

AGALI

Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative

UN FOUNDATION FINAL REPORT 2011



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative (AGALI) has worked for the past three years to strengthen the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations in Latin America and Africa to advocate with and for marginalized adolescent girls. During 2011, the Public Health Institute (PHI) implemented the AGALI program in Guatemala, Liberia, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Honduras¹ with a \$550,000 grant from the UN Foundation (please see Attachment A: Financial Report for more details). Since the program's inception, AGALI has strengthened the ability and commitment of leaders and institutions to advocate for laws, policies, and funding that respond to adolescent girls' needs, while enhancing young women's ability to develop their own solutions to the social, economic, and health challenges they face. The AGALI program uses a multi-faceted approach to improve adolescent girls' welfare that includes intensive workshops, seed grants, technical assistance, institutional strengthening, a structured outreach and dissemination process, and building the knowledge base for the field of adolescent girls. AGALI's comprehensive model strengthens the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations to advance the efforts of the United Nations' country programs and the UN Adolescent Girls' Task Force (AGTF) to promote adolescent girls' human rights, health, education, and socio-economic wellbeing in UN priority focus countries.



"What I am learning from my participation in AGALI is going to strengthen my work on behalf of girls. All of the elements of advocacy, the strategies we can use, how we can reach decision-makers, how we can use the media as allies in our work, are all very important and valuable tools."

--Rebecca Perez-Rodas
2011 Guatemala Fellow

During the first three years of AGALI, PHI strengthened the capacity of 71 AGALI Fellows to advocate for adolescent girls and supported Fellows' innovative advocacy strategies to transform the policy, programmatic, and budgetary landscapes for adolescent girls and young women in their countries. The AGALI program has funded a total of 22 advocacy initiatives that tackle a wide variety of issues affecting adolescent girls in each of the focus countries, and have achieved notable policy wins at both local and national levels. For example, in Liberia, two AGALI grantees and their organizations jointly advocated for the passage of the national Children's Act, with a special focus on the rights of girls to access education and protection from violence. Their path-breaking work resulted in the Act's 2011 passage, and the Fellows recently received renewal funding to advocate for girl-friendly implementation of the

Children's Law. An AGALI graduate in Guatemala successfully advocated for the development of integrated public policies and corresponding budgetary allocations to improve adolescent girls' health and education by building the capacity of adolescent girls to act as leaders advocating on their own behalf. AGALI also continues to support ongoing advocacy efforts in Malawi, including an initiative that is using media advocacy to influence the national Parliament to pass the Marriage Bill, which will increase the minimum age of marriage from 15 to 18 years. AGALI has also supported an Ethiopian Fellow's advocacy with the Ministries of Health and Education to increase funding for girl-friendly HIV prevention efforts. In all four focus countries, PHI continues to support

¹ Funding for AGALI work conducted in Honduras was provided by the WestWind Foundation.

AGALI graduates' efforts to sustain and scale up their ongoing advocacy initiatives on behalf of adolescent girls.

AGALI graduates from the first two years of the program played a central role in the implementation of 2011 activities. As expert advocates working on adolescent girls' issues, AGALI graduates successfully employed their knowledge, networks, capacity, and commitment to support one another's advocacy efforts and the expansion of AGALI. AGALI graduates contributed to all elements of the program, including promotion and recruitment, training and curriculum development, technical assistance and networking.

II. GOAL & OBJECTIVES

Since its inception in 2009, the goal of the Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative has been to advance the human rights, health, education, and socio-economic wellbeing of adolescent girls by strengthening the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations. Building on the success and lessons learned in 2009 and 2010, AGALI's primary strategies in 2011 included:

1. Enhancing the capacity of new and existing cohorts of civil society leaders in Guatemala and Malawi to advocate for the social, economic, and human rights of adolescent girls through an intensive training and institutional strengthening program.
2. Building institutional capacity by providing technical assistance to AGALI participants and their organizations to support the design and implementation their institutional advocacy strategies to improve adolescent girls' welfare.
3. Providing seed funds and technical assistance to organizations that demonstrate the greatest potential to advocate for the needs of adolescent girls, and by awarding a second round of funding and technical assistance to successful projects that received initial funding during the first two years of AGALI.
4. Supporting participants' dissemination and outreach efforts to strengthen the capacity of other civil society organizations and adolescent girls' groups by conducting their own training workshops on advocacy and leadership development for grassroots organizations and young women's groups.
5. Sustaining AGALI graduates' networks and advocacy strategies in Liberia and Ethiopia through consistent engagement with grantees and alumni, ongoing technical assistance, and continued monitoring of national developments in each country.
6. Building the knowledge base concerning current realities for girls by using radio and film advocacy strategies to highlight girls' stories via national and global venues, and creating new resources that fill vacuums in the field, including policy briefs on laws and policies that affect girls' rights in the focus countries.
7. Laying the groundwork for Year 4 of AGALI in Liberia through program promotion and the recruitment of a new cohort of leaders to take part in the AGALI program in 2012.



"The most important thing that I learned in AGALI is how to advocate for marginalized groups, especially adolescent girls, and the difference between advocacy and IEC and BCC."
--Esther Munthali,
2011 Malawi Fellow

III. PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

During the first three years of AGALI, PHI strengthened the capacity of 71 Central American and African AGALI Fellows to advocate for increased socio-economic and educational opportunities, improved access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, protection from violence, and the implementation of policies, programs, and budgets that respond to adolescent girls' diverse needs. PHI fulfilled the program's 2011 principal objectives, including:

Capacity Building

AGALI strengthened the capacity of 13 Guatemalan and 19 Malawian leaders to advocate for programs and policies that improve the health, human rights, education, and socio-economic wellbeing of adolescent girls and young women in their countries. Following intensive program recruitment processes that engaged AGALI alumni in the participant selection process and generated nearly 100 applications, PHI implemented two national training workshops in 2011. The first week-long training took place in March, 2011 in Panajachel, Guatemala, and the second in August, 2011 in Mangochi, Malawi. The national workshops built on one-day AGALI orientations during which the Fellows participated in an introductory training on advocacy and initiated their own political mapping work designed to serve as the foundation for their advocacy strategies.



