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together for children



AGI-K
Adolescent Girls Initiative-Kenya

IN SEARCH OF WORKING SOLUTIONS FOR GIRLS





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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Kibera, one of the largest slums in the world, life goes on. Children play in the dirty alleys, vendors sell their goods along the busy railway line and from a distance everything seems normal. But a closer look paints a different picture. Kibera is one of the toughest places to survive in Nairobi with majority of residents here earning about a dollar a day.

This age group faces many risks, among them lack of education, inadequate access to health and violence.

Many have no access to proper amenities such as health, sanitation, clean water and education. Among the groups that are faced with the challenge of survival in Kibera are the adolescent girls. This age group faces many risks, among them lack of education, inadequate access to health and violence.







It is an opportunity to disrupt poverty from becoming a permanent condition that is passed from one generation to the next.

These are roadblocks, which hinder a safe, healthy, and productive transition into early adulthood. While adolescence is a time of great vulnerability for girls, it is also an ideal point to leverage development and diplomacy efforts. It is an opportunity to disrupt poverty from becoming a permanent condition that is passed from one generation to the next.

The Adolescent Girls Initiative Kenya (AGI-K) is a 6 years research program consisting of a two years implementation phase that is spear headed by the Population Council and implemented by Plan international Kenya.

It is meant to find working solutions for adolescent girls in Kibera focusing on four key pillars namely Education, Violence prevention, Health and wealth creation.





EDUCATION

An old saying goes that education is the key, yet for many girls in Kibera access to quality formal education remains a luxury beyond reach. Those who get lucky enough to access education of some sort still face numerous challenges.

A key question for an adolescent girl in Kibera under such conditions is whether to stay in school or not.

If she drops out prematurely, she faces an increased risk of early marriage and early pregnancy. She is also likely to be unskilled, have less earning power, and be less able to participate meaningfully in society.

AGI-K program, participating girls were supported with interventions that would ensure that they had peace of mind both at the household and school levels while accessing education.







The school kits contained a set of sanitary pads, pants, perfumed petroleum jelly as well as a pen and a book.

Under the AGI-K program, participating girls were supported with interventions that would ensure that they had peace of mind both at the household and school levels while accessing education.

The aim was to improve girls' enrolment, attendance and retention in school.

The interventions involved paying part of the school fees and giving participating schools incentives, provision of a cash stipend to parents at the household level, and issuing school kit to the girls.

The school kits contained a set of sanitary pads, pants, perfumed petroleum jelly as well as a pen and a book.







SAFE SPACES HEALTH EDUCATION



The AGIK safe space model offers participating adolescent girls an opportunity to create strong social networks in a girl's only environment.

Here they can interact freely with one another in the presence of their mentors without external restrictions.

Groups meet weekly at locations such as the churches and mosques in the community identified as safe and appropriate for the young girls where they share experiences with their peers and learn new life skills from their mentors.

Here they can interact freely with one another in the presence of their mentors without external restrictions



Among the issues discussed during safe space meetings is health education.

Here the girls are taken through a curriculum that covers hygiene, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, sexual and reproductive health, communication and negotiation skills, gender norms, sexual and gender-based violence, early marriage, leadership skills as well as relationships.



WEALTH CREATION

Imparting financial knowledge on young people can promote effective sustained behavior change if the lessons are put into practice. The wealth creation component, includes an immediate opportunity for girls to begin implementing their budgets and working toward their savings goals.

In Kibera, girls are helped to open a SMATA Youth Account with the Kenya Post Office Savings Bank (Postbank) after the first unit of the financial education sessions. These accounts are managed by the girls themselves with the help of an adult co-signatory who helps in opening the account and during withdrawals.

Wealth creation component, includes opportunity for girls to begin implementing their budgets and working toward their savings goals.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Girls' transition into puberty and adolescence increases their vulnerability to Gender Based Violence. Community members have been assisted in the formulation of Community Conversation groups within the seven villages in Kibera through which they can then identify issues affecting girls and by so doing try to find lasting solutions from within.

The conversation groups are composed of key stakeholders including religious leaders, community leaders, teachers, parents as well as young men and women in the community.

Community members have been assisted in the formulation of Community Conversation groups within the seven villages in Kibera

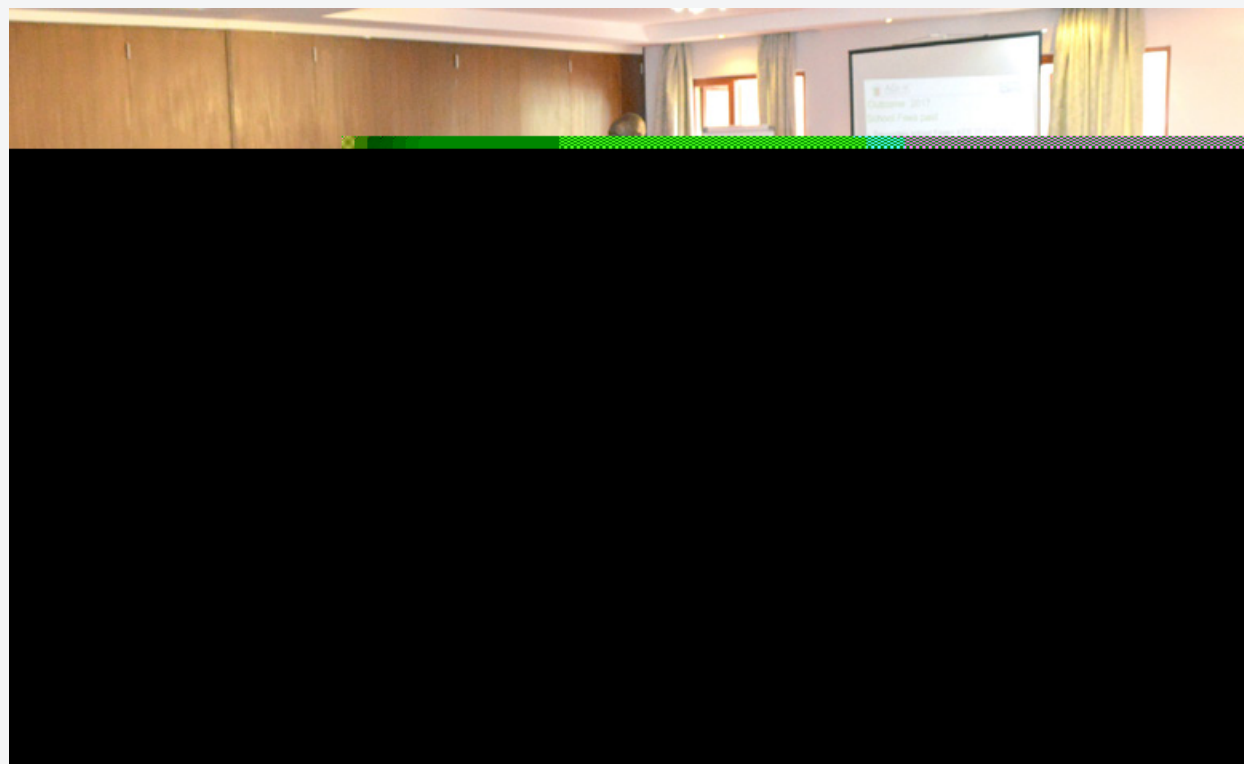


AGIK MEETINGS

Agnes making a presentation during EAC Members Meeting



Member of EAC adding her contributions



Phanwel Owiti
addressing head
teachers meeting

Mentors Meeting

GRADUATION CEREMONY





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