More boys are currently out of school than girls.

132 million BOYS & 127 million GIRLS are out of school globally.

**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.

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