"My vision for girls in Malawi is a protective environment where girls access quality SRH services and maximum protection through a comprehensive legal framework that is in line with international standards."

--Charles Banda,
2011 Malawi Fellow

The two national workshops incorporated a broad range of topics relating to advocacy for adolescent girls, including: advocacy strategies to improve girls' human rights, health, livelihoods, and education; social, legal, cultural, and religious factors affecting adolescent girls; girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights; strategies to combat harmful traditional practices; political mapping and policy formulation; strategies for media outreach; SWOT analyses; and best practices for ensuring girls' democratic participation. Both trainings utilized a guided proposal development process in which AGALI Fellows developed their own advocacy strategies, incorporating their own knowledge of girls' needs with the strength of their own organizations, to advance adolescent girls' human rights, health, and socio-economic wellbeing. During the training, participants developed draft proposals to solicit funding from PHI and other funders to implement their own advocacy strategies.

In Guatemala, AGALI collaborated with Eugenia Lopez Uribe, an expert on advocacy and women's rights based in Mexico City who has worked extensively with advocates throughout the Western hemisphere. In Malawi, AGALI collaborated with Grace Kaimila-Kanjo, an expert on advocacy for adolescent girls in Sub-Saharan Africa who is originally from Malawi, to implement the workshop, in addition to Grace Malera, who is the Executive Secretary of the Malawi Human Rights Commission. These regional and national experts were a tremendous asset to the national workshops, providing invaluable perspective concerning effective advocacy strategies for girls and sharing their own concrete experiences and lessons learned from years of working in the field. In

addition to collaborating with AGALI staff to adapt the program's training methodology to the unique needs and social and political contexts of each country, these experts continue to serve as a resource to the AGALI alumni as they implement their advocacy strategies.

The two new cohorts of AGALI Fellows in Guatemala and Malawi have already demonstrated their deep commitment to improving adolescent girls' lives, participating actively in the workshops and continuing to be involved as engaged members of the global AGALI network. Program evaluations demonstrate that PHI successfully strengthened the capacity of 13 Guatemalan and 19 Malawian civil society leaders to advocate for a girl-focused agenda in their institutions and countries.

AGALI Fellows in Guatemala and Malawi provided the following feedback in their written evaluations of the AGALI workshop:

Guatemala

- 100% of participants in Guatemala agreed that the training increased their knowledge of advocacy and the advocacy process.
- 92% of participants in Guatemala strongly agreed that the workshops increased their interest in working directly with adolescent girls.
- 100% of participants in Guatemala agreed that the activities and exercises during the workshop were dynamic and interactive.

Malawi

- 100% of participants in Malawi agreed that the training increased their knowledge of issues affecting adolescent girls and young women.
- 100% of participants in Malawi reported that they were ready to design and implement an advocacy campaign and felt relatively comfortable and confident about doing so after the training.
- 90% of participants in Malawi strongly agreed that they will be able to apply advocacy knowledge and skills from the workshop in their current job.

Institutional Strengthening

In addition to successfully recruiting and strengthening the capacity of new cohorts of Fellows in Guatemala and Malawi, AGALI has continued to implement a series of Institutional Strengthening (IS) workshops for the AGALI alumni network. These IS workshops not only provide AGALI alumni and key staff from their organizations with the opportunity to come together to network and share successes and lessons learned from their advocacy efforts, but also to learn important new skills that further strengthen their capacity to create change for girls. In 2011, AGALI conducted four IS workshops in Guatemala, Malawi, and Honduras (PHI implemented the Honduras workshop with WestWind Foundation support). In total, 89 Fellows, key staff from their institutions, and UN representatives participated in 2011 AGALI IS Workshops.

The first IS workshop in Guatemala took place as part of the introductory AGALI workshop for the 2011 cohort of AGALI Fellows, and brought together new Fellows and 2009 alumni to learn about media advocacy and how to engage the media through press releases and press conferences. Fellows learned different tools for effective media advocacy during the first half of the workshop, and then applied this new knowledge during their own press conference and follow-up interviews with local television and radio journalists. In addition, AGALI 2009 Fellow Juany Garcia-Perez also facilitated

training sessions on how Fellows and their organizations can integrate girls' democratic participation into their ongoing advocacy work. The second two-day IS workshop in Guatemala in mid-November 2011 brought together 16 alumni from 2009 and 2011 with key staff from their institutions and focused on political mapping and budgetary advocacy in the post-electoral context, given the results of the early November election. National advocate Mirna Montenegro facilitated the political mapping workshop for 26 participants, helping AGALI alumni and their organizations to strategize how best to advocate on behalf of adolescent girls given the new slate of policymakers who make up the recently elected government.

In Malawi, a November IS workshop for 2010 and 2011 Fellows focused on budgetary advocacy for sexual and reproductive health (SRH). During this two day workshop, 18 Fellows from the 2010 and 2011 cohorts came together to learn about effective strategies to increase budgets at both local and national levels for adolescent girls' SRH needs. Funded by the Compton Foundation, AGALI awarded two organizations with small grants of \$5000 grants to support their budgetary advocacy initiatives focused on improving budgetary allocations for girl-friendly SRH services in two of the highest need districts in Malawi.



2011 Honduras IS Workshop Participants

The Honduras IS workshop held in February 2011 deepened AGALI Fellows' knowledge of media tools for advocacy and the current political context for advocacy on girls' SRH in Honduras, and brought together 26 AGALI Fellows, senior UN staff, and government decision-makers for a summit on girls' SRH. At the Summit, participants decided to form the Honduras Advocacy Coalition for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Rights to advocate for the SRH needs of marginalized youth in Honduras, with a special focus on adolescent girls. With support from the Summit and WestWind Foundations, the Coalition is

currently advocating for girl-friendly implementation of the Ministerial Declaration "Prevention through Education," which seeks to improve SRH services and comprehensive sexuality education throughout Latin America.

