

A photograph of a young woman with dark hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a vibrant pink sari with a subtle pattern. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with wooden elements.

# START WITH A GIRL A NEW AGENDA FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

A GIRLS COUNT REPORT ON  
ADOLESCENT GIRLS

MIRIAM TEMIN

RUTH LEVINE

CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

The logo for the Center for Global Development, featuring a stylized globe with an upward-pointing arrow.

Center  
for Global  
Development

*Independent research and  
practical ideas for global prosperity*



# GIRLS COUNT A GLOBAL INVESTMENT & ACTION AGENDA

A GIRLS COUNT REPORT ON  
ADOLESCENT GIRLS

**RUTH LEVINE**  
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# With support from . . .

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## **Technical inputs**

*DHS Analyses, Canning, Finlay, Ozaltin ❖ Costing, Ebbeler ❖  
Mortality, School Health data, WHO*

***Nike Foundation ❖ Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation***



# Altering the equation for girls: *A crucial investment*

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- ❖ Girls' rights first & foremost
- ❖ Global health goals
- ❖ The prevention imperative
- ❖ A lever for economic & social development

# Altering the equation for girls: *A feasible investment*

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1. Foster country-based leadership
2. Eliminate child marriage
3. Respond with adolescent-friendly maternal and reproductive health services
4. Focus HIV prevention
5. Use system strengthening, monitoring, training and financing opportunities
6. Promote secondary schooling
7. Create innovation fund for girls' health
8. Establish as long-term priority for donor support

# Altering the equation for girls: *An affordable investment*

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Less than a  
**dollar a day**  
for essential  
health sector  
interventions,  
community-  
based actions,  
school & media  
based activities



# Adolescence: a critical juncture

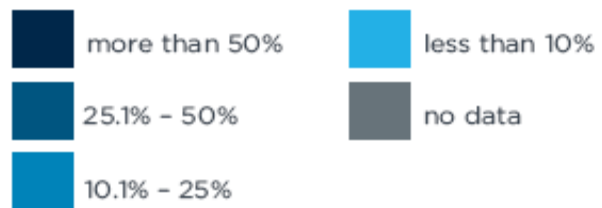




# Social determinants underlie epidemiology

## Child marriage is still common in many regions of the world

Percentage of women (20-24 years) married before 18 years (2008)

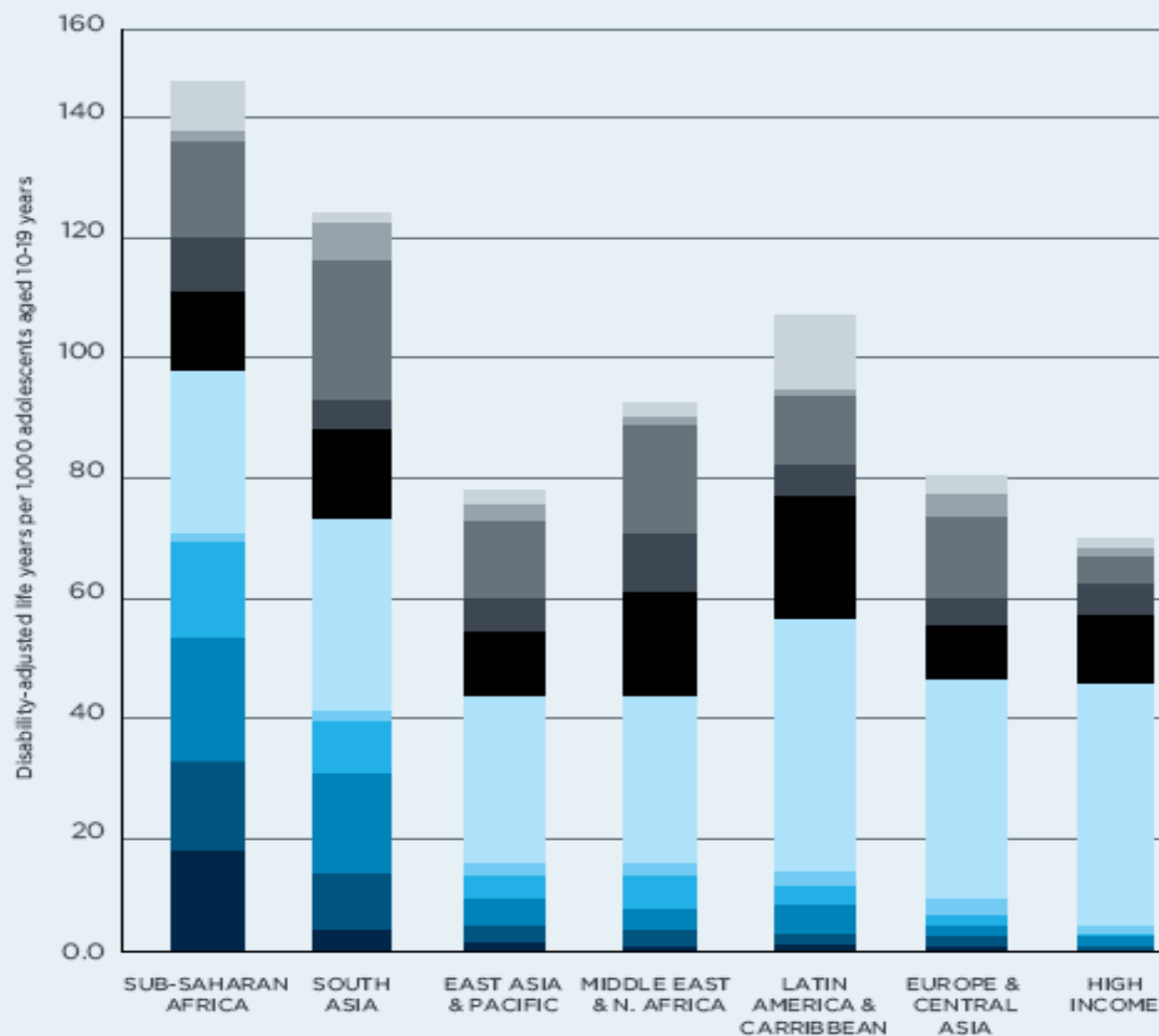


Source: Demographic and Health Surveys (2001-2007); Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (2005-2006).

