



The Incheon Declaration sets a new vision of education for the 21st century. Education must be about literacy and numeracy, knowledge and skills, for today and tomorrow. It must also be about learning to live in a world under pressure. It must be about cultural literacy, on the basis of respect and equal dignity. It must be about laying the foundations for a culture of peace. It must be about connecting the dots between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

LITERACY IN THE WORLD

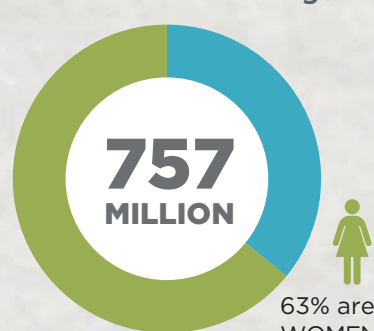
GLOBAL ILLITERATE POPULATION

757,000,000



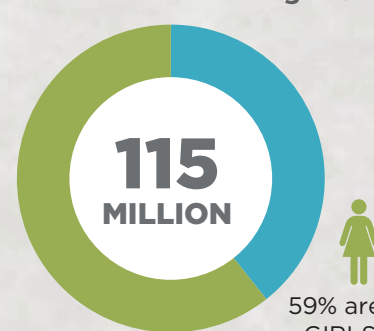
ADULT ILLITERATE POPULATION

Age > 15



YOUTH ILLITERATE POPULATION

Age 15-24



IMPORTANT REDUCTION IN THE ADULT ILLITERATE POPULATION



IN INDIA, IT IS ESTIMATED TO BE 22.6 MILLION LOWER THAN THE PREVIOUS SURVEY DATA FROM 2006



IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, IT IS 3.0 MILLION BELOW THE PREVIOUS ESTIMATE DATA



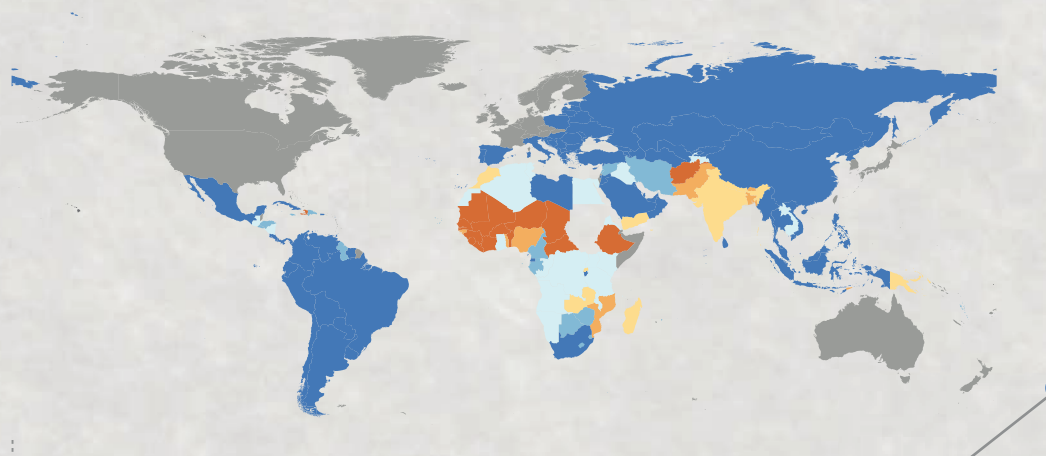
IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, IT IS NOW ESTIMATED TO BE 2.4 MILLION LOWER THAN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY



