

# ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN CRISIS

Research in Mali and Burkina Faso

# Methodology

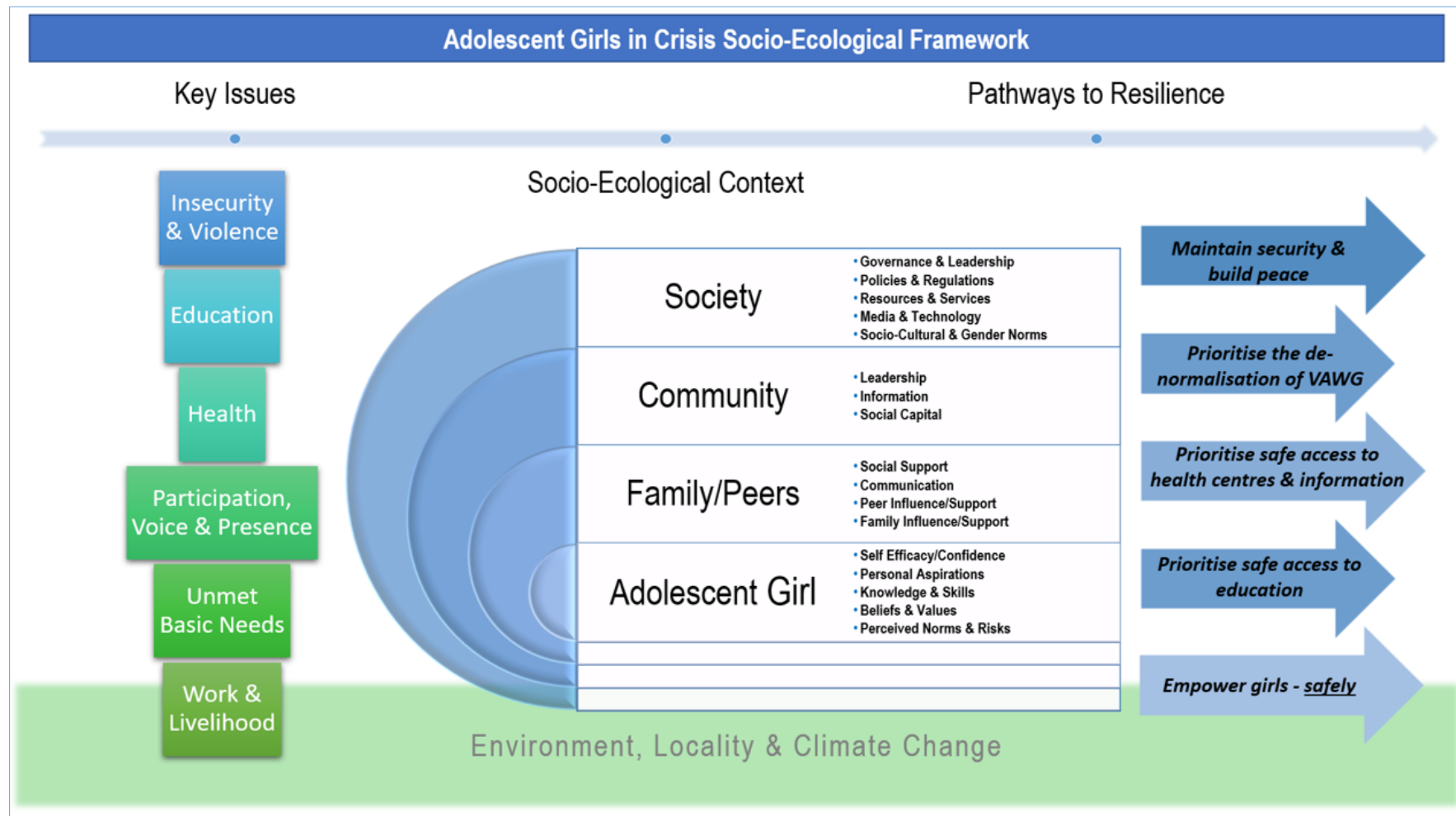
- Adapted the previous Adolescent Girls in Crisis Research Framework – placed the experiences of adolescent girls at the centre of the methodology
- The new adapted framework included considerations of all the people around adolescent girls and sought to include the possibilities of change which lie 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



