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Data Brief—Holistic Approach to Adolescent Girls' Health

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Girls Deliver

PRE-CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS
KIGALI, RWANDA • 16 JULY 2023

ROUNDTABLE SESSION DATA BRIEF

HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ADOLESCENT GIRLS' HEALTH

The adolescent population is growing and so is their potential.



60% of Africa's population is <25; Africa's youth population is expected to increase by more than by **200%** 2055^{1,2}

The World Bank estimates that limited **educational opportunities** combined with **barriers to school completion for girls** cost countries between **US\$15 trillion** and **US\$30 trillion** in **lost lifetime productivity and earnings**.³

Adolescent Girls (AG) experience greater obstacles across the ten dimensions of Women's Health and Wellbeing, which accumulate throughout the life course.

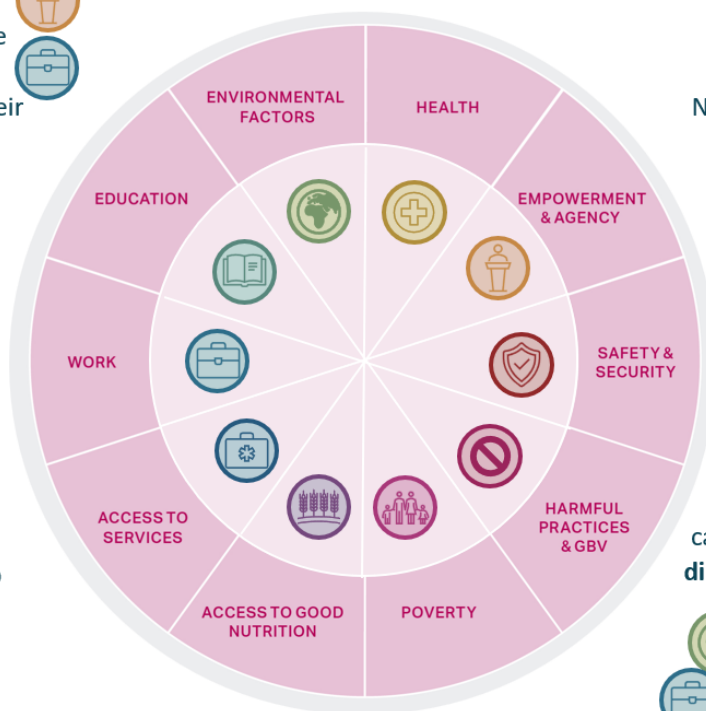
90% of young women do not use the internet in low-income countries; male adolescents are twice as likely to be online. This **limits girls' agency** and their opportunities to develop critical skills⁴



In 2018, about 16% of women ages 15 to 24 were subject to intimate partner violence, the highest rate among women who have been in a relationship across age groups.⁵



Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death for ages 15-19 worldwide. Adolescent pregnancy also forces young women to leave school, decreasing their lifetime earning potential.⁶



In almost all regions of the world, **youth unemployment is higher for young women** than young men; in Northern Africa and the Arab States, it is twice as high. Young women are also more likely to engage in **poorly regulated "invisible" domestic work**, which leaves them vulnerable to exploitation.⁷



"The pressure put on families when water and food become scarce can bear down on pre-existing gender discrimination... Insecurity and conflict make earning a living even more difficult. **Girls are at risk from violence** both inside and outside the home."⁸



Framework: Exemplars in Global Health, "Women's health and wellbeing Draft conceptual framework" 2023.

The challenges to the health and well-being of adolescent girls are interconnected, but so are the benefits!

“Girls multiply benefits for their communities:
 Strategic investment in adolescent girls’ education, health, safety,
 and economic opportunities can help end intergenerational poverty;
 positively affect the most marginalized and underserved communities;
 and boost the economies of entire countries.”⁹

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This data brief was created by the Population Council’s GIRL Center in collaboration with Exemplars in Global Health to inform the thematic roundtable discussion on a Holistic Approach to Adolescent Girls Health at the Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls held in Kigali, Rwanda ahead of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference.

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