

Sexual and Reproductive Health Project for Adolescents in Goma

Women's Refugee Commission and Save the Children
December 2013

REPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

WHO ARE WE?

The **Women's Refugee Commission** (WRC) is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) based in the United States. We are a research and advocacy organization that works with governments, United Nations agencies and international organizations to protect the rights, safety and well-being of displaced communities around the world.

Save the Children works to improve the lives of children around the world by providing food, medical care, education, livelihoods, nutrition, child protection, shelter and water and sanitation. It responds to disasters and conflict and helps communities rebuild through long-term recovery programs.

WHAT PROJECT WAS OFFERED?

Based on *Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs in Humanitarian Settings: An In-depth Look at Family Planning Services*, a report published in 2012, we implemented a small-scale project to apply what we learned for adolescents in Goma town. The overall goal of the project was to improve the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of displaced adolescent girls and boys aged 10-19 in Goma. The project primarily focused on:

1. Improving the capacity of Murara Health Center to provide high quality SRH services to

Sexual and reproductive health

Everyone, including adolescents, has the right to access information and services that they need to take care of their bodies. Adolescent girls and boys 10-19 years of age need special attention and sexual and reproductive health information and care that meet their needs. This includes the right to learn how to prevent sexually transmitted infections, like HIV, and access to pregnancy prevention methods, like condoms and pills, if they are not ready to have children and special care if they are pregnant.

adolescents through training health care staff, making the SRH services adolescent-friendly and providing information on confidential services for adolescents in the community.

2. Enhancing adolescent knowledge and positive attitudes towards SRH and healthy behaviors through working with peer educators and students in their first and second



Photo: Peer educators

year at Lycée Kimbilio and Institut Maenda-leo, as well as supporting pregnant girls and new mothers at Murara.

Many adolescents were heavily involved in implementing the project, especially as peer educators. We learned very much from you and are grateful for your participation.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

We learned that:

- Being able to manage menstruation is important for girls and their ability to attend school without disruption or embarrassment. Many students requested menstrual supplies and better latrines.



Photo: A girl performing in a play about early and unprotected sex. More than 800 adolescents watched and enjoyed the theater performance.

- It is best if peer education activities are offered during school recess and “life education” classes when students are already at school and such activities do not take away from chores and other activities.
- The mural of education messages developed by adolescents, as well as the theater performances conducted by peer educators and

students, are very creative and well received ways of providing SRH information to adolescents and the community.

- It is important to ensure that quality medical services (trained personnel, equipment, medicines, etc.) are available to complement the educational activities.
- A group support model to provide information and services to young mothers is a positive mechanism to ensure they have healthy deliveries, learn about birth spacing and newborn care.

WHAT WILL THE WE DO NOW?

We are writing a report about this project about what we learned and recommendations for organizations that are providing SRH services in humanitarian settings. We will advocate to donors, United Nations agencies and international and local organizations for adolescents in Goma and all over the world to receive good quality SRH services.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE SRH SERVICES?

To receive confidential SRH information and services, visit the Murara Health Center.

To learn more about the WRC’s advocacy on behalf of displaced women, children and youth, visit www.womensrefugeecommission.org or contact us at info@wrcommission.org.

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