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HerAtlas

Interactive advocacy tool on
girls' and women's right to education



Getty/ARBFried

Education
2030 

Introduction

Many girls and women cannot exercise their right to education due to gender inequality and discriminatory practices. Poverty, early marriage, and gender-based violence are just some of the many reasons behind the high percentage of global female illiteracy and school drop-outs.

Strengthening the right of girls and women to quality education is key to eliminate discrimination and to achieve equal rights between genders. This cannot be achieved without solid national legal frameworks that are rights-based, gender responsive and inclusive. This is where HerAtlas comes in.

HerAtlas, is a first of its kind online tool that maps the right to education of girls and women. It aims to enhance public knowledge and monitor the status of national constitutions, legislation and regulations related to education rights for girls and women to encourage countries to take action, strengthen their laws and policies, and lead to long term change.

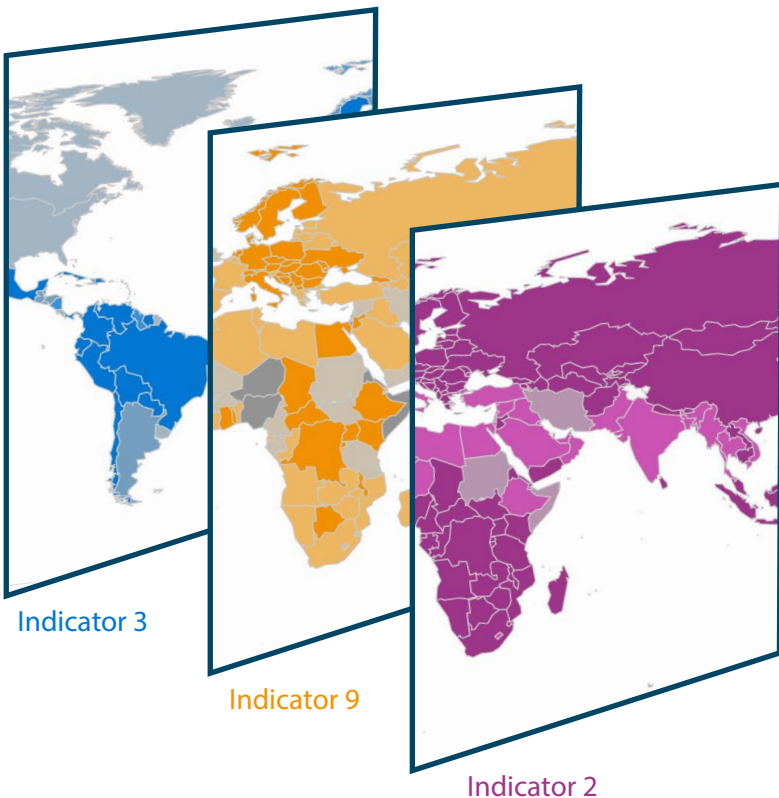
Concrete changes are already apparent. In 2019, 4% of countries were explicitly restricting the right to education of married, pregnant, and parenting girls. This has dropped to 2% in 2022, benefiting millions of girls who can now legally attend school when they marry or become pregnant.



Maps and country profiles

HerAtlas covers 196 countries which are updated regularly. With a colour-coded scoring system that tracks legal indicators such as constitutions and legislation, the maps make it possible to visually monitor the legal progress toward securing the right to education for girls and women in all countries. The ambition is to enrich and continue to update the Atlas until 2030 – the deadline set to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4.

HerAtlas provides information for each country in a visual and easily understood format. For each indicator, a comment explains the analysis of the legislation which is quoted.

