Making Adolescent Girls Visible, Actionable, and at the Center of the Sahel Development Agenda: Lessons Learned in Northern Nigeria

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Why Girls?
Why Girls?
Investing in the poorest girls so they may hold on to their childhood and defer childbearing past adolescence is a **GOOD** in and of itself and could reduce population size by 18 percent, or 224 million, a full **39 percent of the anticipated increase**.
Both girls and boys face challenges, but boys rarely face challenges at the level, type or ages that girls do with respect to sexual abuse, violence and social isolation.

Widening gap in investment between girls and boys increase dramatically with the onset of puberty.
## Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother’s age at birth</th>
<th>ANC by HP</th>
<th>%Delivery By HP</th>
<th>Facility Delivery</th>
<th>Family Planning Usage AM</th>
<th>Family Planning usage MM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No educ</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;Secondary</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NDHS 2008
DISTRIBUTION BY AGE OF MATERNAL MORTALITY, JAN- SEPT 2001 MMSH/Kano
DISTRIBUTION OF MATERNAL DEATH BY BIRTH ORDER 1998 – 2004 MMSH/Kano
GCC Experience Impact of keeping girls in school in N. Nigeria

• Work in Community where age of marriage is about 15yrs
• Have had at least 2 children by age 18 yrs
• Recruited > 200 girls from and kept them through 6 years of secondary education
• As of last year, of the 230 girls that started 6 years earlier, 205 have graduated from secondary school
• 7 girls in tertiary institutions.
• Only 3 got married during the program and 1 had a child
E.g., Critical Issues

- Mother’s level of education plays a major role in whether children are immunised; 61 percent of children whose mothers have more than a secondary education are fully immunised, compared with 7 percent of children whose mothers have no education.

- Educational attainment is positively associated with an increase in CPR. Four percent of women without education currently use family planning, compared with 37 percent of women with more than a secondary education.
Safe Space Methodology

A method of enhancing the development of girls through culturally sensitive methodology that addresses important cultural and religious issues that anchors on important values such as trust and respect for culture.
Justice, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability are served when the bottom 40% of girls have access to critical services, community facilities, and entitlements.
## Segmenting Populations of Concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No schooling or currently out of school</th>
<th>Attending primary school</th>
<th>Attending secondary school or higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with one parent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with no parent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married and/or with child</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Girls 10-14</strong></td>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Girls 15-19</strong></td>
<td><strong>I</strong></td>
<td><strong>J</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Girls 20-24</strong></td>
<td><strong>O</strong></td>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Categories</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. a social caste, language group)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- Dark Green: Very Vulnerable
- Light Green: Girls at Risk
- Red: Better off girls with leadership potential
Mentorship
Girls spaces as vessels into which you can add many elements

- Finding friends
- Planning
- Developing skills
- Basic health information
- Entrepreneurship training
- Finding adult mentors
- Control over savings
- Financial literacy skills
- Accessing health services
- Learning their rights
- Building capacities
Accretion of Assets by Age Segment

Graph showing the accretion of assets by age segment for girls, with categories including:
- Access to credit
- Access to value chains
- Job skills training
- Entrepreneurship
- Access to savings (formal and informal)
- Financial literacy
- Life skills
- Social and peer networks

Ages displayed are 8-12, 13-16, 17-18, and 19-24.
Girl-Child Education Program (GCE)  
Zaria, Kaduna State

Delaying the Age of Marriage and the Onset of Childbearing
Community Consultation

What are the barriers to girls’ education in your community and what can we do together to overcome them?
Program Components

- community engagement to create and nourish enabling environment

- “safe space” girls’ clubs in which adolescent girls can openly discuss their reproductive health concerns, acquire valuable life skills, and link with local health services;

- school fees and books to increase girls’ public school enrollment and attendance and boost retention rates;

- operations research on the effectiveness of these strategies.
Building Assets
Increase in Girls Secondary Enrollment

Project Investment Requirements

A notional range of costs for girl programming based on five programs in five different settings which had reached some scale generated a range (heavily conditioned by context) of per hour per girl from $0.29 to $2.45 with an average cost of $1.47.

The $0.29 figure was from a fairly “low-touch” girl savings program and the $2.45 figure was from a relatively ambitious second-chance schooling program for girls.