Seed Grants

Following each of the national training workshops, AGALI provided technical assistance to all AGALI Fellows who submitted advocacy proposals to help them strengthen their strategies and proposals. PHI awarded funding to four organizations in Guatemala and four in Malawi, for a total of \$70,000 in grants to support projects demonstrating the greatest potential to improve policies, programs, and funding for adolescent girls.

In addition to funding these new advocacy grants, PHI continues to support existing grantees by awarding renewal grants to three organizations in Guatemala, two in Liberia, and two in Malawi, for a total of \$65,000 in renewal funding. PHI staff also provided ongoing technical assistance to renewal grantees, in addition to conducting site visits to funded projects in Guatemala and Malawi. Beyond these grants to individual organizations, AGALI provided the Malawi Adolescent Girls' Advocacy Network (AGANET) with a small grant of \$1,500 to engage in a strategic planning process to

formalize the Network's plans, structure, and membership. Network members took advantage of this planning process to develop their broader goals, objectives, and strategies, in addition to developing and submitting a full proposal to formally launch the network. PHI has secured funding from the Compton Foundation to support implementation of AGANET network advocacy activities in 2012.

Renewal grants funded in 2011 include the following seven projects in Guatemala, Liberia, and Malawi:

Guatemala

1) Asociación IDEI is implementing the second year of its "Democratic Participation of Adolescent Girls in the Development of Comprehensive Public Policies," project, building on its successes during the first year of implementation. The project's goal is to ensure that during the 2011 election season the candidates for mayor and the mayors-elect in two towns in the Department of Quetzaltenango promote girls' development through implementation of the girl-friendly public policies that were approved as a result of IDEI's 2010 project. *(Please see IDEI's Grantee Profile below for more information.)*

2) FESIRGUA (La Asociación Frente de Salud Infantil y Reproductiva de Guatemala) is implementing the second phase of its AGALI-supported work, "Adolescent Indigenous Women Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies with Local Political Candidates during the Electoral Process." The goal of this project is to ensure that the local political candidates commit to institutionalizing girl- and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health policies in the largely indigenous and conservative towns of Patzún and San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango.

3) CONACMI (La Asociación Nacional Contra El Maltrato Infantil) is implementing the second year of its "Integrated Attention to Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Violence in Guatemala" project. The project's goal is to coordinate the implementation of policies in the departments of Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Jalapa, Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango and Guatemala that address integrated care for adolescent survivors of sexual violence.

Liberia

1) HOPE (Helping Our People Excel) is implementing the "Sisters Standing Together and Reaching (S-STAR) Phase 2" project, with the goal of advocating for the creation of policies and programs to support effective implementation of the Children's Law and ensuring the development and empowerment of adolescent girls in Liberia.

2) THINK (Touching Humanity in Need of Kindness) is coordinating with HOPE on its "Implementation of the Children's Law Advocacy Phase 2 Project," with the goal of ensuring the protection of children in Liberia through the implementation of the Children's Law, with a special focus on adolescent girls. *(Please see HOPE and THINK's Grantee Profile below and Attachment B for more information.)*

Malawi

1) CRECCOM (Creative Center for Community Mobilisation) is implementing the "Promotion of Adolescent Girls' Education (PRAGE) Year 2" project with the goal of completing the guideline review for the re-admission policy that will enable teen mothers to return to school and complete their secondary education.

2) DBU (Development Broadcasting Unit of Malawi Broadcasting Corporation) is implementing the second year of its “Mwana Wa Mzako” project, with the goal of using media advocacy to raise the legal marriage age in Malawi to 18 years.

In addition to these seven renewal proposals, PHI collaborated with UNF to review and select eight new grants to receive funding in Guatemala and Malawi. These new projects include:

Guatemala

1) CONACMI (La Asociación Nacional Contra El Maltrato Infantil) is implementing the “Advocating for an Inclusive Agenda and the Comprehensive Protection of Adolescent Girl Factory Workers” project with the goal of improving the quality of life and access to opportunities for adolescent girl workers of San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Guatemala and strengthening the comprehensive protections for girls provided by local government authorities and civil society.

2) Asociación Generando is implementing “Advocacy for the Opening of the Comprehensive Support Center for Women Survivors of Violence (CAIMU) in Chimaltenango, with a Youth Lens for Treatment of Adolescent Girl Survivors of Sexual Violence.” The project’s goal is that the National Coordinator to Prevent Intra-family and Gender Violence (CONAPREVI) creates a Center for Comprehensive Attention to Women Survivors in Chimaltenango that addresses the needs of adolescent girl survivors of sexual violence within the context of the Anti-Femicide Law.

3) ACPDC (Asociación Consejo Pro-Desarrollo Comunitario) is undertaking the “Implementation of the Ministerial Accord on the Promotion of Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education, ‘Prevention through Education,’ Directed at Maya K’ich’e Adolescent Women in Eight Rural and Urban Schools in Totonicapán.” The project’s goal is to advocate with the departmental directors for Health and Education for the implementation of the Ministerial Accord “Prevention through Education,” that responds to the needs of Maya K’ich’e indigenous girls and young women in the municipalities of Totonicapán, San Francisco el Alto and San Bartolo Aguas Calientes.

4) CEIPA (Centro Ecuménico de Integración Pastoral) is implementing the “Girls and Young Women Workers on the Political Agenda of Municipal Authorities in Quetzaltenango” project with the goal of improving the quality of life of girls and young women workers through effective implementation of public policies on protection and youth development in Quetzaltenango. (Please see Attachment C for further information.)

Malawi

1) SACCODE (Sub Saharan Child and Community Development Trust) is implementing the “Improving Marginalized and Vulnerable Adolescent Girls’ Access to Education in Ntchisi, Rural Malawi” project with the goal that the District Council and the District Education Office improve adolescent girls’ access to education through a 10% increase in budgetary allocation for infrastructure improvements to secondary schools.

2) GENET (Girls Empowerment Network) is implementing the “Stop Child Marriage Project” to reduce the incidence of child marriages by 10% among rural adolescent girls ages 10-18 years in Chiradzulo District, Malawi. By the end of the project, the central objective is that local Traditional Authorities put in place modified cultural practices and systems to reduce child marriage in the district.

