

LITERACY

PEACE
DEVELOPMENT
POVERTY ERADICATION
GENDER EQUALITY
HEALTH
EMPOWERMENT

LITERACY IS A HUMAN RIGHT, A TOOL FOR PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT AND A MEANS FOR SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES DEPEND ON LITERACY.



LITERACY IS AT THE HEART OF BASIC EDUCATION FOR ALL AND ESSENTIAL FOR POVERTY ERADICATION, GENDER EQUALITY, MATERNAL HEALTH, CHILD MORTALITY REDUCTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY.

LITERACY IN THE WORLD

GLOBAL ILLITERATE POPULATION

775,000,000



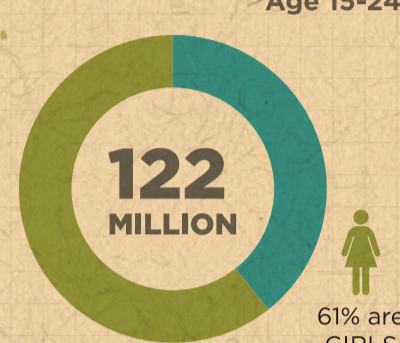
ADULT ILLITERATE POPULATION

Age > 15



YOUTH ILLITERATE POPULATION

Age 15-24



COUNTRY WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ILLITERATE ADULTS



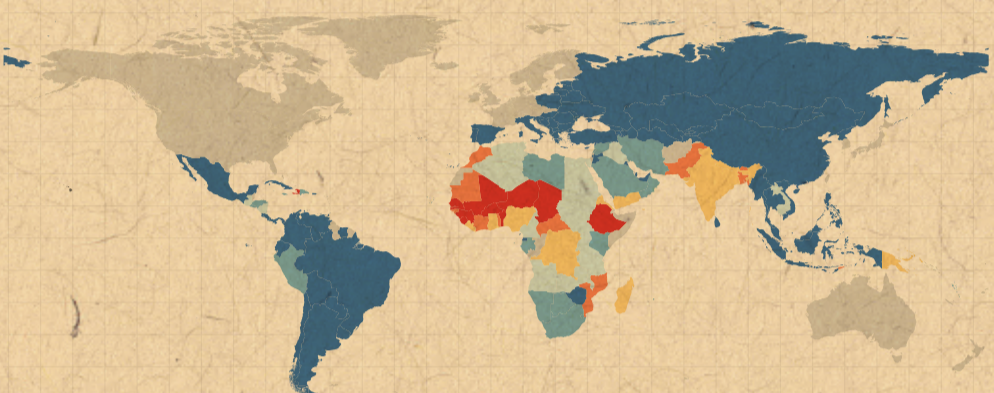
THAT'S OVER 4 TIMES THE POPULATION OF FRANCE



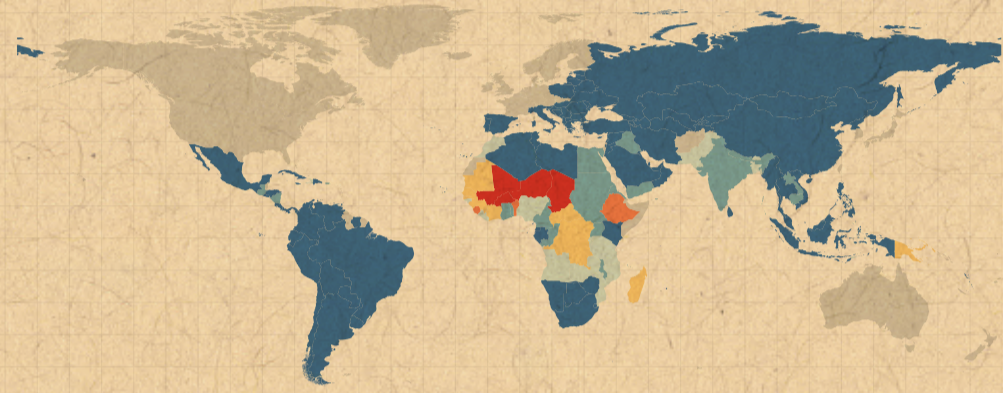
"Literacy is a development accelerator and a force for peace" Irina Bokova



ADULT LITERACY RATE



YOUTH LITERACY RATE



GENDER AND HEALTH

915 deaths per 100,000 live births

High maternal mortality ratios in countries that record high levels of gender inequality

