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Rwanda – Promoting the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent girls and young women:
Rwanda AGI (Endline)

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Scope: Keywords and Topic Classifications

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Abstract

The Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) is part of an eight-country initiative led by the World Bank aimed at promoting the economic empowerment of vulnerable adolescent girls and young women by improving their employment and incomes¹. The Government of Rwanda implemented the pilot in 2012 carried out by the Workforce Development Authority under the supervision of the Ministry of Gender and Family Protection. The AGI lasted for two years with three equal-sized cohorts who received a two-week induction, followed by six months of technical training in culinary, arts and craft, food processing and agriculture, and a final stage of 5.5 follow up months where participants were assisted with placements, cooperative formation and mentoring for micro-enterprise establishment. Further, the program has three components: (i) Skills Development and Entrepreneurship Support; (ii) Scholarships to Resume Formal Education; and (iii) Project Implementation Support. This is an evaluation on component I for the second cohort only. It uses a tracer methodology and it follows the individual journey of the trainees over time using a mix of instruments, including semi-structured interviews, focus groups and quantitative surveys. Overall, the vocational training project led to a substantial increase in non-farm employment among the beneficiaries, an increase driven primarily by higher self-employment rates, mostly involving small-scale trading in rural areas. Nevertheless, household agriculture continued to be a common activity for girls in the sample.

¹ The Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) was implemented between 2008-15 by the World Bank in eight countries in partnership with the Nike Foundation and the governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Denmark, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Nepal, Norway, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

KEY VARIABLES

This survey was designed to capture indicators on the following:

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Earnings
- ✓ Economics assets
- ✓ Social Assets
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Children well-being

USES OF DATA

The endline data is used to compare relevant indicators to data from the baseline as well as the midline. Furthermore, this data allows an opportunity to assess the pre-program situation of adolescent girls and young women in many aspects of their lives.

SURVEY MODULES

A – Adolescent Module

0 - Identification and Consent

S1 – Background and household characteristics

S2 – Income Generating Activities

S3 – Time of use at home

S4 – Assets and Transfers

S5 – Social Support

S6 – Empowerment

S7 – Family and Children

S8 – Program Evaluation

Scope – Summary Data Description

COUNTRIES

Rwanda

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The project targeted geographically to four districts that already had training centers: Gasabo, Kicukiro, Gicumbi and Rulindo. More details under Sampling.

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

UNIVERSE

The program was delivered sequentially to roughly 2,000 vulnerable girls and young women in three equal-sized cohorts between 2012 and 2014. This data set is the endline survey data and focused exclusively on the second cohort and Component I. Four districts were targeted, two of

which are urban (Gasabo, and Kicukiro) and two of which are rural (Gicumbi and Rulindo). In these four districts, there were nine vocational training centers (VTCs).

Methodology – Data Collection

TIME METHOD

Baseline data collection started in Kigali in April 2012, and training was delivered sequentially among the three cohorts.

Timeline:

April 2012	Launch of the Program
April 2013	Induction weeks Cohort 1
May 2013	Technical Training Cohort 1: n = 621 enrolled
November 2013	Preparation Phase cohort 2: Finalize survey instruments, pilot quantitative survey with batch 1 beneficiaries, random sample of survey participants
December 2013 - Month 0 Cohort 2	Quantitative survey with 160 of the 182 randomly selected beneficiaries before the start of the induction period
December 2013	Follow up period cohort 1 starts: n = 597 completed
January 2014	Induction weeks Cohort 2
February 2014	Technical training cohort 2: n = 692 enrolled
February 2014	Induction weeks Cohort 3
March 2014	Technical training cohort 3: n = 696 enrolled
May 2014	End of follow up period Cohort 1
June 2014 - Month 6 Cohort 2	Midline focus group discussions, semi structured interviews
July 2014	Follow up period cohort 2 starts: n = 657 completed
September 2014	Follow up period cohort 3 starts: n = 659 completed
December 2014 – Month 12 Cohort 2	Quantitative survey with same 160 beneficiaries, focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews
December 2014	End of follow up period Cohort 2
December 2014	End of follow up period Cohort 3

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

This report evaluates the impact of the second cohort of exclusively component I of the program. The geographic coverage was decided based on the location of nine government-run Vocational Training Centers (VTCs), these already established VTCs were renovated under the AGI project and used for the training of the participants. One of the requirements of the program, was that the participant had to live in the vicinity of one of the VTCs. The districts selected included two rural areas, Gicumbi and Rulindo, and two urban areas, Gasabo and Kicukiro. Moreover, the VTCs in the urban areas were tasked to recruit participants from their

respective areas. The district of Rulindo comprised of the VTCs of Bushoki, Shyorongi and Kinyihira. The district of Gicumbi had the VTCs of Rushaki, Rutare and Kibali. In the urban districts, the participants could choose to go one of the VTCs according to preference, in Gasabo, VTC Gacuriro and VTC Bduba covered participants of Remera, Kinyinya and Nduba. And in the district of Kicukiro, all participants from Gikondo, Gatenda and Masaka had to go to VTC Nyarugunga.