3) FOCUS (Foundation for Community Support Services) is implementing the “Adolescent Girls Rights Empowerment Project (AGREP)” with the goal of influencing members of parliament from Karonga District to negotiate with other fellow MPs and relevant committees to raise the age of marriage from 14 to 18 years of age.

4) Chilimba Women and Children Support Organisation is implementing the “Tiwale Advocacy Project” to ensure greater access to education for girls by promoting the modification of girls’ cultural initiation ceremonies among Traditional Authorities with a focus on developing alternatives to harmful sexual cleansing practices in Zomba district, Malawi.

Grantee Profiles



AGALI 2009 Fellow Juany Garcia Perez and adolescent girl leaders from Concepción Chiquirichapa

Asociación IDEI: Empowered indigenous girls successfully advocate for their own needs in Guatemala

Over the past two years, the Asociación IDEI has piloted a unique advocacy model designed to improve the lives of indigenous adolescent girls. In two small towns in the Western Highlands of Guatemala, AGALI 2009 Fellow Juany Garcia Perez started a quiet revolution predicated on the belief that indigenous girls can and should participate in the political process.

Through a combination of capacity building, mentorship, and experiential learning, IDEI has empowered a group of 30 indigenous girls to become leaders in their communities and actors in the political process. In these communities, adolescent girls are not traditionally included in policy decisions, and most of the participating girls had never spoken in public before they joined the IDEI project. These girls and young women research the health and social issues that affect them, develop policy proposals with support from IDEI, and then present them to local decision-makers, including the town mayors. The results of this innovative work not only include empowered girls, but also increased municipal budgets for girl-centered health and education programs.

Grantee Profiles (cont.)



Ministry of Gender and Development Officials, Members of the Liberian Children's Parliament, Senator John Ballout, and AGALI 2010 Fellows Rosana Schaack and Aisha Cooper-Bruce at the House of Senate on the day the Children's Act was passed.

HOPE and THINK: Collaboration and persistence lead to national policy change in Liberia

By late 2010, passage of the Children's Act, a bill designed to extend fundamental rights and protections to children in Liberia, had been all but abandoned. Fresh from the AGALI regional training in Egypt, 2010 Fellows Rosana Schaack, Executive Director of THINK, and Aisha Cooper-Bruce, Social Development Director at HOPE, decided to work together to change the fate of the Act. Collaborating with the Ministry of Gender and Development and other key partners, HOPE and THINK began to build the capacity of adolescent girl advocates, mobilize the national Children's Parliament, and raise awareness about the need for a comprehensive Children's Law in Liberia.

Early media outreach strategies fizzled without support from key government allies. Subsequent network-based advocacy attempts failed to convince Senators of the importance of the Children's Act. The end of the legislative session was drawing near, and still many conservative Senators maintained their opposition to a bill that they claimed would cause young people to lose respect for their elders. With time running out, Rosana and Aisha mobilized adolescent girl advocates and members of the Children's Parliament to conduct six weeks of direct action events and sit-ins to make their voices heard by the Senators. On September 15th, the very last day of its 2011 session, the Senate finally passed the Children's Act. By October, HOPE and THINK had already begun developing a coordinated advocacy campaign to ensure implementation of the sections of the Children's Law that directly impact adolescent girls.

Site Visits

In order to monitor the implementation of ongoing AGALI-funded projects, AGALI staff conducted site visits to organizations in Malawi and Liberia in 2011. In Malawi, AGALI pro bono consultant, Sarah Rich, conducted extensive site visits with grantee organizations in the summer of 2011, providing expert technical assistance to AGALI grantees on a number of areas of self-identified need, in addition to developing four policy

briefs. AGALI staff conducted site visits to Liberia grantee organizations in December, 2011 that included an evaluation of each organization's first year project as well as planning sessions to strategize for the implementation of the second year of AGALI-funded activities. AGALI staff conducted site visits to Guatemala grantee organizations in late 2010 and has additional visits planned in 2012.

Technical Assistance

PHI also provided technical assistance (TA) to all AGALI Fellows as they developed their advocacy strategies, both in-person during the workshop and via email and phone on subsequent proposal drafts. Staff also provided ongoing technical support to the eight organizations that received grants. In Guatemala, AGALI provided TA to three grantee organizations via email, phone calls, and during site visits, consisting of referrals to local consultants with specialized knowledge of local advocacy strategies, links to resources on advocacy toolkits and dissemination materials, and feedback on written reports.

In addition, AGALI awarded a \$1500 TA grant to CEIPA (Centro Ecu­m­é­nico de In­te­gración Pastoral) that supported CEIPA’s “Girls and Young Women Workers on the Political Agenda of Municipal Authorities in Quetzaltenango” project. Through this TA grant, CEIPA project staff participated in specialized training concerning how resources are invested in the various state agencies on behalf of children and adolescents, and how the central Guatemalan government allocates budgets to the municipal level. PHI looks forward to receiving CEIPA’s final report on the TA grant to learn more about the impact of the TA support for their advocacy project.

In Malawi, AGALI consultant provided in-person TA to four grantee organizations (ECC, CREECOM, DBU and GENET) including:

- ◇ Feedback on an advocacy paper regarding how the National AIDS Commission’s 2003 policy statement can be updated to target adolescent girls.
- ◇ Development of training materials and provision of project staff with trainings on evaluating advocacy projects, writing policy briefs, and crafting messaging and media strategies.
- ◇ Assistance in developing next steps with project staff, including a detailed plan for a future proposal for additional funding.

PHI will invite Malawi grantees to apply for small TA grants in March 2012 with the intention of funding at least two organizations.