61 MILLION

children of primary school age are not enrolled in school

1/2 of them are girls

THESE CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO BECOME THE NEXT GENERATION OF ILLITERATES

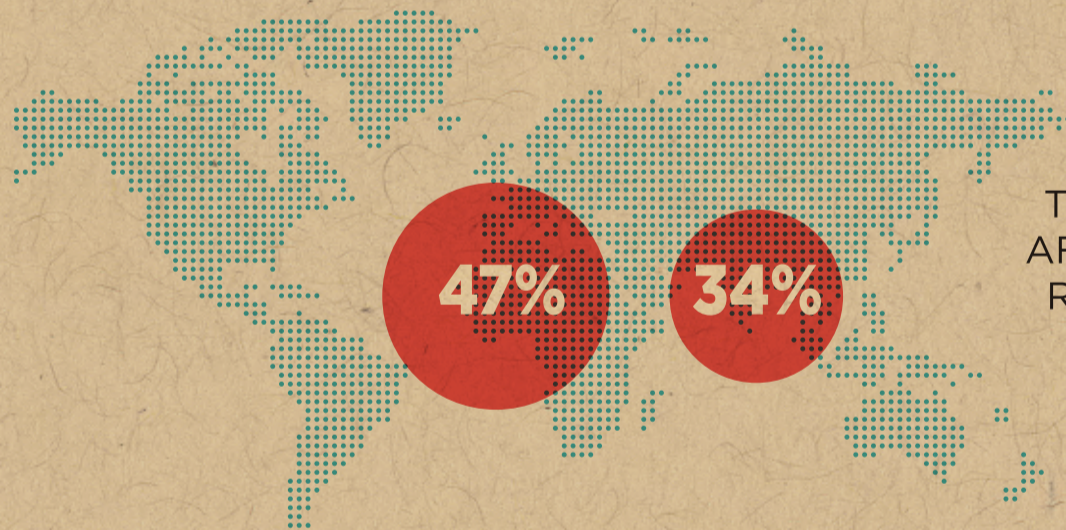
"Every literate woman is a victory over poverty" Ban Ki-moon

LITERATE/EDUCATED MOTHERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE INFORMED OF THE RISK OF HIV TRANSMISSION DURING PREGNANCY, LABOUR, DELIVERY AND BREASTFEEDING AS WELL AS PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

POVERTY

Number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day

1,400,000,000



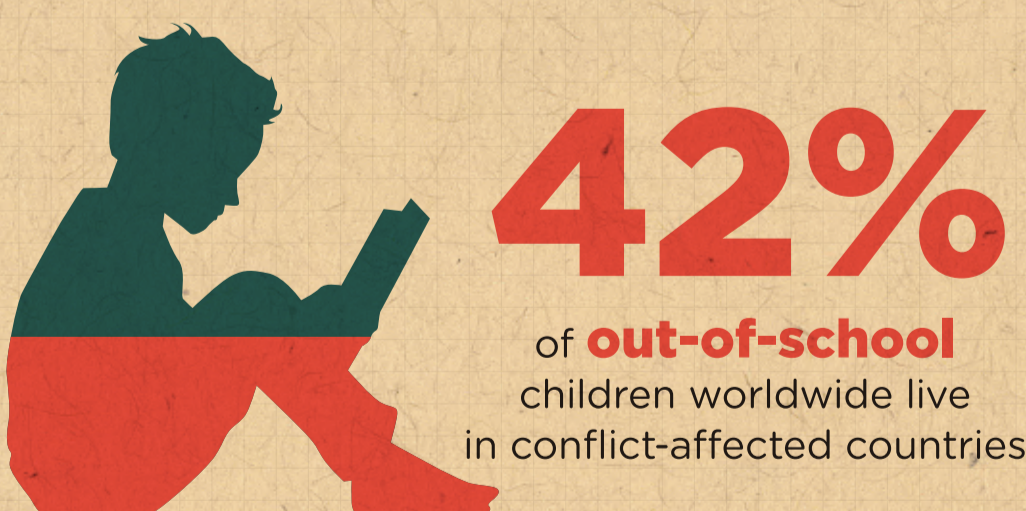
THE MAJORITY LIVES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND SOUTHERN ASIA - THE TWO REGIONS WITH THE LOWEST LITERACY RATES GLOBALLY

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope" Kofi Annan

PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

POORLY-LITERATE INDIVIDUALS ARE LESS LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND HAVE FEWER CHANCES TO FULLY EXERCISE THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS.

LIVING IN A CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREA INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF NOT BECOMING LITERATE OR OF NOT GAINING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



CUTTING MILITARY SPENDING BY 10% COULD PUT 9.5 MILLION CHILDREN INTO SCHOOL

LITERACY HAS TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL. IT EXPANDS INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AND PEOPLE'S CHOICES; ENGAGES PEOPLE IN MEANINGFUL SOCIAL PARTICIPATION PROCESSES AND HELPS INDIVIDUALS RESIST ABUSE AND MANIPULATION.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" Nelson Mandela

SOURCES

Message from Director-General of UNESCO, on International Literacy Day 2011
Human Development Report 2010, The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Development
UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Data for 2010
UN Secretary-General's message on International Literacy Day 2010
The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012
*UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2011, The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education, Data for 2009