

Improving the Reproductive Health of Adolescents Affected by Armed Conflict



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Women's Commission

Adolescent Activities

- Children and Adolescents Project
 - ✓ Participatory youth research studies
 - ✓ Tools for working with youth
 - ✓ Advocacy
- Reproductive Health Project
 - ✓ RH Assessments
 - ✓ Local capacity building through subgrants
 - ✓ Advocacy

Risk Factors for Adolescents (1)

- Forced displacement, violence/poverty, separated from family and communities
- Lack education, health care, protection, livelihood, recreational activities, friendship, family support
- Early sexual relations and increased reproductive health risks



Risk Factors for Adolescents (2)

- Limited access to RH information
- Lack of adolescent-focused and friendly services
- Increased rates of sexual activity and unwanted pregnancies
- Increased exposure to STIs, including HIV/AIDS



Findings from participatory studies

_ Lacked access to information and services

_ Young people want RH information & services

_ Programming doesn't meet needs of girls, GBV survivors, orphans, teen and single parents and IDPs

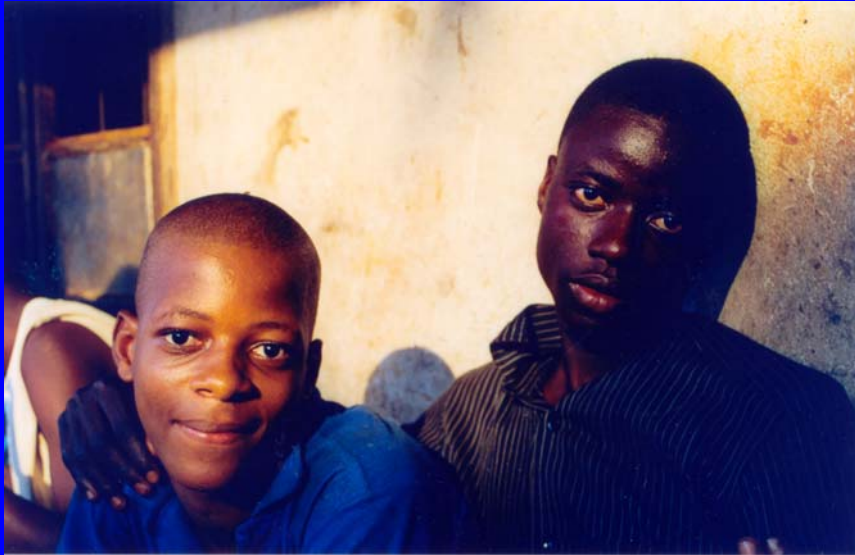


Global Statistics on Young People

- Six young people under 25 are infected with HIV every minute - more than half of all new HIV infections are among 15 to 24 year-olds.
- 1 in 20 adolescents contracts an STI every year.
- 1 in 10 pregnancies occur among adolescent girls.
- About 6,000 girls undergo genital mutilation each day.

Adolescents Strengths

- Ability, creativity, energy and enthusiasm
- Enjoy and learn from activities where they are making decisions, providing leadership and taking action
- Empowered when have opportunities to engage in decision making and to advocate on their own behalf



Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury Fund

- Established June 2000
- First fund ever to specifically focus on reproductive health needs of conflict-affected adolescents
- Established by Pillsbury family



EBP Fund Approach

- Year 1: \$5,000 grants to small local NGOs
- Year 2: \$7,500 grants to RHRC members partnering with local organizations
- Year 3: \$7,500 grants to international NGOs coordinating network of local NGOs
- Access to technical resources and program guidance offered to all subgrantees
- Share information on program activities and strategies among groups

EBP Fund 2000-2003



- Provided \$190,027 in funding
- through 36 grants
- to 33 organizations
- in 20 countries
- in 4 world regions
- reaching over 60,000 adolescents

EBP Fund Accomplishments (1)

- Over 60,000 adolescents benefited from IEC
- 2,250 adolescent girls have received sanitary wear products
- 580 adolescents trained as reproductive health peer educators
- 2,337 adolescents participated in peer counseling sessions
- Over 300 adolescents received educational support and livelihood skills training

EBP Fund Accomplishments (2)

- 175 parents trained in adolescent reproductive health needs
- 15 community medical staff trained in youth-friendly services
- 10,000 condoms distributed at no charge
- More than 22,800 brochures, fliers and pamphlets distributed



Lessons Identified (1)

