

NISIKILIZE TUJENGANE (NISITU): LISTEN TO ME, LET'S GROW TOGETHER



IECE
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NISITU Program

What about
the
BOYS?!?!

If girls are getting
a program
should

Don't you have to
work with boys and
men in a community
to improve girls'
lives?

Intervention

- Safe spaces groups
 - Weekly meetings (~1.5 hours)
 - Facilitated by a mentor of same sex
 - Segmented by sex, age
- Session content
 - SRH
 - Financial education
 - Gender norms (EMAP curriculum)
- Savings accounts
- Savings match/entrepreneurship (older only)

Context

- Urban informal settlements in Nairobi/Nakuru:
 - High population density/crowded
 - High rates of violence
 - Physical and sexual
 - Base of crime and drug trade
 - Lack of formal employment opportunities

Study Design

	Arm 1 - Kariobang i	Arm 2 – Mathare North	Arm 3 - Dandora
Girls	✓	✓	X
Boys	✓	X	X

Broad Timeline

- 2017 – Formative year
 - Intervention design
 - Research design
 - Research protocols
- 2018 – 2019 – Intervention
 - Household listing/Baseline data collection
 - Program implementation
 - Qualitative process evaluation
 - Endline data
- 2020-21 – Analysis, Dissemination, Next Steps

Baseline Findings – Summary Points

- Girls and boys are much more similar to one another when 10-14 than 15-19
- Similar levels of sexual experience, but within very different contexts for girls & boys
- Violence is common but differs in nature between boys and girls

Qualitative Data on Gender Norms

- There were reported changes in thoughts and perceptions with expressions such as ‘boys and girls are equal’, ‘boys and girls can perform the same tasks’, ‘boys are like brothers and girls like sisters’
- Relationships were also reported to be based on respect and mutual support as opposed to sex as before

Gender Norms

“In the family relationship, we used to look down upon girls, we thought that there was nothing that they could help us with, but we were taught that mothers and girls play a very big role in the community, because they do so much. Even the man brings money for food, the women play a lot in preparing the food and so many other things which cannot happen without her.”

Adolescent boy, 17 years, Nakuru

Endline Data on Gender Norms

- Used multiple GEAS measures
- No difference after 18 months between sites

What do we think happened?

Implementation Challenges

1

Participation of older, out of school males and females

- Balance of money v. information
- Competing responsibilities
- Alternative meeting formats

2

Mentor quality and attitudes

- How to ensure shared values?
- Particular challenges with male mentors
- Balance of commitment v. payment

Intervention Design

1

Lack of multi-level approach

- Interventions addressed individual attitudes, but might not have been reinforced at school, in the home, etc.

2

Duration v. content of program

- Was the intervention period long enough?
 - Enough time to iterate between learning and action?
- Was enough of the content of the intervention aimed at gender norms? Balance with needs for other interventions

Thank You



Study website:

<https://www.popcouncil.org/research/nisitu-testing-the-effects-of-implementing-girl-centered-programming>

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