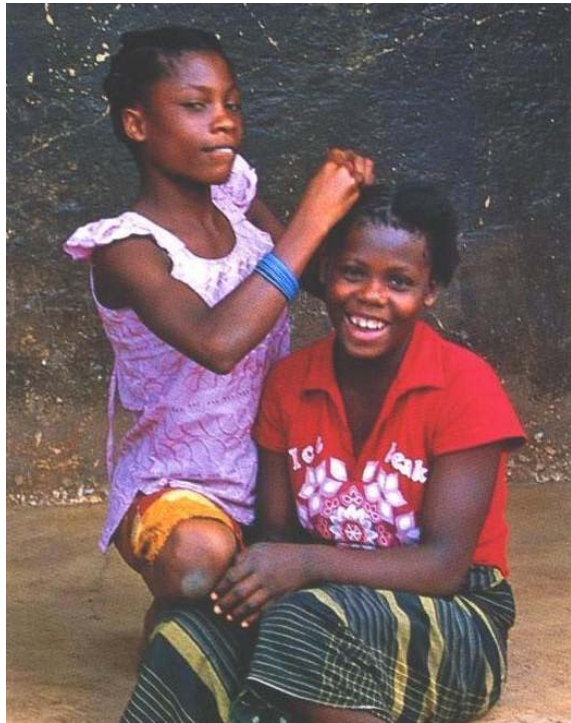


# Go Girls! Initiative

## Strong Girls! Strong Communities!

A multi-level approach to reducing girls' vulnerability to HIV in Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique

### Go Girls! Initiative



**Countries:** Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana

**Project Name:** Go Girls! Initiative (Gender Initiative on Girls' Vulnerability to HIV)

**Project Dates:** September 2007 – September 2010

**Funding Source:** USAID/Project Search

**Intended Audience:** 10-17 year-old girls

**Health Focus:** HIV/AIDS

**International Partners:** Macro International

**Country Partners:** Various

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#### Project Overview:

The PEPFAR Gender Initiative on Girls' Vulnerability to HIV, awarded under the HIV/AIDS Research Sector TASC 3 IQC, shifts the focus from the individual-as-risk-taker to the contextual factors that render girls vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Known as the Go Girls! Initiative, the purpose of this project is to develop, implement and monitor a multi-level strategy using behavior and normative change communication and structural interventions to reduce vulnerable adolescent girls' susceptibility to HIV infection. Formative research in each country confirmed the wisdom of a social-ecological approach to address a multitude of vulnerability factors at the individual, peer, community and social levels.

The CCP team in each country combines quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to guide the Initiative, and disseminates and discusses results with communities, and among national and international stakeholders.

#### Project Objectives:

- Reduce vulnerable girls' susceptibility to HIV infection;
- Stimulate dialogue and action among communities to address the needs of vulnerable girls, particularly with respect to reducing exposure to HIV infection;
- Create or strengthen an enabling environment where communities protect vulnerable girls from infection, institutions provide needed resources and opportunities, families support and protect their daughters, and girls adopt protective health practices;
- Build the capacity of local organizations to implement, and measure the impact of, integrated programs to reduce vulnerable girls' exposure to HIV infection.

#### Project Activities and Highlights:

It will design, implement, and test two distinct integrated models in the three program countries of Botswana, Malawi, and Mozambique with the three-fold aim of providing solid evidence of what works, in what circumstances, and how to implement at scale.

Key interventions will include:

- Community mobilization
- Adult-child communication
- Entertainment-education through radio and community drama
- Life skills curricula in and out of school
- Training for teachers and school administrators
- Economic strengthening of girls and their families