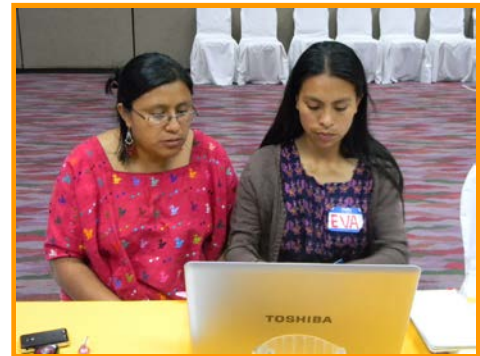
Dissemination and Outreach

Through its dissemination and outreach strategy, PHI supports AGALI Fellows to strengthen the capacity of adolescent girls to advocate for their own interests and increase the ability of other local organizations to improve adolescent girls’ lives by supporting participants’ dissemination workshops and capacity building efforts. To date, AGALI Fellows have reached over 10,000 girls through training workshops and programming interventions.

In 2011, three AGALI Fellows in Guatemala provided a total of 20 dissemination and outreach workshops to groups ranging from traditional town councils, teachers’ associations, the Youth Network in Quetzaltenango, and adolescent agricultural workers in Totonicapán on topics such as the sexual and reproductive rights of girls, the basics of advocacy, and how to integrate girl-friendly programs in schools. More than half of the workshops were provided in the local indigenous language to a total of 166 people, approximately half of them adolescents.

In Malawi, two AGALI Fellows have conducted six dissemination workshops in Chichewa, Malawi’s majority language, to a range of groups including village headmen, local chiefs, and youth groups on topics such as how to conduct advocacy to ensure implementation of existing policies, how international human rights instruments apply in Malawi, and the health rights of young people.

AGALI offers Fellows a small stipend to reimburse them for their time, travel, and materials for the dissemination and outreach workshops. To receive the honorarium,



2011 AGALI Guatemala Fellow, Eva Patricia Chuc (right), has facilitated several dissemination workshops this year.

organization directors must submit a request for a workshop and AGALI Fellows are required to submit a session design, along with written evaluations and sign in sheets. These full-day dissemination and outreach workshops have been successful in reaching more remote and isolated populations, sensitizing them to the needs of adolescent girls. One hundred percent of evaluations demonstrate that participants' knowledge of the situation of adolescent girls in their communities increased "a lot" or "completely" after each workshop. The outreach workshops conducted with adolescent girls provide an opportunity for largely indigenous youth groups to learn about their own rights and opportunities and become involved in AGALI advocacy strategies.

Building the Knowledge Base

Although not included in the original 2011 proposal, the AGALI team recognized the need to enhance the knowledge base concerning current realities for girls in AGALI focus countries. Responding to the lack of information concerning legal and policy frameworks affecting girls in Malawi, PHI conducted research and analysis to develop policy briefs that synthesize the key laws and policies affecting girls in Malawi. (Please see Attachment E for further information.) This new component of AGALI has already served as a tremendous resource to the AGALI Fellows' advocacy efforts. In addition to developing the policy briefs in English, PHI had these documents translated into Chichewa to make this information broadly accessible to grassroots organizations working on girls' issues and the general population. In addition, the AGALI team is implementing communications strategies that publicize the ways in which existing social, policy, and legal frameworks affect girls. AGALI is using these radio and film advocacy tools tell girls' stories and highlight the achievements of the AGALI program and grantees through international conferences.

Planning for 2012

During the second half of 2011, AGALI staff laid the ground work for 2012 AGALI programming in Africa by recruiting and interviewing candidates for the 2012 AGALI program in Liberia. AGALI received 83 applications from Liberian civil society, government, and the private sector candidates. After reviewing written applications, AGALI staff selected 46 candidates for in person interviews. AGALI staff and the Liberia country coordinator interviewed these candidates in December, 2011, resulting in the selection of 18 new AGALI Liberia Fellows in early 2012, and laying the groundwork for the implementation of the AGALI training and seed grant program in mid-2012.

IV. CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

As the AGALI program has matured over the past three years, AGALI staff has been able to draw more intensively on the skills, capacity, and resources of the growing AGALI alumni network. Having an engaged group of alumni who are knowledgeable, well connected, and influential in their countries has greatly facilitated programmatic efforts in all areas, including recruitment, selection, training, and technical assistance. For example, AGALI alumni continue to become more directly involved in the overall management and implementation of the program, as Aisha Cooper-Bruce, Liberia 2009 Fellow, is now working with the AGALI program as the Liberia Country Representative. Cooper-Bruce's knowledge of the field, of organizations working on girls' issues, and of key policymakers, has made her a tremendous asset to the program's work in Liberia.

In 2011, the AGALI training methodology shifted from a regional focus to national workshops. In consultation with the UN Foundation, the AGALI team made this adjustment to the program after the 2010 Africa regional training, in which the regional focus of the workshop somewhat limited the specificity of the training sessions in addressing the very differing national political contexts in Ethiopia, Liberia, and Malawi. This new national focus enabled the AGALI team to select 12 Fellows per country in 2011, rather than six per country as was the case in 2010. In assessing the outcomes of the 2011 Guatemala training workshop, the AGALI team concluded that despite the benefits of the national focus, the new group size (12 Fellows, rather than 18) was in fact too small, limiting both the richness of the group discussions and requiring the same amount of staff time and investment as was necessary for a larger cohort. Given this realization, the AGALI team selected a larger cohort of 19 Fellows in Malawi, which provided a critical mass of diverse experiences and multi-sectoral backgrounds that enhanced the group discussions.



Emily Teitsworth, AGALI Program Manager at the Malawi training in August

One increasing challenge for the AGALI program has been the high levels of violent crime in Guatemala. Throughout 2011, and especially prior to the November elections, there were high levels of civil unrest and violence throughout Guatemala. During the 2011 national training in Guatemala, national road blocks were planned to protest strip mining in indigenous communities, leading to complications for AGALI staff and Fellows traveling to and from the training venue. In addition, both organized and random violence continue to escalate throughout Guatemala, posing an increasing risk to all AGALI alumni, and especially to those who are actively involved in efforts to advance the rights of indigenous communities.

