Today’s rising generation of 1.3 billion adolescents are tomorrow’s future.

We envision a gender-equitable world where girls and boys make a healthy and safe transition into adulthood and reach their full potential.
Introducing the GIRL Center

We are **thought leaders** - generating innovative research, tools, and engagement.

We are **catalysts** - ensuring that policy makers, practitioners, advocates, researchers, and donors make transformative change guided by data and evidence.
Girls are 1.5 times more likely than boys to be excluded from primary school.

In low-income countries, less than two thirds of girls complete their primary education, and only 1 in 3 completes lower secondary school.

1 in 10 girls have experienced sexual violence.
Why girls?

Key events that happen to girls in adolescence - school dropout, early marriage, motherhood, sexual and gender-based violence - are irreversible

- 1 in 5 young women were married while children.
- Approximately 12 million girls aged 15-19 years and at least 777,000 girls under 15 years give birth each year in developing regions.
There is tremendous power in investing and intervening during adolescence

Adolescence is a short, critical window in our development. A short-term investment protects adolescents, especially girls, and lets them grow into healthy adults. The long-term, generational benefits for women and their children and communities are critical.
Population Council’s strategic goals through 2030

The GIRL Center drives Goal 2 on adolescents and young people – on its own, and as it intersects with the other three strategic goals.
GIRL Center: The go-to for solutions for girls

INNOVATORS
in finding evidence-based solutions for girls

TREND SETTERS
driving global efforts – of today and tomorrow – to support adolescent girls and boys

THOUGHT LEADERS
who meet the current moment
Why the GIRL Center?

✔ Brings the needed combination of specialist knowledge and technical expertise

✔ Bridges the fragmented ecosystem by combining and investing in research, programming, and policy in one place

✔ Draws on Population Council’s multi-decade history of going deep and broad on adolescent girls

✔ Driven by over two-dozen adolescent-focused researchers across many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
What is our mission?

Generate Evidence

Communicate & Convene

Nurture Talent
OUR APPROACH

Girl-centered  Actionable

Inter-sectional  Evidence-driven

Innovative  Grounded in LMICs
OUR APPROACH

The girl is at the center of our work

- Early Pregnancy
- Digital Access
- Education
- Climate Crisis
- Child Marriage
- Economic Empowerment
- Migration
- SGBV
- Poverty
- Mental Health
- SRHR
- HIV
- COVID-19

GIRL Center
FOR INNOVATION, RESEARCH, AND LEARNING
How our research will change the world

End child marriage in a generation
Break intergenerational poverty
Create a gender-equitable entry into adulthood
Intergenerational Poverty and Gender Inequity
What are the most effective programs to jointly address the multi-dimensional needs of adolescent mothers and their young children? Done right, this can prevent those children falling behind and ultimately break the cycle of poverty.

Adolescents and the Digital Space
How do we harness digital platforms to uplift young people? How do we apply our knowledge of interventions to deliver digital programming to the most marginalized adolescents, reducing exclusion and opening new pathways?

Adolescents in Humanitarian Settings
How can we most impactfully support adolescent girls and boys in humanitarian settings? What are their unique needs?
Thought Leadership & Research Agenda

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
How do we maximize the value of investing in ASRH? How does ASRH interact with girls’ multi-dimensional needs?

Adolescent Economic Empowerment
How can we build reliable pathways to economic empowerment for girls and young women?

Adolescents and Climate
How can adolescents lead and thrive despite and in response to the climate crisis and growing injustice, ensuring optimal health and wellbeing?
One-stop shop for data and insights

• Adolescent Atlas for Action (A3)
• Adolescent Data Hub
• Evidence for Gender and Education Resource
• Longitudinal Data Sets
• Adolescent Girls Community of Practice
GIRL Center Structure

- Focal Points for Regional Hubs
- Internal Research Collaborators
- External Research Collaborators

Management & Operations
Regional hubs drive change from within LMICs

Integrating research and practice at the regional level

- Synthesize analytics
- Build talent
- Advise & engage with adolescents
- Embed within policy & advocacy structures
- Engage in multisectoral coalitions & movements

- Integrated evidence-based ecosystem for girls
- Nimble response to gaps & needs by decision makers
- Sustainable foundation for systems change
What will be achieved by 2030?

1. A robust pipeline of GIRL Center-led, innovative, and policy-relevant evidence generated and used

2. Integration in the adolescent ecosystem between researchers, advocates, policy makers, practitioners, and donors with GIRL Center as a convening force

3. A strong, promising, rising generation of adolescent researchers from and based in LMICs identified and mentored by the GIRL Center

4. Donors, policy-makers and practitioners make evidence informed decisions on adolescent-related investments due to the GIRL Center
How can you support the GIRL Center?

Evidence Generation Partnerships
- Collaborate on studies
- Share data in the Adolescent Data Hub

Research Impact Partnerships
- Co-host events
- Join our listserv, share our content, follow us on social media
- Co-author insights pieces, contribute to the A3

Funding
- Provide core support for the Center
- Fund specific projects through the Center
- Support GIRL Center fellows