

**In many areas of research on adolescent girls, global data simply does not exist or is incomplete. This means we do not know where girls are thriving and where girls are suffering. We cannot help them without this knowledge.**

## THE MOST CRITICAL GAPS

Years 10-14 are a critical juncture in a girl's life in which she can realize her potential, build her assets and safely transition to a productive adulthood – or fall through irreversible trapdoors of adolescence, such as school drop out and early pregnancy. But this age range is rarely segmented, rendering her invisible at the most important time of her life and putting her future, and her family's future, at risk.

INDICATOR	STATUS	CONSEQUENCE AND OPPORTUNITY
Maternal Mortality	The WHO globally tracks maternal mortality but does not disaggregate by age.	We don't know if those who are dying are 15 or 32 years old. Evidence shows that the younger a mother is, the more dangerous the childbirth. Disaggregating the data to better track which segment of the child-bearing population suffers most during child birth would help direct resources to this group.
HIV prevalence	UNAIDS and WHO collect information about HIV prevalence among children and young people from 0-24 years. The data is disaggregated by gender and grouped into a 0-14 year old segment and a 15-24 year old segment.	Children who contract HIV through mother-to-child transmission and youth who contract HIV through sexual activity are not differentiated. Segmenting the data by 0- 9 years and 10-14 years would allow us to better target HIV prevention programming for high risk groups.
Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM)	UNICEF measures FGM extensively in West and East Africa and parts of North Africa and the Middle East, but nowhere else.	We know that FGM exists in Asia and in Europe, particularly in places with large diaspora communities. Global data is needed to fully understand the extent of this harmful practice.
Worst forms of child labor, sexual violence, obstetric and traumatic fistula rates	No global data sets exist for any of these issues. Some data exists for small numbers of countries. Other data is not publicly accessible. The data that does exist is not disaggregated by age.	There is a lack of visibility of the world's most vulnerable girls and we can't identify where there is the greatest need.
Economic opportunities-financial products	We know the extent of women's access to savings and loans, but there is not a global data set about girls' access to savings products or loans.	Since there is insufficient data showing that girls are active financial managers during adolescence, public policies and market forces are not serving their needs. As a result, girls are invisible and we don't know the full benefits of investing in them during their vulnerable years.
Domestic workers and unaccompanied minors	We know very little about where girls are working without the protection of their parents or as domestic servants.	Where there is a lack of visibility of extremely vulnerable girls, we can't identify and help them.
Time per day spent on chores, studying and playing	The World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) includes some time use information about girls – but it is not readily accessible. The Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS) covers a limited number of developed countries.	Knowing where and which girls face the heaviest chore burden is the first step to developing solutions that potentially reduce that burden.
Proportion of youth resources that benefit girls	No bodies are currently tracking global data on girls' lives outside the home and resources available to them.	Quantitative data is needed to reinforce qualitative findings that youth resources mostly reach older boys, due to girls' isolation.
Girls not at grade-for-age by age 15	The only available data set is collected by UNICEF in Africa.	Enrollment figures alone cannot tell us about girls' progression in education. A girl that is too old for her grade has a much lower chance of completing school. We need to identify where girls are not at the appropriate grade for age and implement enrollment and catch up strategies to correct course.