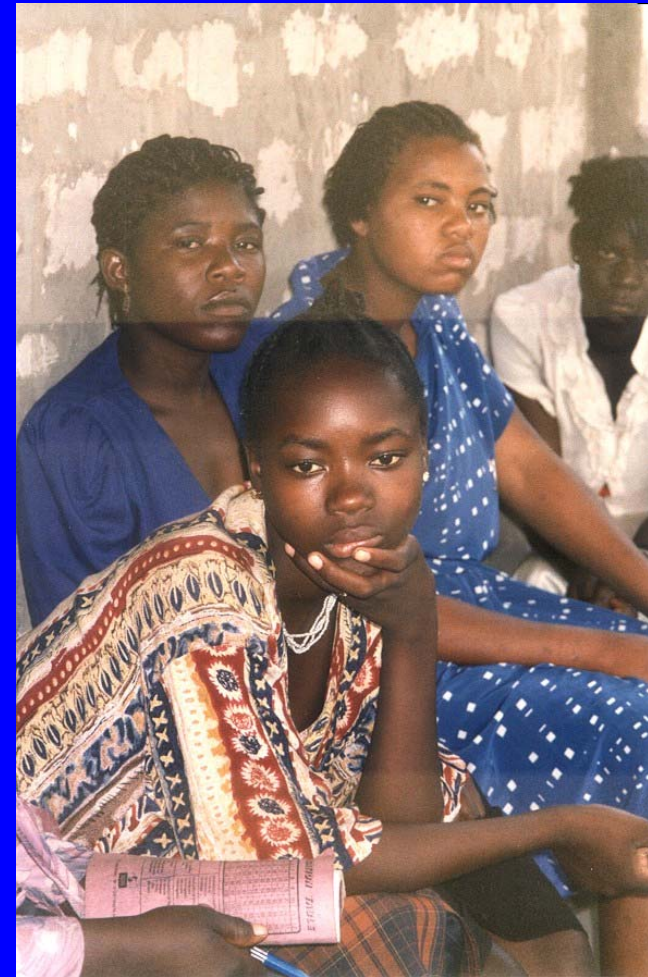
- RH projects must be flexible in approach, meeting the specific needs of adolescents
- Peer educators are a popular method communities use to reach adolescents
- Capacity building, with technical guidance and support, is necessary to maximize project effectiveness
- Adolescents should participate in design, implementation and evaluation of projects

Lessons Identified (2)

- RH relates to adolescents' well-being in other areas of their lives
- Linkages must be identified and addressed multi-sectorally
- Need more adolescent-friendly RH services with trained providers
- Need more GBV programs, life skills targeting girls and common indicators for program evaluation

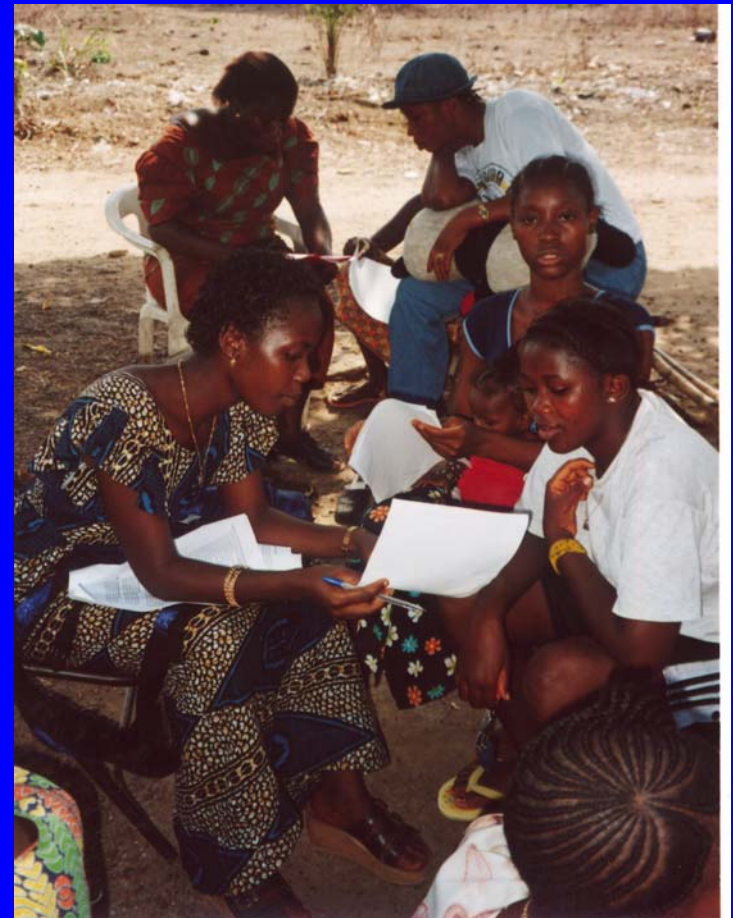
Next Steps RH Project

- _ Cease grant-making while re-evaluating strategy**
- _ Consider network model**
- _ Consider larger, multiple grants for bigger impact and sustainability**
- _ Provide more tools to groups for improved evaluation**



Go Youth! Campaign

- Develop lessons learned and recommendations for adolescent protection and assistance for humanitarian workers
- Create youth-to-youth guide and ensure use
- Develop and implement refugee adolescent guidelines and tools
- Continue advocacy and site-specific research





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www.womenscommission.org

