



Menstrual Hygiene for School Retention and HIV Prevention for Adolescent Girls through Early Warning Systems

The DREAMS Innovation Challenge in Uganda

*The Strengthening School-Community Accountability for Girls' Education (SAGE) DREAMS Project
World Vision, Friends of Christ Revival Ministries, Center for Transformative Parenting and Research*

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Resilient

Empowered

AIDS-Free

Mentored

Safe





Introduction

Background

- Completion rate (Senior 4); 36%
- Transition rate (Senior 5); 24%

Goal

- Improve retention of AGYW (13-19 years) in secondary schools and reduce risk of HIV infection

Target

- 38,750 AGYW in 151 secondary schools in 10 DREAMS districts in Uganda



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Project Objectives

- Establish an adolescent girls-led Early Warning System (EWS) to prevent school dropout for the AGYW
- Strengthen school-community linkages to support AGYW to remain in school and reduce new HIV infections
- Strengthen linkages with healthcare providers for Youth Friendly Reproductive Health Services (YFRHS) including HCT, referrals for HIV care treatment and adherence support
- Provide menstrual hygiene management training and support of materials

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Theory of Change

If

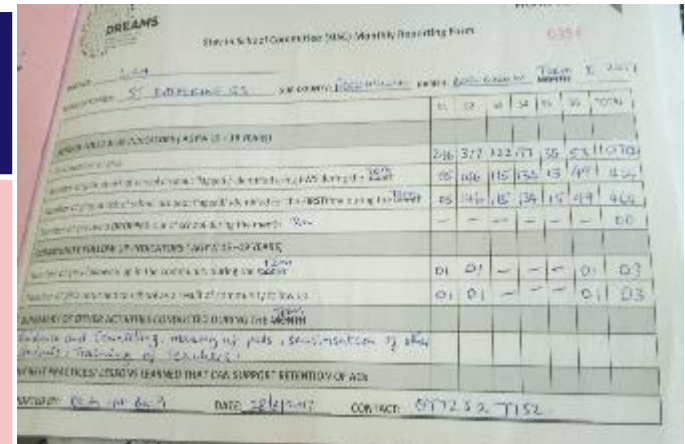
AGYW at-risk of dropping out of schools are identified early and monitored

and If

The learning environment for girls' education is improved at school, home and community levels

Then

AGYW will remain in school and their potential risks for new HIV infection will be decreased



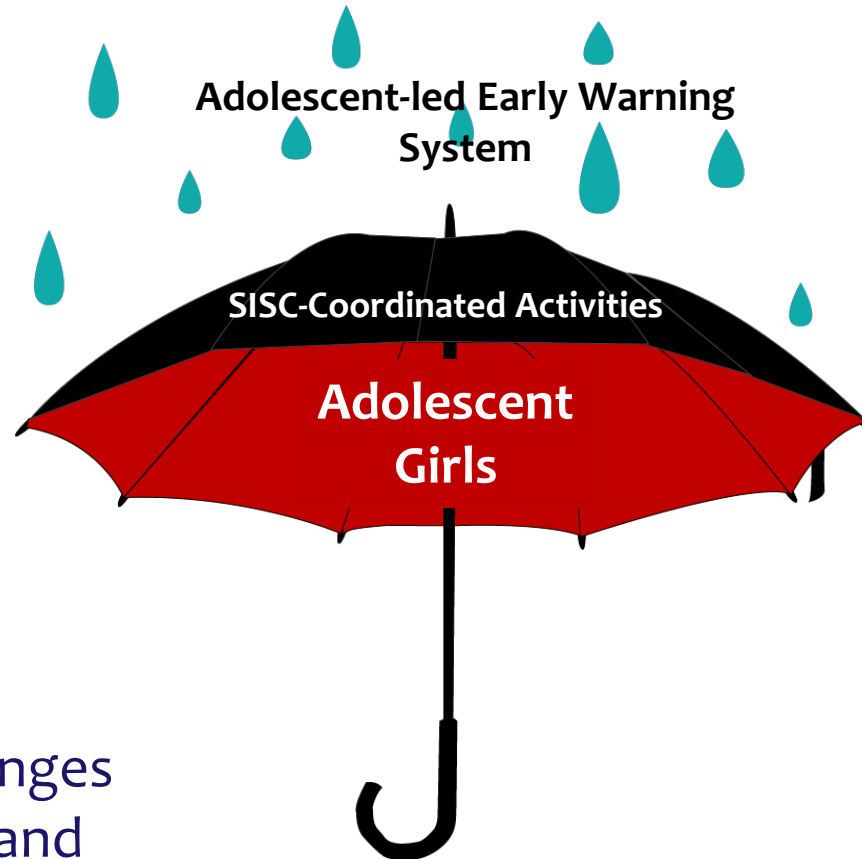
	Total	31	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Number of girls in school at the end of the month	236	377	422	471	56	65	110	107						1107
Number of girls who dropped out of school during the month	20	106	115	150	13	19	1	4						408
Number of girls who were identified as being at risk of dropping out of school during the month	15	146	16	34	11	4	4	4						200



SAGE Innovations



Adolescents are thought leaders and co-implementers in the project.



SISCs tackle challenges identified by EWS and plan activities.

Menstrual Hygiene Management

Training: Making reusable sanitary pads

Health: Sexual and reproductive health + hygiene management

Risk: Protects and empowers girls to stay in school



Menstrual Hygiene Management Achievements

- 5,996/5,285 (113%) received reusable menstrual hygiene products and training
- Routine monitoring data shows that **99.7% of the 44,351 AGYW** reached by the project were retained in school for the life of project.
- The baseline findings reveal that: the proportion of girls 15-19 years who reported staying/going to school during their menstrual cycle **increased by 2.6 % between baseline (94.5%) and end line survey (97.1%)** in the project areas.



Menstrual Hygiene Management

“Personally, am so touched with menstrual hygiene management, because before there was menstrual hygiene stigma but as I talk now the stigma is reducing.” - Mityana PTA Member



“The effect of the EWS is seen in many areas. Our girls used to perform poorly but we now feel they are empowered and their performance is improving through tracking using the EWS.”

– Agweng SS, Focal Teacher





Lessons Learned

1. EWS can identify girls at risk of dropping out of school. Follow-up and support of high risk girls by peer educators, teachers & parents can prevent drop out. Performance is a key factor in both prediction and prevention.
2. EWS is feasible, low cost, and uses available resources, but requires commitment from school administration and teachers. Most of the schools implementing successful SAGE-DREAMS programs are female-headed.
3. School fees are a significant challenge due to poverty and in areas where parents perceive secondary education as expensive and unnecessary. Linkages to bursaries and economic empowerment programs are essential.
4. ***Training adolescent girls in menstrual hygiene management supports adolescent girls to stay in school.***
5. ***Engaging boys are also interested in learning these skills to support their peers, siblings, and generate income.***
6. Teacher, parent, and community engagement increase accountability of schools and shift attitudes toward girls education.

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Video

You can access the information about the program and the video at www.worldvision.org/dreams

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Thank you!

