

## A world of opportunity at the G(irls)20 Summit

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*We're pleased to have Farah Mohamed join us today to talk about her organization, the G(irls)20 Summit, of which Google is a proud sponsor. The mission of the G(irls)20 Summit is to showcase how girls and women can impact a country's economic prosperity, political stability and social innovation. - Ed.*

Research shows that investing in girls and women can help the global economy. Consider the following examples:

- According to [Plan UK](#), an extra year of education increases a girl's income by 10 to 20% and is a significant step on the road to breaking the cycle of poverty.
- In Kenya, adolescent pregnancies cost the economy \$500 million per year, while investing in girls could potentially add \$32 billion to the economy ([NIKE Foundation, 2009, Girl Effect](#)).
- If men and women had equal influence in decision-making, an additional 1.7 million children would be adequately nourished in sub-Saharan Africa ([International Labour Organization, 2009](#)).

These are significant estimates, and they highlight a real opportunity for global economic growth. That's why the G(irls)20 Summit is working with Google and many other corporate and foundation partners to empower girls and women.

Launched in 2010 at the [Clinton Global Initiative](#), the G(irls)20 Summit precedes the G20 Leaders Summit, and brings together one girl aged 18 to 20 from each G20 country plus the African Union. The delegates attend workshops and participate in panel discussions to come up with tangible, scalable solutions for how to engage and empower girls and women around the world. Then, at the end of the summit, they lead a press conference and present a set of recommendations for the G20 leaders to consider.

This year, the Summit will take place in Mexico City from May 28-31. But the impact of the Summit will be ongoing, thanks in part to the power of the Internet and social media. Take past Summit participants July Lee of the U.S. and Noma Sibayoni of South Africa, who launched [Write With A Smile](#) to encourage teens to continue with their education. Or Riana Shah of India who co-founded Independent Thought & Social Action ([ITSA India](#)), an education reform organization that aims to empower socially responsible youth leaders. And the African Union's Lilian Kithiri continues to persevere creating awareness around reproductive health to communities living in the rural areas of Kenya.

There are a few ways you can experience the Summit:

- [Join us](#) in Mexico City on May 28
- [Sign up for your number](#) in support of girls and women
- Join the conversation via our live stream on [www.girls20summit.com](http://www.girls20summit.com) on May 28, 29 and 31

Whether you're a girl, boy, woman or man, we all have a role to play in empowering girls and women. As UN Under Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet once said, "gender equality and women's empowerment are goals in their own right and central to all other goals—must be more than a mantra. It must become a lived reality for women and men and boys and girls in all countries."

Posted by Farah Mohamed, President & CEO, G(irls)20 Summit

Labels: [diversity](#), [Latin America](#)

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