In Malawi, AGALI in-country staff and Fellows faced deepening political challenges and a major fuel crisis that caused intermittent gridlock throughout 2011. Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika faced mounting opposition to his authoritarian grip on power, which culminated with mass protests resulting in at least 18 fatalities caused by police and army violence. As a result, many international donor agencies pulled out of Malawi or reduced their aid to the government. This lack of donor support, combined with weak prices for tobacco on the global market, left the country with a very limited supply of foreign currency. Throughout 2011, the current economic and political realities of Malawi translated into a lack of fuel available to Malawi, which resulted in high gas prices and rationing. This situation has had a significant effect on AGALI Fellows' ability to implement their advocacy projects, as civil unrest has led to reordered political priorities and the high price of gas has strained organizations' budgets for their planned advocacy activities.

V. RESULTS

Dissemination of Results

AGALI staff presented the program's successes during the June 2011 Global Health Conference in Washington, DC, providing an opportunity to highlight lessons learned from the AGALI model with high-level practitioners in the field of global health, and to network with other organizations working in the AGALI focus countries. Taking advantage of the opportunity to be in Washington, DC, AGALI staff co-presented the AGALI model to the UN Foundation Executive Team with Liberia alumna and Country Representative Aisha Cooper-Bruce.

In November, 2011, the AGALI program director participated in a panel during the San Francisco GirlUp event, sharing the AGALI model with approximately 200 young women and teen advisors based in the Bay Area. This presentation led to an invitation by the UN Foundation's GirlUp team to present in greater detail the work of the AGALI program during the December GirlUp teen advisor webinar.

Resource Creation

As part of PHI's commitment to maximizing the positive impacts of the program, AGALI staff developed policy briefs highlighting sections of national laws and policies that impact adolescent girls, in addition to translating them into local languages to make them more accessible to grassroots advocates and community groups. These policy briefs are being used by AGALI Fellows during their own trainings, and have been disseminated to local, national, and international institutions. In Malawi, Fellows have already begun using the policy briefs in their advocacy work and as a tool to build broader understanding about existing policy and legal frameworks for girls at the grassroots level. Program evaluations indicate that AGALI Fellows and alumni are utilizing the new resources that the AGALI program is creating, both in their advocacy strategies and in their individual outreach and dissemination efforts.

In preparation for a strategic planning meeting with the UN Foundation in September 2011, AGALI staff developed several new tools to assess the program's impact over time. After reviewing existing evaluation information and collecting additional data through an online survey and follow-up phone calls, the staff created the Guatemala Achievements document, which reflects the program's impacts in Guatemala since the program's launch in 2009. These and other tools serve as useful background for discussions with the UN Foundation and other potential partners concerning a range of possible programmatic and funding scenarios for 2012, as well as being strong promotional materials to increase leveraged funding in the future.

Media Engagement

PHI also deepened its commitment to engaging the media throughout 2011. In Guatemala, AGALI participants conducted a press conference and conducted interviews with television and print journalists. During the Malawi training, AGALI 2011 Fellows Emmanuel Thuwala and Pacharo Munthali coordinated a series of television interviews with AGALI staff, facilitators, and Fellows on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, which were then aired nationwide. Following the November 2011 Malawi IS workshop, AGALI staff and Fellows participated in a televised roundtable discussion about adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health needs.

In addition, AGALI is continuing to use new media outlets such as YouTube and Facebook as well as blogs to highlight and disseminate the important achievements of the AGALI program and alumni. AGALI staff created a YouTube video of Guatemala 2011 alumna Rebeca Perez-Rodas that highlights her experiences in the AGALI program and work with CEIPA, an AGALI grantee organization. For International Women's Day, AGALI's Program Director presented the AGALI model and achievements during PHI's Dialogue 4 Health Web Forum. AGALI's program manager also wrote and posted a blog on RH Reality Check highlighting the AGALI program for the Day of 7 Billion blog series. In late 2011, the AGALI team launched a new program newsletter to share updates from the AGALI program with Fellows and their organizations, funders, and other potential partners. This bi-monthly newsletter will serve as a mechanism to provide updates on program activities, in addition to showcasing the work of the AGALI alumni and grantees. For more information on AGALI's media engagement strategy and the media outreach efforts of AGALI grantees, please see Attachment B: Media Event Photos from Liberia for the Passage of the Children's Act, Attachment C: AGALI Grantee CEIPA's Declaration of Commitment for Adolescent Girls and Youth, Attachment F: "The Most Powerful Person in a World of 7 Billion" Blog by Emily Teitsworth, Attachment G: Denise Dunning - Web Forum, Dialogues for Health – International Women's Day 2011 and Attachment H: AGALI Newsletter, December 2011.



*Catherine Kauka, 19 years old
Mwakaoka Village, Malawi*

Following the Malawi national training workshop, AGALI staff spent two days in the Karonga District of Northern Malawi shooting a video about adolescent girls and forced marriage in collaboration with AGALI grantee organization FOCUS. The video focuses on the story of Catherine, a young woman who was abducted and held captive by a man from a nearby village in an attempt to force her into marriage. With the help of her father and the support of FOCUS, Catherine was able to escape and to return to school. In addition to telling Catherine's story, the film highlights the situation of adolescent girls in Malawi through interviews with AGALI staff and Fellows. Currently in post-production, the video will be finalized and distributed in the spring of 2012. The film will be submitted to film festivals, shown to networks and community groups in the US and in AGALI focus countries, and used to build interest in and support of AGALI's work.

Alumni and Grantee Support

One unexpected result of the 2011 AGALI program has been the intensive coaching and professional development of Aisha Cooper-Bruce, 2010 Liberia Fellow and current Liberia country representative. Marci Rinkoff, an Executive Coach based in the Bay Area, has worked previously with PHI staff and expressed her desire to provide pro bono coaching support to one of the AGALI Fellows. Marci and the AGALI staff chose Aisha Cooper-Bruce for the coaching pilot initiative, given both Aisha's leadership capacity and her status as an AGALI grantee and Country Representative. This coaching process lasted approximately six months and consisted of bi-weekly conference calls in which Cooper-Bruce worked with Rinkoff to develop a coaching plan, including concrete goals

and strategies to further Aisha’s professional development. Both Cooper-Bruce and Rinkoff were very pleased with the results of this trial international coaching process and Rinkoff will be working with the AGALI team and other Executive Coaches to explore ways to provide coaching support to more Fellows within the program.

