Final Evaluation Results
Expanding Access to Secondary School Education for Teenage Mothers in Homa Bay County
Study Objective

• To determine the effect of policy dialogue, clarification, and advocacy on:
  
  – the demand for secondary school education by out-of-school teenage mothers; and
  
  – community knowledge, attitudes, and practices in regard to school re-entry for out-of-school teenage mothers.
Study Sites

Homa Bay County

- Homa Bay Sub-County
- Ndhiwa Sub-County
Study Populations

**Household level**
- Out-of-school teenage girls
- Household heads

**School level**
- Secondary school principals
- Secondary school students
Study Design

• Pretest-Posttest Design

\[ \text{Time} \]

\[ O_1 \quad X \quad O_2 \]
Data Gathering Activities

- **Baseline and endline household surveys**
  - Out-of-school teenage girls; HHHs

- **Baseline and endline, self-administered school surveys**
  - Secondary school principals and students

- **School re-entry statistics**
  - All (eligible) primary and secondary schools in Homa Bay sub-county
Sample Sizes

Out-of-school teenage girls, ages 13-19 (n=727)

Household heads of out-of-school teenage girls (n=511)

Secondary school principals: public, day, mixed or girls-only; 30 randomly sampled from each sub-county (n=167)

Secondary school students Forms 2 and 3 (n=1,413)
Key Findings at Baseline
(September-October 2014)
Pregnancy is a pivotal event in the lives of girls in Homa Bay

- It often precedes or leads to school dropout

— 66% of out-of-school teen girls cited pregnancy as their main reason for leaving school
Pregnancy is a pivotal event in the lives of girls in Homa Bay.

- 80% of out-of-school girls who cited pregnancy as their main reason for leaving school, left school at the primary school level.

- It occurs early.
Pregnancy is a pivotal event in the lives of girls in Homa Bay

- It often leads to early marriage

  – A third of out-of-school girls were married. Of these, 92% said they got married because they got pregnant.
Pregnancy: A pivotal event in the lives of girls in Homa Bay

91%
of out-of-school girls would like to go back to school someday

76%
intend to go back to school someday

Finances and child care are the main barriers, according to girls and HHHs
School contexts are important for understanding teenage pregnancy in Homa Bay

- School pregnancy rates are high:
  - A quarter of school principals reported having 5 or more pregnant girls in their schools in the last year.
School contexts are important for understanding teenage pregnancy in Homa Bay

- School pregnancy rates in the last year (August 2013-August 2014)
Who got you pregnant?

6% boda-boda transporter

37% boyfriend (fellow student)

52% boyfriend (not fellow student)
School contexts are important for understanding teenage pregnancy in Homa Bay (secondary school students, n=1,413)

Ever gotten a girl pregnant?
- Yes
- Yes
- 19%

Ever gotten pregnant?
- Yes
- Yes
- 21%
School contexts: Important for understanding teenage pregnancy in Homa Bay

‘Schools need to help girls avoid pregnancy.’

95% students

97% principals
School contexts: Important for understanding teenage pregnancy in Homa Bay

83% students say schools don’t provide info on where to access contraception
Policy awareness needs enhancement in Homa Bay

Not aware of the NSHP

- 36% out-of-school girls
- 35% household heads
Policy awareness needs enhancement in Homa Bay

Not aware of the NSHP

- 33% School principals
- 44% Students
Policy awareness needs enhancement in Homa Bay

Not aware of the school re-entry policy

- 20% School principals
- 16% Students
Radio is important for conveying policy information in Homa Bay
Interventions
Interactive media campaign

- By Well Told Story for 18 weeks (July-Nov, 2015)
  - ‘Real-life’ radio series
  - Expert interviews (MOE, principals, community leaders, etc.) on policies
  - Call-ins, prizes
  - Complementary IEC materials on policies
  - Road shows
  - Engagement of local celebrity (‘Odoshe’), MPs
Odosh Jasuba
Media campaign launch
Media campaign launch
Policy dialogue and advocacy

• Two dialogues
  – With nearly 200 secondary school principals from the entire county

