

Reaching the most vulnerable youth

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For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



Where are the adolescents (girls)?

Most common interventions, youth centres and peer education (usually small scale) do not reach the most vulnerable children. Girls, especially younger girls benefit very little and the most invisible hardly benefit at all. For example in Ethiopia

	All ados	All boys	All girls	Boys 10-14	Boys 15-19	Girls 10-14	Girls 15-19
Youth centre	11.9	20.3	7.2	10.5	27.2	3.9	9.0
Peer education	19.6	26.5	15.1	18.3	32.3	12.7	16.5

Domestic workers: 1% youth centre, 6% peer education (Erulkar et al 2004)

Coverage (over-age)

Study of 15 of the largest youth serving organisations

Over 10,000 contacts in 6 weeks through youth centres and peer education:

- Nearly 60% were boys/men in which older boys/young men dominated.
 - 3 organisations had 30% of their contacts with men over the age of 24.
 - Adolescents under 15 received minimal attention.
- 90% of the 10-19 year olds attending were in school, although the majority of Ethiopian adolescents are out of school.
- Less than half a percent of all contacts were with girls aged 10-14 not living with parents, although 37% of girls of this age don't live with either parent.
- Only 3% of girls were married, although the vast majority of girls are married during adolescence, and the vast majority of girls' sexual activity during adolescence takes place in the context of marriage (94 percent);
- Less than half a percent were girls 10-14 living apart from parents - although in Addis Ababa 37% of girls aged 10-14 live without either parent;
- Though 85 percent of Ethiopian adolescents live in rural areas, all programs were operating in urban areas (Mekbib, Erulkar and Belete, 2005)

Where are the girls (2)

Durban:

- c. 17% of girls already living with HIV
- Girls HIV rates outnumbered boys by two to one

Inventory of 23 organisations providing services at community level

- Only 3 had gave priority to vulnerable adolescent girls
- 1 incorporated livelihoods, youth, gender and HIV/AIDS. Livelihoods consisted of clubs that met occasionally to undertake beadwork - an oversaturated market with very poor economic returns.
- 3 had entrepreneurship training and one had financial services education, but none of these programs served adolescents.

So even where there is a large number of youth oriented services, a mature HIV epidemic and a quite a strong donor base, very little reaches the most vulnerable females. In order to include those females, programs must be specially tailored.

Identify – know who they are and what are their situations

- Mapping – carried out by the girls themselves - including mapping of safe spaces (most important for the most vulnerable girls)
- Coverage: mapping of who is being reached →
 - Division of the area to be covered among the peer facilitators (for ensuring that all are reached) and/or
 - Development of specific periods for those most difficult to reach
- Vulnerable to reach the vulnerable – voluntarism v. social entrepreneurship

Identify (2) What do they want?

e.g. Livelihoods – micro-credit, safe spaces, savings?

Work v education or work and education

Flexibility e.g. working hours

Involve them in development of programme (youth dialogue, youth participatory theatre, interviews)

Infiltrate

One aspect of vulnerability – dependence – hidden behind walls

Employers of domestic and other workers

Husbands of adolescent girls

Pimps/brokers of sex workers

What is the way that is acceptable to them?

Where is acceptable to them (e.g. churches/mosques)

Livelihoods

Conventional

- Micro credit and small scale economic activities - based on women's model
- Might work with the better off but not with the most vulnerable and marginalised

Livelihoods (innovate) Empowerment model

- Create girls only spaces as a primary prevention strategy for girls at highest risk that offer health and social support while building basic livelihood skills and providing savings opportunities ... spaces to help in finding friends, adult mentors, learn basic skills, access entitlements, plan for seasonal stresses such as school fees and food shortages
- Provide a variety of financial products and services that allow girls at highest risk to protect their security while building their economic base. Destitute girls have a far greater interest in savings and emergency loans than establishing businesses and taking credit.
- Draw in younger and more vulnerable girls by establishing savings groups in safe spaces, foster client driven movement among different opportunities allowing girls to self select, prioritise creating a safe learning space and a stable group environment for the highest risk girls
- C.f. Bangladesh – non-repayable loan of USD 8
- Technology

Protection

Involvement of young people in protection

- Emergencies – youth/adolescent tent/meeting point (has to be from the beginning → protective effect, girls talk about sexual abuse)
- Youth dialogue – Ethiopia → actions for protection (Dire Dawa)
- District response initiative – different analysis → different actions
- Barra Mensa – funded actions of children's committee
- Support young people to provide services to others (hbc etc) – income generation as well.
- Safe havens in bus terminals etc. Bahir Dar story and its sequel
- Building public acceptance – campaign for vulnerable children (reorientation of corporate responsibility)

Partnerships

Just a question of focus

Partnerships – based on analysis of situation

Workplace interventions – entertainment trade,
condoms or fair wages

Federations of urban poor

Faith based organisations particularly for married girls