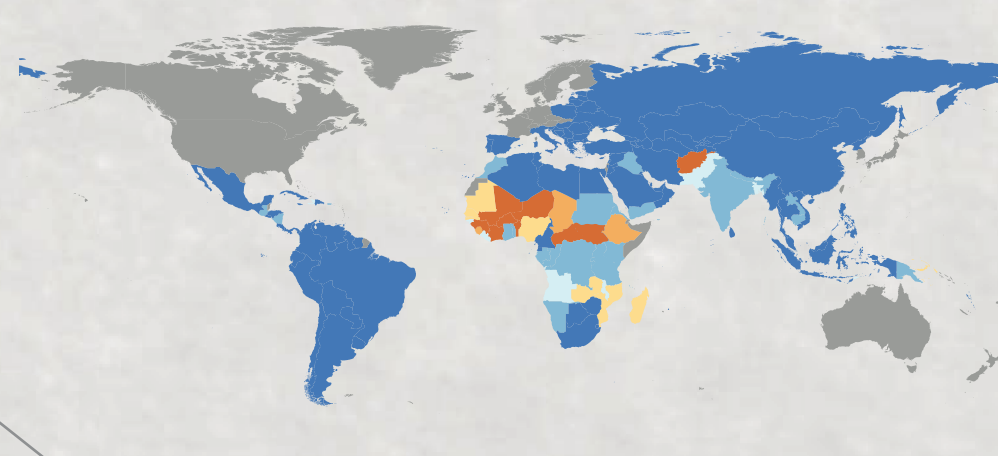
NOT BEING ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE INSTRUCTIONS ON A MEDICINE BOTTLE IS A SCARY THOUGHT. 1 IN 5 ADOLESCENTS AND 1 IN 5 ADULTS IN EUROPE LACK THE LITERACY SKILLS TO DO SO.

ADULT LITERACY RATE

LESS THAN 50% 50% TO 59% 60% TO 69% 70% TO 79% 80% TO 89% 90% TO 100% NO DATA



YOUTH LITERACY RATE



It is estimated that as many as 250 million children of primary school age worldwide (over half of which are still enrolled in school) are unable to master basic reading, writing and numeracy skills. Such poorly literate children, who rarely gain access to meaningful literacy opportunities later in life, become part of the global pool of low literates.

LITERACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

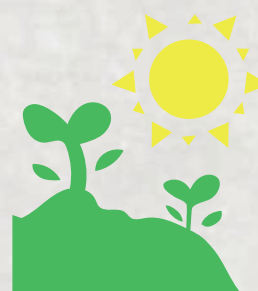
PEACE



“The surest way towards **FREEDOM** is **EDUCATION**”

FORMER PRISONER AND LEARNER FROM THE UNESCO INTERNATIONAL LITERACY PRIZE WINNING PROGRAMME (2015) 'LITERACY FOR PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY'

ENVIRONMENT



RURAL FARMERS' INABILITY TO PROCESS AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION LEADS TO INAPPROPRIATE USE OF PESTICIDES, WHICH CAN HARM THEM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH



Dangerous health practices constitute one of the high-risk behaviours most closely associated with illiteracy. Such behaviours directly affect mortality, disease and accident rates among illiterates, as well as their fecundity, in the case of women. They also indirectly affect their children, increasing their vulnerability.

GENDER



A LITERATE MOTHER IS, ON AVERAGE, **23%** MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A SKILLED ATTENDANT AT BIRTH.

ECONOMY



171 MILLION PEOPLE WOULD BE OUT OF POVERTY IF ALL STUDENTS IN LOW INCOME COUNTRIES LEFT SCHOOL WITH BASIC READING SKILLS

SOURCES

Address by the UNESCO Director-General on the occasion of the Information Meeting Post-World Education Forum (2015)

UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Data for 2015

UNESCO EFA GMR, Sustainable development post-2015 begins with education, 2014

UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Teaching and learning: Achieving quality for all, 2013/4

Literacy in the 21st century: Towards a dynamic nexus of social relations (A. Benavot, UNESCO, 2010)

Literacy and Sustainable Societies: Winners of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2015

The social and economic impact of illiteracy: Analytical model and pilot study. ECLAC and OREALC/UNESCO Santiago (2010)

European Literacy Policy Network (ELINET): Final Report of EU High Level Group of Experts on Literacy (2012)

Adverse health effects of pesticides in agrarian populations of developing countries (Kesavachandran, Fareed, Pathak, Bihari, Mathur, & Srivastava (2009))