Compiled by UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2009 (New York: UNICEF, 2009).

Maps designed and prepared by maplecroft

## Adolescent girls' burden of disease by cause, 2002

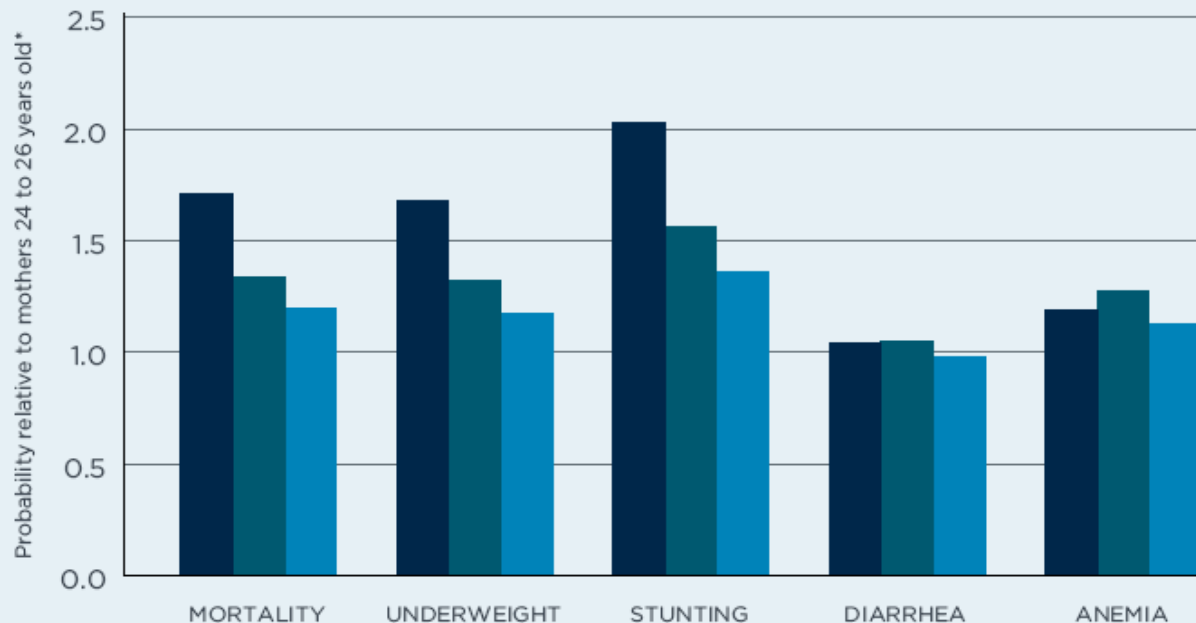


Source: WHO, 2004; presented by World Bank Region, 2002. (Mathers 2009)



# Unhealthy young mothers, unhealthy babies

## Mother's age is a risk factor for children's health problems



Age of the Mother at First Birth



Source: David Canning, Jocelyn E. Finlay, and Emre Ozaltin, "Adolescent Girls Health Agenda: Study on Intergenerational Health Impacts" (Harvard School of Public Health, unpublished, 2009).  
\*The analysis also controlled for mothers 21 to 23 years old.

# Girls' disproportionate HIV risk

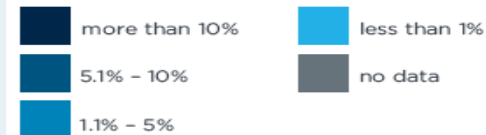
Young women have a high prevalence of HIV in many countries...



...and often have a higher prevalence than men

RATIO OF YOUNG WOMEN TO YOUNG MEN LIVING WITH HIV	
Countries with the greatest imbalance	Ratio
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	5.0 : 1
SWAZILAND	3.9 : 1
CAMEROON	3.6 : 1
MALAWI	3.5 : 1
GUYANA	3.4 : 1
SUDAN	3.3 : 1
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	3.3 : 1
BURUNDI	3.3 : 1
GHANA	3.3 : 1
LIBERIA	3.3 : 1

Prevalence of HIV among young women (15-24 years) 2007



Source: Joint UN programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2008, UNAIDS, Geneva, August 2008.

Maps designed and prepared by



# Making the health sector work for girls

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- Youth-friendly health services
- Targeted interventions
- Health financing & system strengthening



# The grander vision: working outside the health sector

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- Transform social norms
- Create family & community resources
- Increase the health benefits of non-health investments

# To make a real difference....

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- Prevention of harmful traditional practices
- Media edu-tainment



- Involvement of boys & men, parents
- Safe spaces
- Secondary schooling
- Sexuality, human rights & gender education
- Livelihoods & micro-credit

# The bottom line: What will it cost?

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Health services,  
community action,  
media, and  
education

- ❖ 10 to 19-year-olds in need
- ❖ 2010-15
- ❖ Countries with GNI < \$3,855
- ❖ Based on program experience (limitations!)

- **\$360 per year** (\$1 a day)
- Upper bound: \$7 billion excluding India & China
  - \$3.6 billion for low-income countries alone
- \$6+ billion for India & China





# Taking the next step

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