

*“There is no tool for development more effective
than the empowerment of women.”
Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General 1997-2006*

God Given: a resource for International Women’s Day

Learning objectives

- To be able to give examples of inequality experienced by women around the world
- To have considered reasons why addressing women’s inequality is important
- To understand why CAFOD prioritises working with girls and women.

1 How clued up are you on global statistics? Try our quick quiz then check the answers at cafod.org.uk/learninghub (no cheating!)

1. An estimated 10 million boys and a) 10 million, b) 12 million, c) 15 million girls of primary-school age are out of school.
2. In comparison with men, how much more likely are women aged 25-34 to live in extreme poverty? a) 10% b) 25% c) 50%.
3. Women around the world daily spend a) half, b) twice, c) three times as many hours as men in unpaid care and domestic work.
4. Globally, women and girls are responsible for water collection in a) 40%, b) 60%, c) 80% of households.
5. Worldwide, the share of parliamentary seats held by women is a) 1 in 3, b) 1 in 4, c) 1 in 5.

How did you get on? Did any statistics surprise you? Which do you consider most shocking? Why?

2 One way to combat inequality is to ensure that girls are not disadvantaged due to their monthly periods. Watch *God Given*, our film about period poverty, at: youtube.com/watch?v=NU8kcQWIM2M. As Nadim in Uganda describes her experience, consider why it might be important for boys to learn about this issue.



- 3** List some possible consequences for their own future, their future families and their communities if girls do not have equal access to school, whether due to period poverty or other inequalities such as having to collect water.
Tip: think about the education, health, employment and social consequences.

4

Definition

Development work - Working with a community to improve and progress its future.

Imagine you are Director of an overseas development agency like CAFOD.

You must decide whether your agency's development work in overseas programmes should prioritise working with men, or with women, or give equal priority to both. Explain your decision.