

**If we invest in girls now, they won't need us to empower them when they grow up**

By the time they reach secondary school, enrolment for girls falls to just 33 percent, and the gap widens even further in higher education. When we cap a girl's potential with outdated expectations or fail to provide the support she needs to stay in school, we aren't just failing her, we are draining our future economy.

The fix isn't going to come from high-level summits alone. It comes from meeting girls ex-

But this isn't just a job for one company or one NGO. It's on all of us. Governments need to fix the legal loopholes that leave girls vulnerable. Educators need

Let's move past the speeches and get practical. Every strong woman we admire today is simply a girl who was once given a book, a mentor, or a fair shot, and had a young boy standing next to her, cheering her on. If we invest in girls now, they won't need us to empower them when they grow up, they will already be unstoppable.

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for the girl child.

