

# GIRL GOALS: What has changed for girls?

## Adolescent girls' rights over 30 years

@30 YEARS AGO

@TODAY

Number of adolescent girls aged 10–19

539 million

(1995)

641 million

(2023)

Average life span for a 15-year-old girl

74.6 years

(1995)

79.1 years

(2023)

Adolescent girls and young women out of school, upper secondary

49%

(2000)

30%

(2023)

Girls and young women not in education, employment or training (aged 15–24)

33%

(2005)

28%

(2023)

Child marriage (women aged 20–24 married or in union before age 18)

25%

(1998)

19%

(2023)

HPV vaccine coverage, at least 1 dose (girls turning age 15)

3%

(2010)

20%

(2023)

Number of annual new HIV infections (girls aged 15–19)

300,000

(1995)

96,000

(2023)

Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 girls aged 15–19)

73

(1995)

38

(2025)

Underweight (girls aged 10–19)

10%

(1995)

8%

(2022)

Lack of access to basic sanitation services (girls aged 10–19)

45%

(2000)

19%

(2022)

Data sources and definitions available in United Nations Children's Fund, UN Women and Plan International, *Girl Goals: What has changed for girls? Adolescent girls' rights over 30 years*, New York, 2025

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# GIRL GOALS

“

Every girl has the power to create change and shape a better world. But we can't do it alone—we need a society that believes in us, empowers us, and values us for who we are. It's time to break barriers, challenge social norms, and build a world where respect, equality, and opportunity belong to everyone.”

—Menghorn, 18, Cambodia\*

“

Every girl deserves the chance to learn, grow, and build her future. But too many are forced to leave school because of poverty or discrimination. Education is not a privilege—it's a right. Governments must act now to ensure no girl is left behind.”

—Bianca, 18, Romania\*



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\*(not pictured)