



WHAT WORKS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR KENYA'S ADOLESCENT GIRLS?

The Adolescent Girls Initiative – Kenya is a study that evaluates the long term impact of a multi-sectoral intervention targeted at adolescent girls aged 11 to 15 years from Kibera and rural Wajir. The intervention consists of four different components: a community based **violence** prevention program, an **education** conditional cash transfer (CCT), **health** focused girls empowerment clubs and **wealth** creation for girls via financial education and savings (account in urban site, home banks in Wajir).

RESEARCH DESIGN

A random selection of 6,000 girls were exposed to different components of the intervention, grouped as follows:

1. Violence prevention only (V-only group)
2. Violence prevention + education/Conditional Cash Transfer (VE group)
3. Violence prevention + education/CCT + health clubs (VEH group)
4. Violence prevention + education/CCT + health clubs + wealth creation (VEHW group)



Baseline data was collected in 2015 before the roll out of the intervention began and data was collected again in 2017 at the end of two years of the intervention.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- **A multi-sectoral approach was a cost-effective way to create positive change** across a range of wellbeing factors for young adolescent girls, including education, health and economic outcomes.
- **Education cash transfers worked, and impact varied depending on context.**
 - In areas where enrollment is close to 100% such as Kibera, cash transfers improved completion of primary school (from 84% to 91%) and transition to secondary school (from 81% to 89%).
 - In Wajir where only 75% of girls were in school at baseline, cash transfers increased enrollment to 95% - a huge improvement.
 - Cash transfers also encourage good will towards and participation in the health and wealth parts of the program, especially in low-resourced, socially-conservative settings.



- **Participating in girls clubs strengthened impacts on all sectors, including education.**
 - The results suggest that being active in a girl’s empowerment club, which focuses on improving health knowledge, self-efficacy and social safety nets, further improves education outcomes. This makes the investment in the cost of establishing and maintaining the safe spaces platform good value for money.
 - In socially-conservative settings, sexual and reproductive health content knowledge showed no change, though the safe spaces platform led to small improvements on gender norms and self-efficacy and allowed for the delivery of the economic strengthening content.
- **Financial literacy and savings improved in both sites.**
 - Girls showed strong increases in their financial literacy and savings behavior, in both frequency and amount.
- It is too early to know if the intervention packages will delay child-bearing; these longer-term results are expected in early 2020.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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