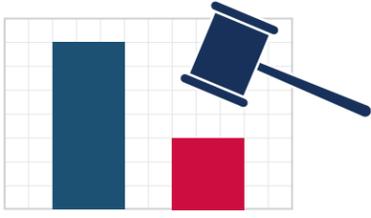


EXTREME POVERTY AND WOMEN

Worldwide, there are about a billion people living in extreme poverty. They do not earn enough to feed, clothe, and shelter their families each day. They are forced to make impossible choices between necessities like medicine and school fees and are often marginalized or excluded from society. Because women and girls face distinct challenges that increase their vulnerability to extreme poverty, addressing gender inequalities is vital to ending poverty.

THE PROBLEM



In almost **90%** of 143 countries studied, at least one law impedes women's economic opportunities. 28 countries have ten or more legal differences.¹



The **vast majority** of women workers in developing countries are employed in informal work and are overrepresented in the least-secure and lowest paying jobs.²

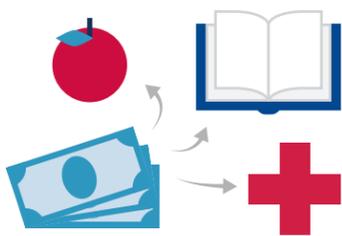


Around the world, **62 million girls** are out of school, compared to 53 million boys, inhibiting their ability to find good employment opportunities.³

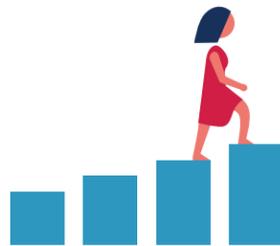


Many developing countries **limit women's access to land** and other types of property by law or cultural practice, restricting their ability to move out of poverty.⁴

THE POSSIBILITIES



Women are **more likely to reinvest** their earnings back into their families to improve education, nutrition, and health, helping to break the cycle of poverty.⁵



For each additional year of schooling, a woman's globally averaged labor earnings increase by **nearly 12%**.⁶



If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase their farm yields by **20-30%**, feeding an additional 150 million people.⁷



When more women work, **economies grow**. An increase in women's share of labor force participation results in faster economic growth.⁸

PROGRAM EXAMPLES



In Tanzania, USAID is training women and men to use mobile technology to document their land rights, increasing the number of parcels in the village registered to women or registered jointly.



In Kenya, USAID supported policy and legal reforms that strengthened women's land rights and promoted awareness of these new rights.



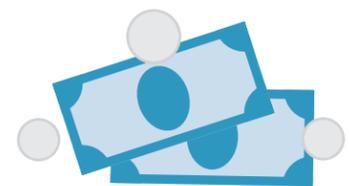
In India, the Women's Leadership in Small and Medium Enterprises project combines training, networking, technical assistance, and funding to reach primarily poor women in the informal cashew sector.



In Afghanistan, the Promote program will support educated women to secure employment in the formal economy and will work to increase the scale and scope of women-owned businesses.



In Liberia, the Girls Opportunities to Access Learning Plus program provides scholarship packages for girls' uniforms and supplies, improving attendance and retention of girls who couldn't otherwise afford schooling.



In East Africa, the SPRING Initiative economically empowers adolescent girls by connecting them with entrepreneurs designing products and services that can enable them to safely learn, earn and save.

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