Effective program-based intervention can be as little as 45 hours.

These costs vary by program ambition and type but it is not unusually costly to produce measurable results at level of the girl, some of which can, if scaled effectively, translate into changing community norms and indicators.
Implementation Research
PRRINN MNCH: Married Adolescents Support Groups in Northern Nigeria
Why Married Adolescent Women

- Young married women are hardly reached with MNCH information
- YMW are expected to be shy and not to discuss issues related to maternal and reproductive health, yet 65% had lived births 1-3

- 829 groups, 2000 by 2013 reaching 24,000 young women
- Each group has two mentors
- Twice a week meeting of groups and monthly meeting of groups
Training of Mentors
Young married woman in session
Monthly meetings of groups
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>SOCIAL ASSETS</th>
<th>HUMAN ASSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Forming groups and networks</td>
<td>• Maternal, newborn and child health related information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mentorship</td>
<td>• Support to access services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Personal hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Reproductive health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Rights and obligations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Life and communication skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINANCIAL ASSETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Savings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Assets to be Leveraged

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL ASSETS</th>
<th>HUMAN ASSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Participating in community institutions and activities</td>
<td>• Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Financial literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Business development training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support for career development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Space to undertake income generation activities</td>
<td>• Credit</td>
</tr>
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Methodology

- Say and do method
- Discussions and experience sharing
- Variety shows
- Practical sessions in cookery and advocacy as change agents
- Placements and shadowing teachers, health worker, successful business women
Investing and targeting the excluded

Jigawa, Yobe, Zamfara
Deaths in children aged 1-5

20% Households had 80% of the deaths:
These households had 2 or more deaths
(the average is 3 deaths each)

15% households had 1 death each
65% households had no deaths

Even within a compound of several families there can be differences so it’s not just a simple question of poverty

Tony Klouda May 2010
YWSG provided an opportunity to learn more about the excluded and the poorest of the poor

Only 32% are members

Made invisible by community and by self

YWSG as change agents- 20% of the YW want to and will not face opposition in championing women’s issues and are more likely to access services, get social support etc
Engaging with Husbands
Engaging with husbands
Engaging with mother in-laws
Purposefully Build Solidarity Among Girls: Anchoring the Female Infrastructure
In Ethiopia we know how to reach girls at high reproductive risk on a large scale.

Girls married by age 15 reach 42%.

Zones with girl-centered intervention.
Programs Reaching Scale

Biruh Tesfa ("Bright Future")
Migrant, destitute girls living in urban Ethiopian

Reaching 38,000 girls in Ethiopian cities as both asset building and primary HIV prevention.

Berhane Hewan – Amhara
Delaying marriage & supporting married girls

Significant delays in marriage from early to later adolescence
Significant increases in family planning among married girls (74% contracepting with no new services)

Reaching over 20,000 girls and poised for scale

“Mesorete Hiwot” (Base of Life): Ethiopia

Supporting young married adolescents with HIV prevention and reproductive health in rural Ethiopia

Over 220,000 married girls aged 10 to 24 in the groups across 18 districts in Amhara

Erulkar, Annabel S. and Eunice Muthengi. “Mesorete Hiwot” (Base of Life): Supporting married adolescents with HIV prevention and reproductive health in rural Ethiopia. Program Brief 2011
Meserete Hiwott Married Girls Groups: Results

Percent of participants who have ever used a family planning method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experimental (n=585)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control (n=631)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent of participants who have savings

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experimental (n=585)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control (n=631)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Preliminary analysis by Annabel Erulkar
Safe Space Adolescent Girls Empowerment (SSAGE) Nigeria

Diffusion & adoption by MDAs and civil society

Adoption & amplification by DfID partners

Innovation leveraged via Nike Foundation /Girl Hub

SSAGE Platform
Cascading Replication Model

SSAG E

Learning Hubs
CBOs NGOs FBOs

Monitoring
Disbursement & Compliance

Girl Mentors
with Girl Leaders & Interns

Safe Space
10 – 14 Year Old Girls

Safe Space
15 – 19 Year Old Girls

N=135

N=135

N=135
SSAGE Cumulative Targets

- **Participants**
- **Clubs**

Year:
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

Cumulative Targets:
- Participants: 130,000
- Clubs: 1,350