AGALI staff has also been working to develop a partnership with the Global Fund for Children. The Global Fund for Children’s grant-making model is based on assessing potential grantees through existing contacts and networks, and AGALI staff met with their staff to discuss the possibility of setting up a referral system to share strong potential grantees with the Global Fund. As the AGALI Fellows develop new proposals, AGALI staff now shares these directly with Global Fund staff and acts as a reference for these organizations during the Global Fund’s proposal review process.



Presentation of the national Children’s Act Decree, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Liberian girl participating in HOPE’s activities

Grantees’ Support

AGALI grantees in Guatemala, Liberia, Malawi, and Ethiopia achieved notable successes in 2011. From building the capacity of adolescent girls to advocate on their own behalf to national level policy wins, grantee organizations have reshaped the policy landscape and improved the lives of girls in their countries over the last year. 2010 grantees from Africa completed their first year of AGALI-supported advocacy work in the fall, and Guatemala second year grantees neared the end of their funding cycle in late 2011. The following tables summarize some of the notable accomplishments of these 10 grantees during the past year.

Africa First Year Grants (Grant Cycle: October, 2010 – October 2011)

ORGANIZATION & STRATEGY	2011 RESULTS
<p>HOPE (Liberia) implemented the “Sisters Standing Together and Reaching (SSTAR) Girls Advocacy Project” with the goal of prioritizing children’s’ rights in Liberia, with special focus on adolescent girls, through the amendment and enactment of the Children’s Act. This project was implemented in collaboration with THINK.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of the national Children’s Act, which provides comprehensive protection of the rights of children and youth, with a special focus on adolescent girls • Created and sustained a network of 17 institutions and 3 sub-networks advocating for passage of the Children’s Act • Participated in two national radio forums and ran 120 radio spots advocating for the passage of the Children’s Act

<p>THINK (Liberia) implemented “Advocacy For the Amending and Passing of the Children’s Act” with the goal of ensuring the prioritization of child rights in Liberia through the amendment and enactment of the Children’s Act, with special focus on adolescent girls.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of the national Children’s Act, which provides comprehensive protection of the rights of children and youth, with a special focus on adolescent girls • Trained 50 adolescent girl leaders from 15 counties on advocacy and the Children’s Act • Coordinated the advocacy efforts of the Liberian Children’s Parliament and supported their direct advocacy with government decision-makers
<p>CRECCOM (Malawi) implemented the “Promoting Adolescent Girls’ Education (PRAGE)” project with the goal of reviewing guidelines on the re-admission policy that will enable teen mothers and drop outs to return to school and complete their education as one of their fundamental rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitized 42 Traditional Authorities on advocacy and the school re-admission policy • Trained 59 community leaders and school officials on the re-admission policy and the need for girls’ education • Successful advocacy for the re-enrollment of 10 teen mothers via existing policy channels
<p>DBU (Malawi) implemented the “Mwana Wa Mzako” project with the goal of increasing the minimum age of marriage from 15 to 18 years within the Laws of Malawi.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a network of organizations advocating for the passage of the Marriage Act, including YONECO and UNICEF • Aired television spots and radio programs advocating for passage of the Marriage Act • Produced a nationwide televised forum featuring the AGALI Malawi country coordinator and AGALI Fellows discussing the marriage age and other issues affecting adolescent girls
<p>ECC (Malawi) implemented the “Advocacy for implementation guidelines of HIV/AIDS policy on issues concerning Adolescent Girls” with the goal of establishing a Malawi National HIV and AIDS policy that specifically addresses issues of adolescent girls through the provision of revised implementation guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained over 100 adolescent girls on advocacy and HIV/AIDS issues • Established a technical advisory group of 13 experts to review and amend the National AIDS Commission (NAC) policy • Developed and presented clear guidelines for the implementation of girl-friendly HIV/AIDS policies submitted to the NAC
<p>AGANET Planning Grant (Malawi) was implemented by the ECC with the aim of developing the AGANET advocacy network, including goals, objectives,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented a two-day summit to plan for the creation of AGANET • Submitted a full proposal for formal establishment and implementation of

activities, systems, procedures and managing guiding lines.	the Network (to be funded by the Compton Foundation in 2012)
TaYA (Ethiopia) implemented the “Youth Root-Net” project with the goal of advocating with the Ministry of Health for appropriation of 10% of the total national HIV/AIDS SRH funds to youth led development organizations working on adolescent girls’ issues in Ethiopia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed a coalition of eight youth-led organizations to advocate with the Ministry of Health • Held a series of public debate forums on Ministry of Health funding with a total of 67 participating organizations • Met with the Minister of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs and presented the results of their debate forums

Guatemala Second Year Renewal Grants (Grant Cycle: February, 2011 – February, 2012)

ORGANIZATION & STRATEGY	2011 RESULTS
Asociación IDEI implemented its “Consolidating the Democratic Participation of Adolescent Girls in the Development of Comprehensive Public Policies in the Towns of San Miguel Sigüilá and Concepción Chiquirichapa, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala,” project, building on its successes during the first year of implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved implementation of the public policies passed in 2010 • Held forums with local political candidates to win their endorsement of girl-friendly policies • Trained 350 youth on adolescent girls issues and democratic participation • Met with National Commission on Children and Adolescents to plan for nationwide scale-up of IDEI’s democratic participation initiatives
FESIRGUA implemented the “Adolescent Indigenous Women Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies with Local Political Candidates during the Electoral Process” project with the goal of getting local political candidates to commit to institutionalizing girl- and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health policies in the towns of Patzún and San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtained the commitment of 75% of local political candidates to implementing girl-friendly SRH policies if elected • Targeted 24 political candidates for consultations and meetings with indigenous adolescent girl leaders and their allies • Strengthened their alliance with nine other indigenous organizations to coordinate advocacy activities more effectively
CONACMI implemented the “Integrated Attention to Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Violence in Guatemala” project with the goal of coordinating the implementation of policies in the departments of Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Jalapa, Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango and Guatemala that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a technical committee dedicated to monitoring the implementation of the Protocol on Attention to Survivors of Sexual Violence, including UNICEF, MSPAS, and Plan International • Trained 66 senior medical personnel on girl-friendly implementation of the

address integrated care for adolescent survivors of sexual and physical violence.	<p>Protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocated successfully with the national hospital system to make approved medical kits available to survivors of sexual violence
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VI. CONCLUSION

