



## TARGET 1: TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO READ

Reach the target of **10.2 million** more children in school and able to read by **2030**. This entails cutting learning poverty through immediate and concerted action to improve early childhood development programs, expand access to better-equipped primary schools, and improve the effectiveness of early-grade teaching.



## TARGET 2: INCREASE GIRLS' EDUCATION

Enroll **2 million** more girls in secondary school by **2030**. This involves enroll 2.1 million more girls in secondary school by 2030. This involves providing scholarships for girls and using public-private partnerships to expand supply of schooling, and using innovations like adaptive learning software to improve quality and keep girls in school.



## TARGET 3: IMPROVE SKILLS AND LITERACY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Ensure that **13.4 million** more young adults, including **6.5 million** women and girls, become literate and better equipped with foundational skills by 2030.

Achieving these ambitious goals requires good policies and programs that are tailored to the challenging conditions in the Sahel. It also requires sustained political commitment—both at the top and throughout the government—together with better monitoring and evaluation and deeper involvement from local communities.

Education is the only real path forward for the Sahel region. Countries should choose their own strategies for achieving these goals.

Together, we can take bold actions to claim the future that all Sahelian children and youth deserve.

# EDUCATION IN THE SAHEL: THE WEALTH OF TODAY AND TOMORROW



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## GOOD EDUCATION FOR ALL

**Good education for all** is the key to a better long-term future for the Sahel region. Education improves employability and incomes, narrows gender gaps, lifts families out of poverty, strengthens institutions, and yields benefits that echo to the next generation.

**Millions more children in school, yet access to quality education remains a challenge.**

The good news is that the region has taken the important first steps toward building this future. Over the past 15 years, many more children have been able to access education: **enrollment in the region has nearly doubled in primary education and tripled in secondary education.** Governments have launched numerous initiatives and announced high-level commitments in support of education.

Still, many children remain out of school, and those who are in school learn far less than they should. **Only 12 percent of the children are enrolled in**



school and can read and comprehend an age-appropriate passage by the end of primary school. In every Sahel country, fewer than 50 percent of adult females are literate, compared with 59 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole.

Many factors have kept education from fulfilling its potential—not just poor conditions in schools and classrooms, but also weaknesses in system management, lack of focus on student learning, and very limited education budgets. Only about **3 percent of GDP** in the region is spent on education, which is below the **4 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa.** Beyond the education system, education is held back by many societal constraints—like widespread extreme poverty, rapid population growth, obstructive social norms, devastating climate change, and high levels of conflict and violence.

## WHAT WOULD BE THE GAME CHANGERS?

Yet, there are many reasons for hope. Communities are playing a key role in creating and improving schools. Similarly, public-private partnerships can extend the reach of the state, in a region where religious and secular private providers already educate many children.

Building on past gains and current strengths, the Sahel Education White Paper identifies real game-changers for countries to achieve three critical targets:



## STRATEGIC APPROACH TO EDUCATION IN THE SAHEL

**TODAY** **2025** **2030**

Game-changers for quick progress and building momentum

Support a **resilient recovery** by advancing on critical education goals by **2025**

Medium-term policies and investments for sustainability

Invest in **system strengthening** for continued progress for **2030 and beyond**

**Basis for interventions:**

- **Scale** what works, focus on highest **priorities for equitable growth**
- Informed by **global evidence, regional experiences,** and most promising old and new **technology**