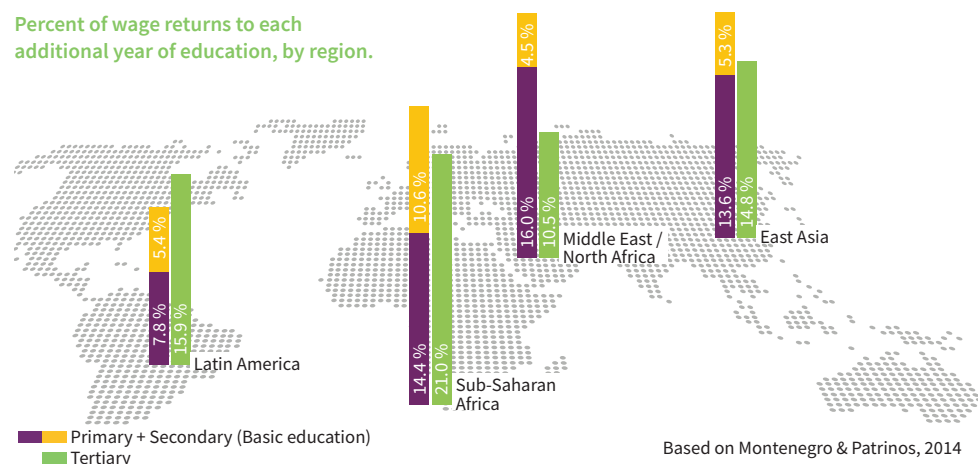


Basic Education – a key enabler for sustainable and economic development an important factor in Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy


Basic education enhances our abilities to face global challenges and plays a vital role in preparing people for successful and rewarding lives. Its broad benefits are highest in low- and lower-middle-income countries, especially for women. Returns to investment in basic education are systematically higher than returns to later-stage education and training.

Percent of wage returns to each additional year of education, by region.



As a key enabler for sustainable development, basic education is key for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It comprises formal primary and secondary education as well as alternative education tailored to the learning needs of people of all ages.² Basic Education develops foundational basic skills and competencies. It is the foundation for individual, social and economic development, for gender equality, equal participation, health and decent work.



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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The Case for investing in Basic Education

Returns to Individuals, Society, and Economy



Each additional year of schooling raises average annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth by 0.37%.



Basic education is a common good that benefits not only individuals, but also families and society at large. These benefits are observed across diverse aspects of life, from higher individual earnings and economic growth, to positive health outcomes, reduced inequalities, innovation, a more active

citizenry and the creation of just and peaceful societies. As such, investing in basic education is the best possible public investment - it brings about broad societal progress and the opportunity costs of failing basic education, in the form of unrealized economic growth, are substantial.¹

BASIC EDUCATION...

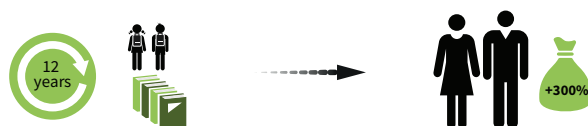
Benefits for individuals

... translates into greater productivity, higher earnings and increased employability



Each additional year of basic education means 10% higher earnings in the future.

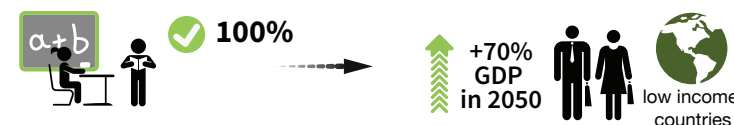
... in full scope ensures enhanced career growth and yields enormous wage boosts



Completing a full 12 year-cycle of basic education translates to earning increases of more than 300 percent.

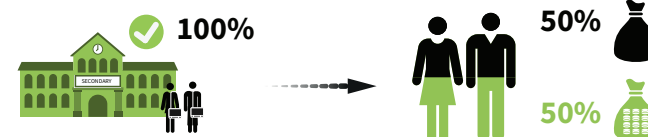
Benefits for societies

... accelerates and sustains economic growth



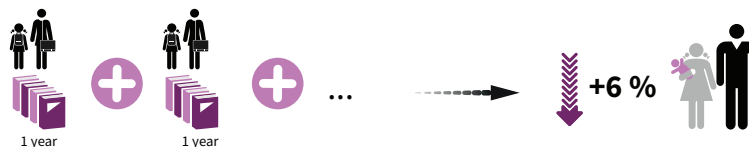
If all children were meaningfully engaging and learning in the classroom, GDP per capita in low-income countries would be almost 70% higher in 2050.

... reduces poverty



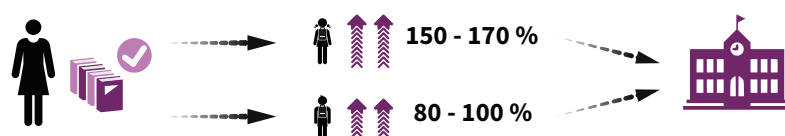
Achieving universal primary and secondary attainment in the adult population would help to lift more than 420 million out of poverty, thus reducing the number of poor worldwide by more than half.

... contributes to better health, longevity and sustainable population growth



Each additional year of female schooling lowers the probability of girls' teenage marriage and childbearing by 6%.

... contributes to greater resilience, adaptability and gender equality



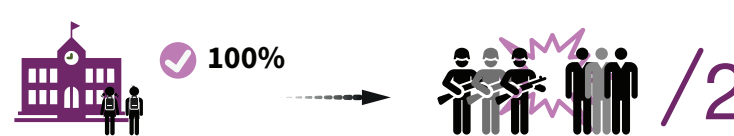
Children whose mother has at least primary education are up to 170% more likely to be in school relatively to mothers without primary education.

... fosters higher levels of civic engagement and better-functioning institutions



Educated citizens exhibit higher levels of political engagement and support more inclusive and just public institutions.

... promotes the reduction of inequalities, social cohesion and peacebuilding



If all children were enrolled in primary school, the likelihood of civil conflict could be reduced by more than half.

Economic benefits

Social benefits

1. For more information and sources, see SDC's commissioned report: *The Economic Case for Investing in Basic Education - Returns to Individuals, Society, and Impact on Youth Employment*