

GIRLS ON THE MOVE:

A FORTHCOMING *GIRLS COUNT* REPORT ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

BY THE POPULATION COUNCIL



Migrant girls in Burkina Faso learn from a mentor in the Population Council's Filles Eveillées project.

Research shows that:

- If an adolescent girl stays in school, remains healthy, and gains skills,
- then she will marry later; have fewer, healthier, and better educated children; and earn an income that she'll invest back into her family.

Adolescent girls between the ages of 10 and 19 in developing countries cannot always reach their potential because they may lack opportunities to gain appropriate schooling and viable livelihoods within their communities. As a result, many leave their parents' homes for new and unfamiliar surroundings in search of brighter prospects.

While it has long been known that adolescent girls migrate, they have seldom been acknowledged in migration policies, programs, and research. As a result, there is little evidence to help us understand the opportunities and challenges they may face.

In response, the Better World Fund is supporting the Population Council to develop a report, *Girls on the Move: Adolescent Girls & Migration in the Developing World*.



The report is focused on internal and regional migration of adolescent girls ages 10–19 living in developing countries. Scheduled to be published in early 2013, *Girls on the Move* synthesizes existing evidence and incorporates results of new research commissioned specifically for the report.

For the first time, the report examines:

- adolescent girls' migration patterns,
- factors that motivate girls to migrate,
- girls' experiences in transit,
- their health, education, and employment circumstances upon arrival, and
- the importance of girls' social networks in shaping every aspect of their migration experience.

It provides concrete, action-oriented program and policy recommendations for reaching migrant adolescent girls, addressing their needs, improving their lives, and maximizing their potential.

The evidence presented in *Girls on the Move* challenges preconceived notions about migrant adolescent girls, and will increase the attention of donors, policy makers, and global leaders to their vast potential. The report's recommendations will be crucial to effectively reaching and helping migrant adolescent girls, and advancing the Millennium Development Goals in areas with large adolescent girl populations.

The Population Council team developing the report includes Miriam Temin, Mark Montgomery, Sarah Engebretsen, and Kathryn Barker.

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