



For its second observance, this year's Day will focus on "Innovating for Girls' Education". The fulfilment of girls' right to education is first and foremost an obligation and moral imperative. There is also overwhelming evidence that girls' education, especially at the secondary level, is a powerful transformative force for societies and girls themselves: it is the one consistent positive determinant of practically every desired development outcome, from reductions in mortality and fertility, to poverty reduction and equitable growth, to social norm change and democratization.

While there has been significant progress in improving girls' access to education over the last two decades, many girls, particularly the most marginalized, continue to be deprived of this basic right. Girls in many countries are still unable to attend school and complete their education due to safety-related, financial, institutional and cultural barriers. Even when girls are in school, perceived low returns from poor quality of education, low aspirations, or household chores and other responsibilities keep them from attending school or from achieving adequate learning outcomes. The transformative potential for girls and societies promised through girls' education is yet to be realized.

Recognizing the need for fresh and creative perspectives to propel girls' education forward, the 2013 International Day of the Girl Child will address the importance of new technology, but also innovation in partnerships, policies, resource utilization, community mobilization, and most of all, the engagement of young people themselves.

### **Additional links :**

[International Day of the Girl Child](#)

["Innovate Your Future: Empower Young Women through Technology" Google + Hangouts with Geena Davis&nbsp;](#)

[Secretary General's message](#)