



Women and girls can change the world

As powerful agents of change, women and girls have the ability to transform their households, their societies and their economies. Increasing gender equality can:

► **deliver strong economic growth**

Women already generate nearly 40 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and the potential for further growth led by women is relatively untapped. According to a 2015 global study, achieving gender equality around the world could increase global gross domestic product by \$12 trillion in a single decade.²

► **help cut down on extreme poverty**

Ensuring that all students—especially girls—leave school with basic literacy skills could cut worldwide levels of extreme poverty by 12 percent.³

► **reduce chronic hunger**

Providing female farmers with equal access to resources could reduce the number of people living with chronic hunger by as much as 17 percent, providing help and hope to as many as 150 million people around the world.⁴

► **lead to longer-lasting peace**

It is estimated that in communities emerging from violent conflict, women's participation

in peacebuilding increases by 35 percent the probability that a peace agreement will last for at least 15 years.⁵

► **benefit entire families**

Evidence shows that women tend to spend more of their incomes in ways that directly benefit their children, improving nutrition, health and educational opportunities for the next generation.⁶

► **and empower all those who face discrimination.**

Women and girls are not the only groups that face discrimination and inequality. Others face social and/or economic marginalization, including on the basis of their sex, race, ethnicity, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, or migrant or refugee status. By empowering women and girls as a means to achieve gender equality, we send the clear message that equality is for everyone.