

## **Girls' Opportunity Index**

KEY: HOW EACH INDICATOR CONTRIBUTES TO THE OVERALL INDEX SCORE

Child marriage

Adolescent fertility

Maternal mortality (as an indicator of girls' access to good-quality healthcare)

Women MPs (relative to male MPs)

Lower-secondary school completion



72 Namibia advance further, particularly through a focus 73 Indonesia 74 Costa Rica on child marriage and maternal mortality. 75 Colombia 76 Lebanon 77 Uruguay 78 Syria Suriname 79 80 Bhutan 81 Thailand 82 Guyana 83 Egypt 84 Nicaragua 85 Nepal 86 Panama 87 Djibouti 88 Pakistan Child marriage and adolescent 89 Cambodia fertility are worryingly high in 90 India 91 Honduras too many countries, pushing 92 Dominican Republic them down the rankings. Brazil 93 Sao Tome and Principe 94 Iraq is an upper-middle-income country, 95 Solomon Islands yet is only slightly higher in the 96 Belize index than the low-income fragile 97 Kenya 98 Senegal state of Haiti. 99 Vanuatu 100 Ghana 101 Laos 102 Brazil 103 Guatemala 104 Papua New Guinea 105 Haiti 106 Sudan 107 Burundi 108 Swaziland 109 Zimbabwe 110 Lesotho 111 Bangladesh 112 Ethiopia The worst places to 113 Eritrea be a girl are amongst 114 Zambia the poorest in the 115 Gabon 116 Togo world. These countries 117 Comoros have extremely high 118 Tanzania 119 Equatorial Guinea rates of deprivation 120 Uganda across all indicators. 121 Afghanistan They must focus 122 Mauritania 123 Yemen urgently on ensuring 124 Cameroon that policy and practice 125 Guinea-Bissau 126 Benin uphold girls' rights. 127 Madagascar The Gambia 128 129 Congo 130 Mozambique 131 Liberia 132 South Sudan 133 Burkina Faso 134 DR Congo 135 Côte d'Ivoire 136 Nigeria 137 Guinea 138 Malawi 139 Sierra Leone 140 Somalia 141 Mali 142 Central African Republic 143 Chad 144 Niger 0.1 0.2 0.8 0 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7

Not all rich countries are performing as well as they should. Australia, for example, is ranked 21 in this index, which contrasts with its position as number 2 in the UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI). This is largely due to its low proportion of women MPs and relatively high adolescent fertility rate. These factors have also pulled countries such as the UK and Canada down the ranking.

> While the USA, the world's biggest economy, ranks at number 8 in the HDI, it is at position 32 in our index, below Algeria and Kazakhstan. As well as women's representation in parliament, the USA is let down by relatively high adolescent fertility and maternal mortality rates compared to other countries in its income group. Fourteen women died per 100,000 live births in the USA in 2015; a similar number to Uruguay and Lebanon, and far higher than the three deaths per 100,000 in Poland, Greece and Finland.

> > Most countries are struggling to achieve gender parity among MPs, regardless of the size of their **economy.** Only three of the countries with the highest proportion of female MPs are high income countries -Sweden, Finland and Spain. Rwanda tops the table with 64% of female MPs, followed by Bolivia and Cuba. In contrast, only 19% of MPs in the USA are women, and only 29% in the UK.

Some low income countries demonstrate that change is possible. Nepal is performing relatively well compared to its peers. This is due in part to its relatively good lower-secondary school completion rate for girls, which, at 86%, is similar to Spain's. However, Nepal could

Index score - Increasingly worse to be a girl

0.9