DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS AND SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN 10–14 YEARS OLDS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

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PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Partners
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Purpose
Cross-sectional survey to assess the relationship between developmental assets and sexual & reproductive health (SRH)

Duration
October 2013 - September 2014

Location
Post-conflict Northern Uganda

Participants
Girls and boys aged 10 to 14
ASSETS DEFINED

“DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS: critical supports (external) and strengths (internal) that young people need to grow up healthy, caring, and productive.”
DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS PROFILE (DAP)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Categories</th>
<th>Internal Strengths</th>
<th>Asset-Building Contexts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>External Supports</strong></td>
<td>✓ Commitment to Learning</td>
<td>✓ Personal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Support</td>
<td>✓ Positive Values</td>
<td>✓ Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Empowerment</td>
<td>✓ Social Competencies</td>
<td>✓ Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Boundaries &amp; Expectations</td>
<td>✓ Positive Identity</td>
<td>✓ School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Constructive Use of Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sample Items From the DAP by Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Asset scale</th>
<th>Context scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I seek advice from my parents</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel safe at school</td>
<td>Empowerment</td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have neighbors who help watch out for me</td>
<td>Boundaries &amp; Expectations</td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am involved in a sport, club, or other group</td>
<td>Constructive Use of Time</td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am eager to do well in school and other activities</td>
<td>Commitment to Learning</td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I take responsibility for what I do</td>
<td>Positive Values</td>
<td>Personal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I build friendships with other people</td>
<td>Social Competencies</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am developing a sense of purpose in my life</td>
<td>Positive Identity</td>
<td>Personal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All DAP items are answered on the following scale: Not At All or Rarely, Somewhat or Sometimes, Very or Often, Extremely or Almost Always
SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES
SRH INDICATORS

- Puberty knowledge
- Accurate knowledge about pregnancy risk
- Supportive relationships
- HIV knowledge
- Condom knowledge
- Intention to delay sex or use condoms
- Ability to access to SRH services
- Equitable gender attitudes
RESULTS
HOW WELL THE SCALES WORK: RELIABILITY & VALIDITY

✓ Internal consistency reliabilities measured using Cronbach’s alpha

✓ Most DAP subscales are either at acceptable (.70 or higher) or promising (.60-.69) levels

✓ Significant correlation of asset scales with SRH outcomes as hypothesized supports the DAP’s validity.
MOST VYA SCORED ON ADEQUATE LEVEL OF ASSET SCORES

% Northern Uganda 10-14 year olds, by Total DAP Score Quartile, n= 941

- Challenged: 7%
- Vulnerable: 33%
- Adequate: 36%
- Thriving: 25%
- More supportive relationships: 24% girls, 12% boys
- Accurate knowledge about puberty: 72% girls, 51% boys
- Accurate knowledge about pregnancy risk: 51% girls, 33% boys
- Equitable gender attitudes: 65% girls, 49% boys
- Ability to access SRH services: 67% girls, 60% boys
- Accurate knowledge about HIV risk: 76% girls, 70% boys
- Intention to delay sex till marriage; use condom at 1st sex: 62% girls, 53% boys
YOUTH WITH ADEQUATE AND THRIVING LEVELS OF ASSETS:

- 71% more likely than youth at the Challenged or Vulnerable asset levels to have accurate HIV knowledge
- 34% more likely than youth at the Challenged and Vulnerable asset levels to believe they can access SRH services
- 98% more likely to intend to delay sex until marriage or use condoms
YOUTH WITH THRIVING ASSETS (HIGHEST LEVEL)

57% more likely than all other youth to have accurate condom knowledge

87% more likely to have accurate HIV knowledge

Girls 78% more likely and boys 2x as likely as all other youth to have supportive relationships
PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

- Address the vulnerabilities of boys as well as girls in order to achieve SRH goals.

- Improve parents’ ability to support their children; set & monitor appropriate boundaries.

- Engage communities & encourage youth involvement in community service & action.

- Provide youth skill development opportunities.

- Establish links with caring adults.

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