Handout 2

**Gender Equality Fact Sheet[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Education**

All children have the right to quality education, without any form of discrimination. However, in reality girls do not have equal access to education gender gaps in access to education have narrowed, but disparities remain among regions in all levels of education, particularly for the most excluded and marginalized. There has been major progress across all developing regions in primary school attendance. However, girls continue to face barriers to schooling, particularly in Northern Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia. Although more girls are now in school in sub-Saharan Africa, only 93 girls are enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys.

Access to secondary and university-level education remains highly unequal. Substantial gains have been made in Western and Southern Asia, though girls continue to be at a disadvantage in those regions. Disparities are greatest at the university level. In Southern Asia, only 77 girls per 100 boys are enrolled in tertiary education. The situation is most extreme in sub-Saharan Africa, where the gender gap in enrolment has actually widened from 66 girls per 100 boys in 2000 to 61 girls per 100 boys enrolled in 2011.

#### Jobs

Women’s share of paid employment outside the agricultural sector has increased slowly from 35 to 40% between 1990 and 2010, though it remains under 20% in Western Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia.

Women still enter the labor market on an unequal basis to men, even after accounting for educational background and skills. They are often relegated to vulnerable forms of employment, with little or no financial security or social benefits, particularly in Western Asia and Northern Africa, where paid opportunities for women are limited.

Globally, women occupy only 25% of senior management positions.

1. **Source**: United Nations <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_3_fs.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)