Further, the program aimed at reaching vulnerable girls who not otherwise access formal education or vocational training; therefore, the applicants had to meet certain eligibility criteria. Rwanda AGI targeted young women who were between 16-24 years of age, were out of school for at least one year, and have some primary education, with preference completed primary education. In addition to this, the applicants had to be classified as highly vulnerable or at risk of becoming highly vulnerable, and need not be pregnant at the time of the baseline survey. The study population reflects the intended eligibility criteria to a high degree, with all respondents aged between 15 and 25 and not enrolled in school at the time of the baseline survey. The project attracted a young population, as 61 percent of baseline respondents were aged 20 or under. Almost all (94 percent) respondents had completed primary school, with 44 percent also having completed some secondary education. The required education levels for AGI respondents are one key way in which AGI participants are not representative of the general population. Almost all (91 percent) of AGI respondents had never been married at baseline, and one-quarter of them were mothers, with respondents reporting having one child on average. As per AGI requirements, no respondent was pregnant at baseline.

After the initial pre-screening for eligibility, the sample was stratified by the sector of participants' residence and selected through a public lottery conducted by WDA and MIGEPROF in each of the 11 recruitment sectors. The girls were invited to attend, and directly after the lottery, Laterite Limited – an independently contracted research firm - conducted uniform random sampling (in Excel) to select a subset of admitted applicants for the baseline survey. However, the baseline survey was administered only to those who were physically present at the lottery. In 6 of the 11 sectors of recruitment, girls who did not appear for the lottery were excluded from the project, so the evaluation sample reflects the project sample. In the other 5 sectors, absent applicants who were randomly selected for project admission were still allowed to join, but they were still excluded from the baseline survey. Specifically, cohort 2 had 1,364 applicants who passed the screening committee and 712 were randomly selected for project admission. Further, Unsuccessful but eligible applicants were allowed to enter the lottery for the third cohort, which started just one month after the second cohort. Hence, there was no feasible way to use the rejected applicants as a control group for an impact evaluation.

MODE OF DATA COLLECTION

This evaluation draws upon a number of data sources, including the progress reports prepared by the project implementation team, as well as the following activities conducted by Laterite Limited:

- The baseline survey prior cohort 2 induction phase (month 0): a quantitative survey was administered to 182 randomly sampled girls chosen for the second cohort of the AGI project. A team of 12 female enumerators and 4 female field coordinators interviewed the respondents in the eight vocational training centers (VTCs) just prior to the two-week induction phase to collect demographic information and key outcomes indicators. Each interview lasted approximately 30 minutes and were compensated with RwF 1,000 each as a transport stipend.
- The midline qualitative study (month 6): Five focus group discussions (FGDs) and twelve semi-structured interviews (SSIs) were conducted. Four of the focus groups were randomly selected by the research team, and one was chosen by the AGI project implementation team because it was considered an exemplary VTC. In most cases, the research team randomly sampled six participants per VTC from among those who responded to the baseline survey. If the selected participants were not present at the time of the interview (either because they were absent that day or because they had actually dropped out of the project), then other girls from the list were randomly selected in their place.
- The endline qualitative study (month 12): Eight focus group discussions (FGDs) with project participants and ten semi-structured interviews (SSIs) with project implementers were conducted. The sample was drawn from participants in the second cohort of trainees who did not take part in either the baseline or the endline quantitative surveys, were not interviewed during the midline qualitative study, and were not dropouts. Participants of the FGDs were compensated with RwF 1,000 for their time and as a transport stipend.
- The endline quantitative survey (month 12): A follow-up survey was administered to 160 of the 182 randomly sampled beneficiaries that responded to the baseline survey. Though special effort was made to follow up with the 43 individuals from the baseline survey who did not complete the project, the team was only able to interview 21 of them.

Furthermore, after cleaning the data to resolve inconsistencies and drop outliers, basic descriptive statistics were computed to give an overall picture of the beneficiaries' status and statistical analyses were conducted to compare the average values of each indicator using Student's t-test. The qualitative analysis was undertaken by Laterite Limited and after transcribing and translating both FGDs and SSIs (based on written notes and audio-recordings), the researchers compiled responses to all key questions into a spreadsheet to facilitate comparisons and analysis.

WEIGHTING

None

Related Studies

None

Related Publications

None