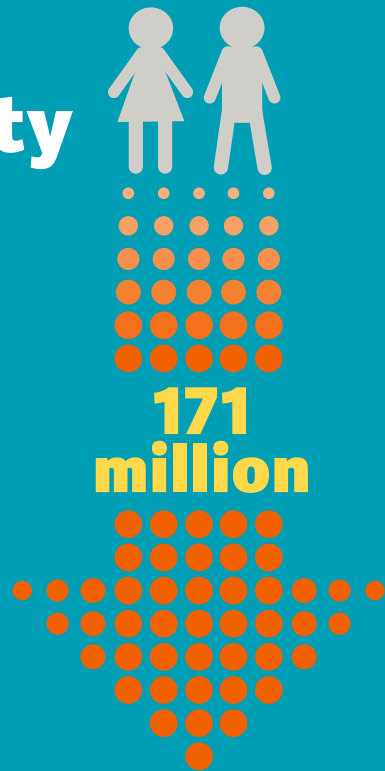


# The Benefits of Literacy

## 1 Less Poverty

- If all children globally learned to read, 171 million fewer people would live in poverty. That's the population of Spain, Italy, and the UK combined.<sup>1</sup>



## 2 Lower Early Mortality Rates

- Japan, a country with a literacy rate of 99%, has the world's lowest infant mortality rate (2 for every 1,000 live births).<sup>2</sup>
- During the past four decades, under-five child mortality has been reduced by more than half—a fact that can be attributed to the increase in women's literacy.<sup>3</sup>

## 3 Stronger Economies

- Society recoups \$7.14 for every \$1 invested in adult literacy.<sup>4</sup>
- One extra year of schooling increases an individual's earnings by up to 10%.<sup>5</sup>
- No country has achieved continuous and rapid economic growth without at least 40% of adults being able to read and write.<sup>6</sup>

## 4 More Community Involvement



- Literacy program participants in the United States reported an increase in community participation and were more likely than nonparticipants to register to vote.<sup>7</sup>
- Participation in adult literacy programs correlates with increased participation in trade unions, community action, and national political life.<sup>7</sup>

## 5 Improved Personal Well-Being

- In the United Kingdom, 78% of literate people are satisfied with their lives, compared to 50% of illiterate people.<sup>8</sup>
- Educated mothers are 50% more likely to immunize their children than mothers with no schooling.<sup>9</sup>
- The better older adults are able to read, understand, and use health and medical information, the happier they are.<sup>10</sup>

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