EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Nicole Haberland, Poverty, Gender, and Youth Program
Passages Technical Consultation
March 1, 2016
“Girl-Centered” Approach

• Work in areas where there are high concentrations of girls at highest risk

• Identify specific segments of girls as the primary beneficiaries

• Build girls’ social, economic, education and health assets

• Measure outcomes at the level of the girl
Snapshot of PC’s Girl-Centered Work

PROJECTS ON THE GROUND
BELIZE
GUATEMALA
HAITI
HONDURAS
EL SALVADOR

PROVIDING STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT
BURKINA FASO
ETHIOPIA
GHANA
KENYA
LIBERIA
MALAWI
MOZAMBIQUE
NIGER
RWANDA
SIERRA LEONE
SOUTH AFRICA
UGANDA
ZAMBIA

EGYPT
BANGLADESH
INDIA
Key program elements

• Reaches **socially isolated girls** with house-to-house recruitment
  – Avoids ‘elite capture’
• Links girls to adult female **“mentors”**
  – Advocates for program participation
  – Bridges to community institutions and services
Key program elements

• Meets in **small groups** where participants receive social support and services.
  – Public, “safe” spaces, that are girl-only
  – Up to five times a week
  – Services include wellness checks and ID cards

• Addresses the “whole girl” and **builds assets**.
The “whole girl” approach

- Addresses root social and economic vulnerabilities that place girls at-risk for negative outcomes.
- Builds **four core assets**.
- Expands opportunities for girls to reduce vulnerability.

---

**SOCIAL ASSETS**
- Social networks
- Access to societal institutions

**EDUCATIONAL ASSETS**
- Individual skills
- Knowledge
- Self-esteem
- Self-efficacy to enact behavior

**ECONOMIC ASSETS**
- Income
- Savings
- Land
- Housing

**HEALTH ASSETS**
- Tools, equipment, and other productive assets
- Quality of health
- Ability to access quality health care services when needed

Adolescent Girls Empowerment Program

PARTICIPANTS
10,000 vulnerable girls ages 10-19

PARTNERS
YWCA Zambia, Making Cents International, National Savings and Credit Bank, Ministry of Health

PROGRAM ELEMENTS
→ Safe Spaces Groups
→ “Girls Dream” Savings Account
→ Health Voucher

EVALUATION DESIGN
Randomized Controlled Trial

K Austrian, P Hewett
AGEP study arms

Experimental 1
Safe Spaces

Experimental 2
Safe Spaces + Health Voucher

Experimental 3
Safe Spaces + Health Voucher + Savings Account

Control
No Program
Balika Research Design

- Cluster randomized controlled trial
- Three Intervention Strategies: gender, education, & livelihoods
- Cluster=Union (smallest administrative unit in Bangladesh)
- Random selection: 120 girls aged 12-18 yrs per cluster
- Intent to treat analysis

Arm 1
Gender
(24 clusters)

Arm 2
Education
(24 clusters)

Arm 3
Livelihood
(24 clusters)

Control
(24 clusters)

Basic Life Skills
ICT support
Community Awareness

S. Amin et al, 2016
Results for program and policy change coming in 2016-2018:

- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- India
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Tanzania
- Zambia
The Population Council conducts research and delivers solutions that improve lives around the world. **Big ideas supported by evidence:** It’s our model for global change.