# FINDINGS

# VIOLENCE

- 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

**“** 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. **”**

**YOUNG WOMAN,  
19, TOUGAN, BURKINA FASO**

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

**PERCENTAGE OF GIRLS (10-19)  
WHO REPORTED ACTS OF  
VIOLENCE (N=381):**

| <b>In the past month,<br/>percentage of girls<br/>who have,</b> | <b>been hit<br/>or beaten</b> | <b>experienced<br/>unwanted sexual<br/>gestures</b> | <b>been shouted<br/>at or insulted</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Burkina Faso</b>   | <b>10.94 %</b>                | <b>6.25 %</b>                                       | <b>21.09 %</b>                         |
| Boucle du Mouhoun   | 15.6 %                        | 1.6 %   | 32.8 %                                 |
| Centre Nord   | 6.25 %                        | 10.9 %  | 9.3 %                                  |
| <b>Mali</b>   | <b>9.09 %</b>                 | <b>8.3 %</b>  | <b>15.02 %</b>                         |
| Mopti   | 3.13 %                        | 7.81 %  | 9.38 %                                 |
| Timbuktu  | 15.2 %                        | 8.8%  | 20.8 %                                 |

# 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;

## BURKINA FASO

**2,500**

**SCHOOLS ARE  
CLOSED DUE TO  
INSECURITY<sup>9</sup>**  
(PRE-COVID CLOSING  
FURTHER SCHOOLS.)



## MALI

**1,100**

**SCHOOLS ARE  
NON-  
FUNCTIONAL<sup>9</sup>**  
(PRE-COVID CLOSING  
FURTHER SCHOOLS.)

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

(©Plan International)

“ 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. ”

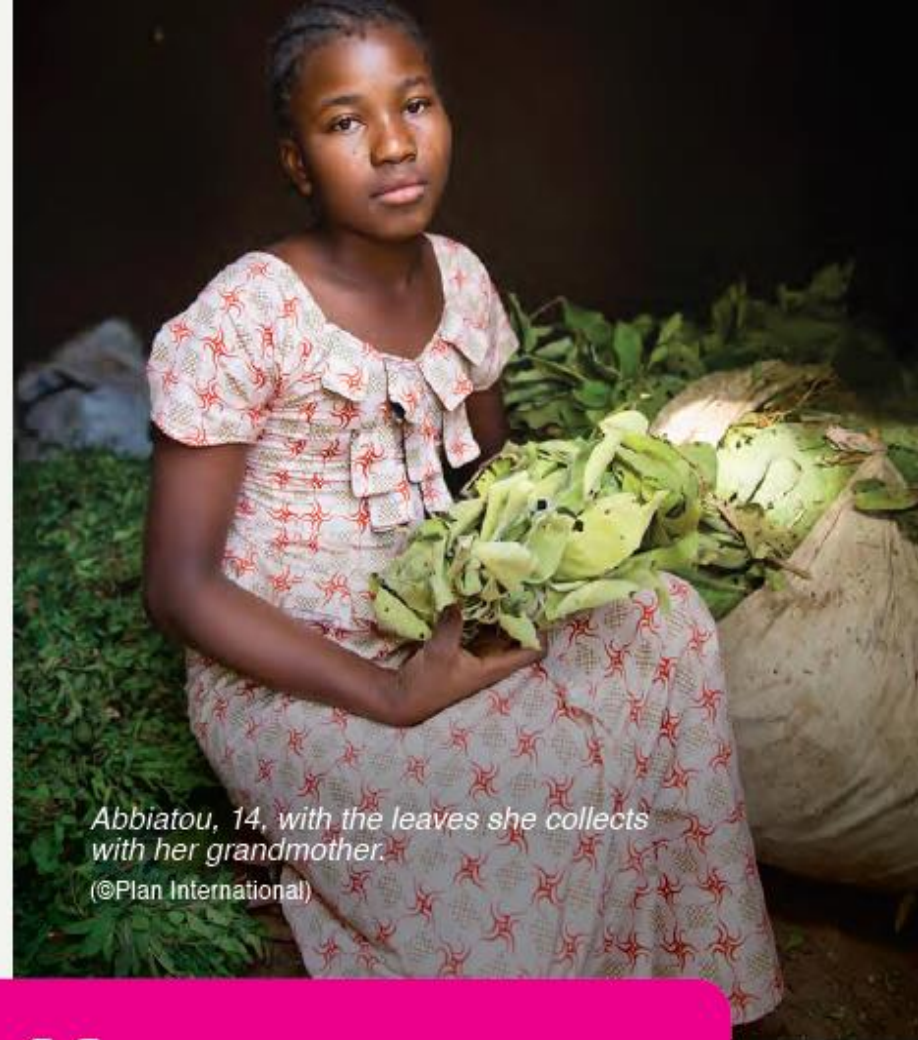
GIRL, 17, GOURMA  
RHAROUS, MALI

# 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



Abbiatou, 14, with the leaves she collects with her grandmother.

(©Plan International)

“ *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





Yassa, 13, with her grandmother at her home in Koulikoro region, Mali.  
(©Plan International)

**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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