

Meeting the 2005 Gender Parity Goal: Where do Countries Stand?

Using the Gender Parity Index (GPI) as a measure of progress, the world is technically on track to meet the goal of gender parity in primary education. Globally UNICEF projects that 96 girls for every 100 boys will attend primary school in 2005. Yet there are stark distinctions from one nation to another.

Where do developing countries stand in their quest to fill classrooms with as many girls as boys by 2005?

Top Ten Countries Closest to the 2005 Goal of Gender Parity

Country	Gender Parity Index (projected 2005)
Peru	1.00
Sao Tome and Principe	1.00
Suriname	1.00
Viet Nam	1.00
Ghana	1.00
Colombia	1.00
Moldova, Republic of	.99
Armenia	.99
Azerbaijan	.99
Bosnia and Herzegovina	.99

Top Ten Countries Farthest from the 2005 Goal of Gender Parity

Country	Gender Parity Index (projected 2005)
Yemen	.61
Niger	.67
Chad	.69
Burkina Faso	.71
Mali	.74
Cote d'Ivoire	.76
Guinea-Bissau	.76
Benin	.78
Guinea	.79
Pakistan	.83

NOTES:

- Gender Parity Index (GPI) is the ratio of girls' to boys' net primary attendance – the number of girls for every 100 boys attending primary school.
- A GPI of 1 represents 100 girls for every 100 boys in school. Between 0-1 indicates a disparity in favour of boys; greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of girls.
- The projected GPI for 2005 is based on projected primary attendance ratios from a sample of 81 developing countries.
- Countries are considered on course to meet the 2005 goal if their GPI is between 0.96 and 1.04.
- The first top ten table of countries closest to the goal refers only to countries where the projected GPI is between 0-1.