

# Educating Girls: The Overlooked Solution to Climate Change

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Girls have been leading inventive and courageous initiatives on climate and environmental justice in communities all over the world. For every additional year of schooling a girl receives her country's resilience to climate disaster increases by 3.2 points as measured by the ND-Gain Index. Image courtesy of Girl Rising

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Addressing a global challenge as complex as climate change demands a full suite of solutions and actors, but one powerful intervention is widely overlooked: educating girls. Education gives girls the skills and knowledge to respond to climate-related disasters and to the changing resource landscapes around them. The contributions of educated girls to their communities increases a region's overall resilience to climate shocks.

Educated girls grow up to be women who participate fully in society and take on leadership roles. A growing body of evidence demonstrates that female political leaders are especially effective in creating environmental protection measures and more likely to ratify climate protective laws and treaties. And projections from a raft of international organizations including the United Nations and the World Bank indicate that education coupled with family planning and reproductive rights has a dramatic impact on population growth and carbon emissions.

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