

# More boys are currently out of school than girls



## Boys and education



In **130/140 countries** boys are more likely than girls to repeat primary grades

In **over 1/2 countries** boys are less likely than girls to complete upper secondary grades

In **57 countries** with data boys fare worse than girls in mastering reading skills

**88 men** for **100 women** are enrolled at university globally

## Key drivers



Poverty



Gender Norms



Harsh Discipline



Bullying

## This matters because

- 1 Few programmes and policies address boys' disengagement
- 2 Men's job prospects, salaries and mental health are affected
- 3 Educated men are more likely to support gender equality

Supporting boys' education is **not a zero-sum game**.  
It benefits girls and boys, and society at large.

## UNESCO recommends to

- 1 Offer flexible learning **programmes**
- 2 Provide inclusive teaching and learning **materials**
- 3 Reinforce labour **laws** and abolish repetition **policies**
- 4 Address harmful gender **norms**
- 5 Invest in sex-disaggregated data to inform **action**

