ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN CRISIS

Research in Mali and Burkina Faso
Methodology

- Adapted the previous Adolescent Girls in Crisis Research Framework – placed the experiences of adolescent girls at the centre of the methodology.

- The new adapted framework included considerations of all the people around adolescent girls and sought to include the possibilities of change which lie in the girl’s enabling environment.

Mixed methods Approach:

- Spoke with 900 girls with a mixture of surveys, single sex focus group discussions and in-depth interviews.

- Focus group discussions with 148 adolescent boys.

- Single sex discussion groups with 151 parents and guardians.

- 32 key informant interviews with community leaders, local authorities and members of civil society organisations.
AGiC 2.0 Socio-ecological Framework

Adolescent Girls in Crisis Socio-Ecological Framework

Key Issues
- Insecurity & Violence
- Education
- Health
- Participation, Voice & Presence
- Unmet Basic Needs
- Work & Livelihood

Pathways to Resilience
- Maintain security & build peace
- Prioritise the de-normalisation of VAWG
- Prioritise safe access to health centres & information
- Prioritise safe access to education
- Empower girls - safely

Socio-Ecological Context
- Society
  - Governance & Leadership
  - Policies & Regulations
  - Resources & Services
  - Media & Technology
  - Socio-Cultural & Gender Norms
- Community
  - Leadership
  - Information
  - Social Capital
- Family/Peers
  - Social Support
  - Communication
  - Peer Influence/Support
  - Family Influence/Support
- Adolescent Girl
  - Self Efficacy/Confidence
  - Personal Aspirations
  - Knowledge & Skills
  - Beliefs & Values
  - Perceived Norms & Risks

Environment, Locality & Climate Change
FINDINGS

Rokia, 14, in Koulikoro region, Mali. (©Plan International)
Children have witnessed extreme violence from armed conflict
Insecurity and curfews have restricted people’s mobility and the functioning of markets and schools
Boys risk being enlisted in armed groups

Girls are exposed to Gender-Based Violence, including Intimate Partner Violence, perpetrated by household members

In the past month, percentage of girls who have, been hit or beaten, experienced unwanted sexual gestures, been shouted at or insulted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Burkina Faso</th>
<th>Boucle du Mouhoun</th>
<th>Centre Nord</th>
<th>Mali</th>
<th>Mopti</th>
<th>Timbuktu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hit or beaten</td>
<td>10.94 %</td>
<td>15.6 %</td>
<td>6.25 %</td>
<td>9.09</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>15.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unwanted sexual gestures</td>
<td>6.25 %</td>
<td>1.6 %</td>
<td>10.9 %</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.81</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shouted at or insulted</td>
<td>21.09 %</td>
<td>32.8 %</td>
<td>9.3 %</td>
<td>15.02</td>
<td>9.38</td>
<td>20.8 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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YOUNG WOMAN, 19, TOUGAN, BURKINA FASO

“I’m afraid at night. Not during the day. I’m scared because at night there’s a lot of things you can’t see because there are jihadists there. I’m scared if I go out, he might run into me and then kill me.”
EDUCATION

- Schools are damaged, destroyed or inaccessible
- Inability to pay school fees or buy school materials
- Lack of teachers
- Violence going to and from school;

- Early marriage of girls
- Poor quality school curriculum, and learning environment (crowded class)
- Lack of appropriate sanitation facilities at schools

**BURKINA FASO**

2,500 SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED DUE TO INSECURITY\(^9\)
(pre-COVID closing further schools.)

**MALI**

1,100 SCHOOLS ARE NON-FUNCTIONAL\(^9\)
(pre-COVID closing further schools.)

1/3 OF GIRLS IN BURKINA FASO AND MALI HAD NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL OR ATTENDED FOR JUST A YEAR

*People here don’t like that we go to school. They give us in marriage at the earliest age.*

GIRL, 14, GOURMA RHAROUS, MALI
UNMET BASIC NEEDS

▪ Difficulties to access drinking water particularly for displaced girls (unavailability of water, violence experienced at water sources)

▪ 15% of girls in Mali said they worry their household will not have enough food (18% in BF)

▪ Many girls struggle to access healthcare due to lack of financial resources

“Women and children queuing for water in the Mentao camp in Burkina Faso. (Save the Children)"

“We all know each other, but to get water at the pump, it is every man for himself and God for us all.

GIRL IN 15-19 FOCUS GROUP, BANDIagara, Mali"

“If security is maintained, there won’t be any jihadists. NGOs and doctors will be free to sensitise girls and this will enable girls to stay healthy.

GIRL, 17, Gourma Rharous, Mali"
WORK & LIVELIHOODS

- In many areas, girls work outside the home, usually as maids for rich families or by cooking and selling food, even if they go to school - a key coping mechanism that enables them to save and contribute to their household’s income.

“**Our weekly market is on Sundays. But when there are attacks, nobody comes to us. We must wait for the situation to calm down. But until then, how do we survive?**

GIRL IN 15-19 FOCUS GROUP, GOURMA RHAROUS, MALI

“**If there is food and money, we are no longer tired, this is what can improve our life.**

GIRL, IN 10-14 FOCUS GROUP, TOUGAN, BURKINA FASO
GIRLS WANT TO BE SAFE
INSECURITY REMAINS THE MAIN CHALLENGE

GIRLS’ WANT TO STAY AT SCHOOL
ACCESS TO QUALITY AND SAFE EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS MUST BE PRIORITISED

GIRLS NEED ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS
THE ABILITY TO EARN SOME MONEY WAS HIGHLY PRIZED BY THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN THE STUDY

GIRLS STRUGGLE TO STAY HEALTHY
THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH IS AT RISK
They consider a woman’s place to be in the home, preparing to get married one day.

GIRL IN 15-19 FOCUS GROUP, DIRÉ, MALI

GIRLS ARE RESTRICTED BY THEIR COMMUNITIES’ EXPECTATIONS

HARMFUL SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS STIFLE ADOLESCENT GIRLS’ FREEDOMS

GIRLS WANT MORE SAY OVER THEIR LIVES

ADOLESCENT GIRLS MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Rokia, 14, washes dishes at her home in Koulikoro region, Mali.
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