• Advocacy with education stakeholders
  (9/14 to 12/15)
Preliminary Key Findings at Endline
(January to February 2016)

Photo by Uwezo Kenya
An increase in household togetherness

- Proportion of out-of-school teenage girls reporting that they listen to radio **with** their HHH:
  - Baseline: 74%
  - Endline: 92%
  - $p < 0.001$
An increase in policy awareness

Ever heard radio messages about need for school re-entry

Girls
77% to 92%

HHHs
82% to 93%

p < 0.001
An increase in policy awareness

Aware of radio show about girls returning to school

Girls: 51% to 80%
HHHs: 56% to 79%

p < 0.001
An increase in policy awareness

- **Girls**: Ever heard pregnant girls can remain in school: 64% to 72%
- **HHHs**: Ever heard pregnant girls can remain in school: 65% to 81%

**Statistical Significance**:
- **Girls**: $p < 0.05$
- **HHHs**: $p < 0.001$
An increase in policy awareness

- Girls: 93% to 95%, ns
- HHHs: 89% to 95%, p<0.001

Ever heard parenting girls can return to school
A wider range of policy information sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>HHHs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Parent/guardian  
  • Baseline: 7%  
  • Endline: 14%* | • School/School Head  
  • Baseline: 19%  
  • Endline: 33%** |
|       | • Comm. member  
  • Baseline: 43%  
  • Endline: 50%* |
A change in parental (HHH) attitudes

51% to 68%**

- Pregnant girls should be allowed to stay in school until delivery

43% to 33%**

- Pregnant girls should be sent home until delivery, and then return to school
A change in parental (HHH) attitudes

‘Pregnant girls should be allowed back in school after delivery’: 98% to 100%*

‘Because everyone has a right to education’: 19% to 33%**
Change in girls’ re-entry behavior

Know of a parenting girl who returned to school

- HHHs: 88% to 92%*
- Girls: 80% to 82%
Change in girls’ re-entry behavior
(Out-of-school girls)

**Ever re-entered school yourself?**

- 10% to 16%*

**Main reasons for leaving school again**

- Financial constraints
- Lack of child care
Pregnancy still a major barrier for girls’ schooling in Homa Bay despite continuation policies

- Main reason cited by girls for leaving school initially is still pregnancy

- Baseline: 66%
- Endline: 63%
• Out-of-school teenage girls in Homa Bay have maintained high desires (91%) and intentions (76%) to return to school someday.

• Their HHHs are slightly less likely to intend to support them in doing so (87% to 82%*) – mainly due to financial constraints.
Conclusion

• Preliminary findings suggest that a combination of policy dialogue, clarification, and advocacy has a positive effect on out-of-school girls’ demand for education, and on wider community KAP.

• However, financial constraints and child care are powerful barriers that must be addressed to ensure school retention after re-entry, or to motivate some families to attempt re-entry at all.
Limitations

• Non-use of a cohort study design
  • But school statistics from Homa Bay sub-county show re-entry is happening: From Aug 2014 to Sept 2015, **164 girls left primary school, and 140 girls re-entered** – many to the same school. **118 girls left secondary school, and 135 girl re-entered.**

• Lack of a comparison group

• Short intervention period
References


Acknowledgments

Our gratitude goes to:

✓ Homa Bay County Department of Education
✓ Hon. Naphtally Mattah, Executive CEC, Education, and ICT
✓ Hon. Gladys Wanga (‘Mama County’)
✓ Hon. Peter Kaluma
✓ Hon. Augustinho Neto
✓ Other Members of Parliament
✓ Homa Bay County school principals
✓ Homa Bay County students
✓ Out-of-school girls in Homa Bay County
✓ Parents and other HHHs
✓ Our data collection team

• Cover slide photo courtesy of gdstone (http://www.flickr.com/people/gdstone/).
Acknowledgments

• Thank you, Jane Musia!
Thank you for your attention
The **Population Council** conducts biomedical, social science, and public health research. We deliver solutions that lead to more effective policies, programs, and technologies that improve lives around the world.