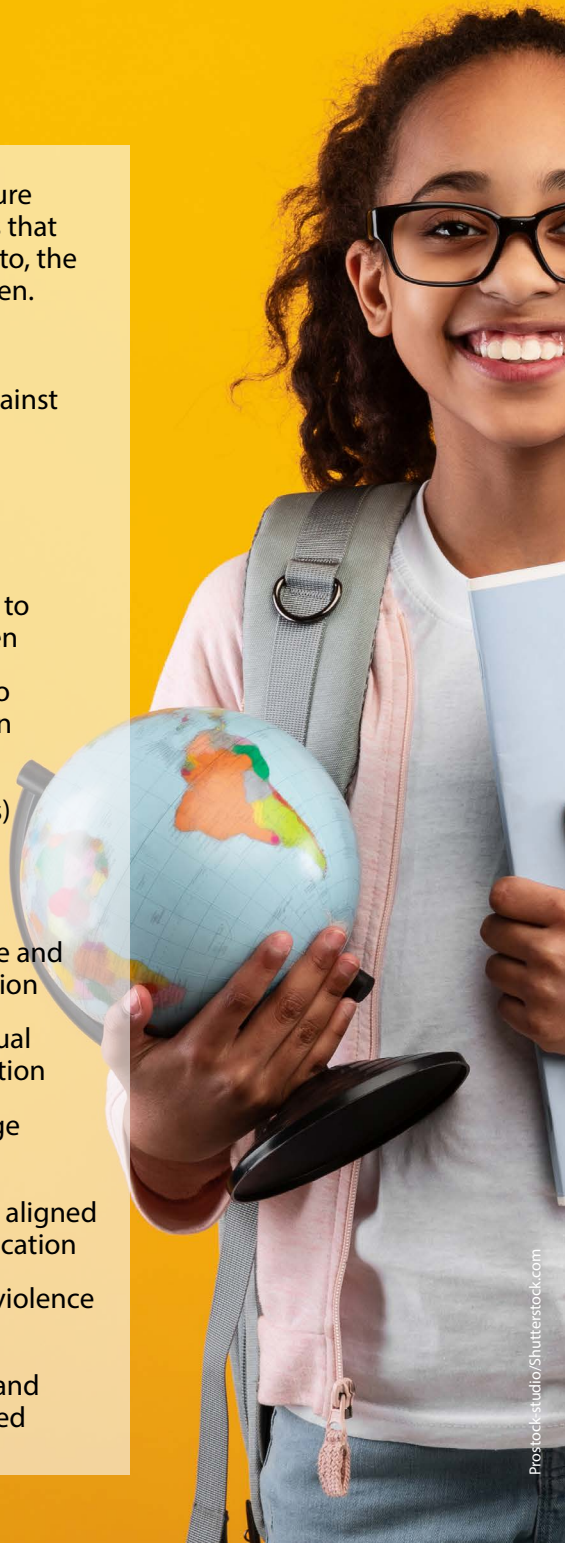


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Indicators

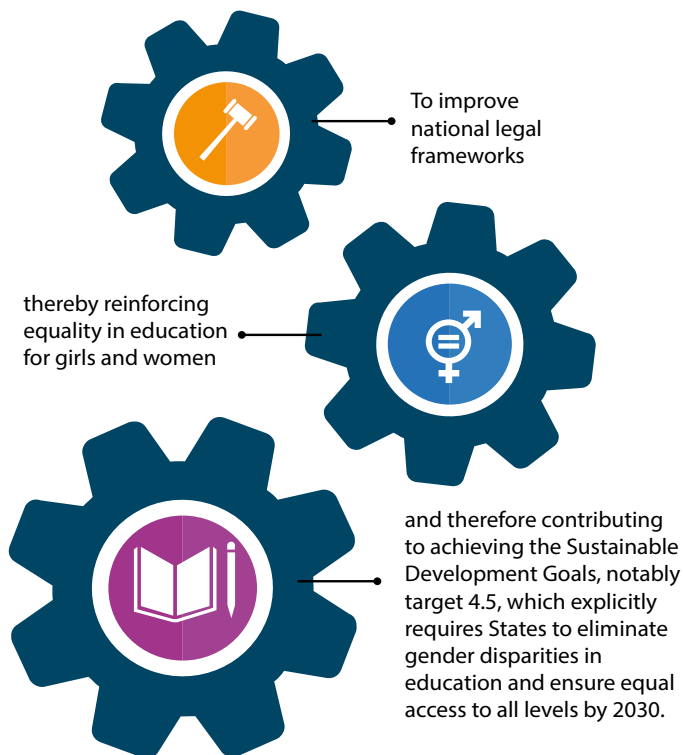
Her Atlas uses 12 indicators to capture factors in national legal frameworks that either strengthen, or act as barriers to, the right to education of girls and women.

01. Party to UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education
02. Party to UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
03. Constitution enshrines the right to education for all girls and women
04. Legislation enshrines the right to education for all girls and women
05. Legal framework guarantees compulsory education (9+ years)
06. Legal framework guarantees free education (12+ years)
07. Legal framework guarantees free and compulsory pre-primary education
08. Legal framework guarantees equal access to post-secondary education
09. Legislation sets the minimum age of marriage for girls at 18 years
10. Minimum age of employment is aligned with the end of compulsory education
11. Legal framework protects from violence within educational institutions
12. Right to education of pregnant and parenting girls is legally protected



Aim

HerAtlas was developed as part of Her education, our future Initiative and contributes to the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy on Gender Equality in and through Education. This tool can also support countries to build back equal, a focus of efforts by the Global Education Coalition. As highlighted during the Transforming Education Summit **“the pursuit of gender equality and the rights of women and girls remains a crucial goal of the international community and education is also critical to this endeavor”**.



Based on the tremendous amount of legislation analyzed on HerAtlas, knowledge pieces are published, such as the first status report on girls' and women's right to education: "Protect her rights, strengthen your laws". This report intends to highlight some key trends outlined by the monitoring work, and to emphasize examples of legal provisions guaranteed by States' domestic legislation and regulation. Stay tuned, while more resources are released.

UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners. UNESCO also leads efforts to respond to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to *“ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”* The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



ED/PLS/EDP/2019/05 REV

#HerEducationOurFuture

HerAtlas

Girls' and women's
right to education atlas
Section of Education Policy



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