to go through life unable to read or write. Every year, the number of adults who can't read or write declines. Thanks to greater access to education, young adults are much more likely to be literate than their parents. But millions of children are still out of school, and millions more leave primary school without basic literacy skills. In short, these children of the 21st century, most of whom are girls, are destined to live on the social and economic margins of our world. We need to keep our promise: Education for All.

International Literacy Day 2013

Let’s break it down

There are 774 million illiterate adults (>15 years old) and 123 million youth (15-24 years old)

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

PuZZLING: The number of youth who can’t read or write is getting smaller, but the proportion of young illiterate women isn’t.

They struggle to read a prescription, fill out a form or send a text message.

57 million

54 million of the 76 million illiterate young women live in only 9 countries.

Some parts of the world have seen a steady rise in literacy rates. Others have static rates or negligible rise. Efforts to reduce the rates of illiteracy are still underway.

If nothing changes, some countries will continue to suffer from high rates of illiteracy. This fact will hamper development efforts for decades to come.

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WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THEM?

Globally 250 million children of primary school age, whether they are in school or not, lack basic reading and writing skills.

How can we change their destiny?

Let’s keep our promise