START WITH A GIRL
A NEW AGENDA FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
A GIRLS COUNT REPORT ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS

MIRIAM TEMIN
RUTH LEVINE
CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
GIRLS COUNT
A GLOBAL INVESTMENT & ACTION AGENDA
A GIRLS COUNT REPORT ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS

RUTH LEVINE
CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
CYNTHIA B. LLOYD
POPULATION COUNCIL
MARGARET GREENE
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN
CAREN GROWN
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
With support from . . .

Advisors


Technical inputs

*DHS Analyses, Canning, Finlay, Ozaltin ❖ Costing, Ebbeler ❖ Mortality, School Health data, WHO*

*Nike Foundation ❖ Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*
Altering the equation for girls: A *crucial* investment

- Girls’ rights first & foremost
- Global health goals
- The prevention imperative
- A lever for economic & social development
Altering the equation for girls: A *feasible* investment

1. Foster country-based leadership
2. Eliminate child marriage
3. Respond with adolescent-friendly maternal and reproductive health services
4. Focus HIV prevention
5. Use system strengthening, monitoring, training and financing opportunities
6. Promote secondary schooling
7. Create innovation fund for girls’ health
8. Establish as long-term priority for donor support
Altering the equation for girls: An affordable investment

Less than a dollar a day for essential health sector interventions, community-based actions, school & media based activities
Adolescence: a critical juncture
Social determinants underlie epidemiology

Child marriage is still common in many regions of the world
Percentage of women (20-24 years) married before 18 years (2008)

Maps designed and prepared by maplecroft.
Adolescent girls’ burden of disease by cause, 2002

Disability-adjusted life years per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 10-19 years

Unhealthy young mothers, unhealthy babies

Mother’s age is a risk factor for children’s health problems


*The analysis also controlled for mothers 21 to 23 years old.
Girls’ disproportionate HIV risk

Young women have a high prevalence of HIV in many countries...

...and often have a higher prevalence than men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries with the greatest imbalance</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</td>
<td>8.0:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWAZILAND</td>
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<td>TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIBERIA</td>
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</tbody>
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Prevalence of HIV among young women (15-24 years) 2007
- more than 10%
- 5.1% - 10%
- 1.1% - 5%
- less than 1%
- no data

Making the health sector work for girls

- Youth-friendly health services
- Targeted interventions
- Health financing & system strengthening
The grander vision: working outside the health sector

- Transform social norms
- Create family & community resources
- Increase the health benefits of non-health investments
To make a real difference….

- Prevention of harmful traditional practices
- Media edu-tainment
- Involvement of boys & men, parents
- Safe spaces
- Secondary schooling
- Sexuality, human rights & gender education
- Livelihoods & micro-credit
The bottom line: What will it cost?

Health services, community action, media, and education

- 10 to 19-year-olds in need
- 2010-15
- Countries with GNI<$3,855
- Based on program experience (limitations!)

- **$360 per year ($1 a day)**
- Upper bound: $7 billion excluding India & China
  - $3.6 billion for low-income countries alone
- $6+ billion for India & China
Taking the next step

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