



FORTHCOMING

The Girl Roster Toolkit

SEEING AND VALUING ALL THE GIRLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Girls—especially poor girls—are often cited as a key constituency for health and development initiatives. However, unless they are subject to specific recruitment efforts, they are likely to receive a disproportionately low, even negligible, share of the benefits. Good intentions aside, some girls programs do not apply targeted, evidence-based practices and therefore reach fewer girls than they could. Some programs capture the ‘elite,’ where the majority of the benefits go to those who are better off and not to those most in need.

The **Girl Roster Toolkit**, developed by the Population Council and partners,* is a practical tool to help increase girls'—especially poor adolescent girls'—access to vital resources, facilities, and services. This toolkit will assist program managers in: seeing the full universe of girls in a program catchment area; breaking them into meaningful segments by age, by schooling, and by marital, childbearing, and living-arrangement status; and, through appropriate community engagement, increasing girls' access to a fair share of community resources. The material in the Toolkit can help programs of all types become more cost-effective, reach more of those most in need, and attain measurable results.

The Toolkit can be implemented by existing program staff (a new cadre of researchers is not required) using an Android phone or, in some cases, just pencil and paper. It is user-friendly, easy to implement, and has already been applied in ten very diverse field locations, with marked success.

The Toolkit (and technical annexes) provides the rationale behind each stage of this learning process, as well as step-by-step instructions that will support program staff as they:

- Conduct an initial community scan to determine the boundaries of the catchment area and its prominent features
- Enumerate the universe of girls in the program community or within walking distance
- Select segments of girls for priority attention
- Articulate top-line programmatic directions
- Conduct a more in-depth inventory of community assets (including programs that could, but currently do not, reach girls) and assess their reach to girls
- Begin to identify how programs can link different subpopulations of girls with services, facilities, and resources
- Learn from firsthand case studies of the Council and its partners, in countries across Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa

*The Women's Refugee Commission and operational organizations of The Girls in Emergencies Collaborative are adapting the tool for deployment in a range of humanitarian contexts, including emergency settings.

For more information, go to
popcouncil.org/GirlRoster



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