

ADOLESCENT GIRLS POWER PROGRAM (AGPP)

Because adolescent girls are not homogeneous with other children and or women, their data, challenges and concerns must be treated as such - unique.



A closer Look

Adolescent girls are powerful. Yet, many are born into societies where patriarchal norms stifle their rights and opportunities. This entrenched gender inequality and harmful social norms fuel violence and sexual violence, which in turn leads to early pregnancies, child marriages, limited access to education, and numerous other challenges.

Programming for girls in patriarchal societies requires providing access to meaningful pathways to build power and choice including education, income, services, and safe spaces. Girls face intentional exclusion, denying them power and autonomy. Despite global progress in education, adolescent girls remain three times more likely than boys to be out of school, which contributes to increased violence and sexual violence. In East Africa, many adolescent girls experience forced or coerced sexual encounters at a young age, with 24% of girls aged 15-19 worldwide facing intimate partner violence. These challenges are reflected in the experiences of girls that CRVPP partners work with. In 2019, CRVPP's baseline study across Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania highlighted gaps in knowledge, skills, and access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRHR), along with widespread sexual violence. For example, overall, 9% of the girls had experienced forced intercourse with Uganda having the highest proportion of 13%.

To challenge this, understanding power dynamics and identifying community assets is crucial. Empowering girls in patriarchal societies requires providing access to meaningful life choices, including education, income, services, and safe spaces. Safe girls-only spaces foster critical consciousness, internal power, and peer connections. A holistic approach increases choices, challenges patriarchal norms, and offers alternative visions of girlhood. Protection alone is insufficient; building power and choice is the antidote to violence, sexual violence and domination. Addressing patriarchy's global impact, various forms of violence, and community engagement are essential for genuine transformation.

Our Commitment

Through the Adolescent Girls Power Program (AGPP), CRVPP provides grants and strengthens the capacity of community organisations that develop interventions to build the power for adolescent girls including young mothers. At the start of interventions, we provide community partners a planning and learning grant in their respective clusters to enable them to build a strong working relationship, listen to girls by using power analysis tools, and engage with the community to develop interventions that match the needs of girls.

Our community partners support girls to form groups that meet regularly in safe spaces. These are platforms in the community where the girls come together to connect with one another, receive life skills, financial literacy, and vocational training, to generate their own income and reduce the likelihood of violence and sexual violence.

At the heart of the program is life skills training based on "This Little Light of Mine", a manual developed by CRVPP to help the girls make the right choices which would enable them to live lives free from violence and sexual violence. During the COVID-19 pandemic the lives of adolescent girls were heavily impacted, with many young girls in the sub-Saharan region becoming young mothers. As a result, CRVPP developed a special project in Kenya and Tanzania to address this increase. The Project equips young mothers with a comprehensive set of life skills and vocational training designed to build their power, while also providing Early Childhood Development (ECD) services for their children aged 0-3 years.

Collectively the girls develop strategies and advocate for their rights for a life free from violence and sexual violence.

Program focal areas: Safe spaces, life skills, vocational and income generating skills, parenting, nutrition, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) and financial literacy.

In Numbers

From 2021 to 2023 we reached