Over the past three years, the Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative has transformed the lives of adolescent girls by strengthening individual and organizational capacity to advocate for policies and programs that promote adolescent girls' human rights, health, education, and socio-economic wellbeing. During the third year of AGALI, PHI strengthened the capacity of 32 leaders and their institutions to respond to adolescent girls' needs in Guatemala and Malawi, funded eight new advocacy strategies with strong potential to improve laws and policies affecting girls, and supported the second-year implementation of successful advocacy projects in Guatemala, Malawi, and Liberia. In 2011, PHI also laid the groundwork for successful implementation of the 2012 AGALI program to be conducted in Liberia. The AGALI model is increasing the ability and commitment of established leaders to advocate for adolescent girls' access to economic and educational opportunities, health, and human rights, while simultaneously enhancing adolescent girls' capacity to develop their own solutions to the problems they face.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- A. AGALI 2011 Budget and Narrative (*not included here*)
- B. Media Event Photos from Liberia for the Passage of the Children's Act
- C. AGALI Grantee CEIPA's Declaration of Commitment for Adolescent Girls and Youth
- D. AGALI Guatemala Achievement Document
- E. AGALI Malawi Policy Briefs
 - a. Child Protection Justice Act
 - b. Constitution of Malawi
 - c. HIV / AIDS Policy
 - d. National Registration Act
- F. The Most Powerful Person in the World of 7 Billion Blog by Emily Teitworth
- G. Denise Dunning Web Forum, Dialogues for Health – International Women's Day 2011
- H. AGALI Newsletter December 2010

Attachment B
Liberia Media Event – 2011

A media event was held honoring those organizations and senators that worked hard to ensure the passage of the Children's Act.



The Honorees, Senators Gloria Musu Scott and Clarice Jah, Isabel Crowley-UNICEF, Plan International-Liberia, and AGALI 2010 Liberia Fellow Aisha Cooper Bruce, HOPE



AGALI 2010 Liberia Fellow, Aisha Cooper Bruce, HOPE and Hon. Varbah Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development



Senator Clarice Jah, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Gender and Members of the Liberian Children's Parliament

Attachment C AGALI Grantee: CEIPA

One of CEIPA's objectives was to garner mayoral support for adolescent girls and youth in Guatemala.

August 2011 - Statement of Commitment from the Mayoral Candidates of Quetzaltenango in Support of Children, Adolescents and Youth

DECLARACIÓN DE COMPROMISO DE LOS CANDIDATOS A LA ALCALDÍA MUNICIPAL DE QUETZALTENANGO A FAVOR DE LA NIÑEZ, ADOLESCENCIA Y JUVENTUD

COMO CANDIDATOS A LA ALCALDÍA DEL MUNICIPIO DE QUETZALTENANGO, NOS COMPROMETEMOS A:

PRIMERO: Implementar la Política Pública Municipal de Protección y Desarrollo Integral a favor de la Niñez y Adolescencia, de acuerdo a lo que estipula la Ley de Protección Integral a la Niñez y Adolescencia, Decreto 27-2003 del Congreso de la República de Guatemala, en el Libro II, Artículo 83, asignando los recursos humanos, materiales y económicos.

SEGUNDO: Crear y asegurar el funcionamiento de la Secretaría Ejecutiva de Protección

Integral a favor de la niñez y adolescencia con equipo multidisciplinario, la cual desarrollará sus funciones desde la Oficina Municipal de la Niñez y Adolescencia, en el marco de implementación de la política de niñez y adolescencia.

TERCERO: Implementar el Plan Departamental de Juventud y la Agenda Municipal de Juventud e instituir la Oficina Municipal de Juventud asignando espacio físico, recurso humano, material y económico necesario para su funciona-

miento, asegurando la participación y representación de las diversas expresiones juveniles del municipio.

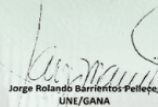
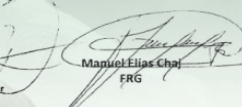
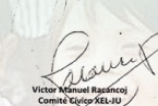

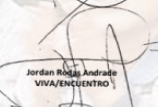
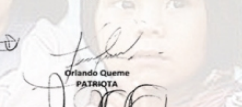

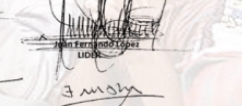
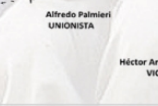
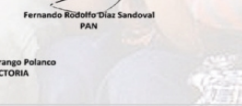
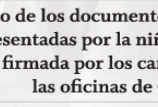
CUARTO: Apoyar la implementación, en lo que corresponde a la Ley Nacional de la Juventud, la creación y fortalecimiento en el municipio de programas de Servicio Cívico Social, de acuerdo a la Ley de Servicio Cívico (decreto 20-2003); la Política Nacional de Juventud 2010-2015 y la participación de las organizaciones juveniles en la estructu-

ra del sistema de Consejos de Desarrollo, Código Municipal y otras instancias que existan o se conformen en el municipio y que sean de beneficio para la comunidad, en el marco de su rol y función municipal.

QUINTO: Posterior a la toma de posesión, asumo la responsabilidad de dar seguimiento a esta declaración de compromiso, convocando a una reunión inicial en el primer trimestre del año 2012, con las instituciones organizadoras de este Encuentro Público.

Quetzaltenango, 2 de agosto de 2011

FIRMAS DE LOS CANDIDATOS A LA ALCALDÍA DEL MUNICIPIO DE QUETZALTENANGO:


 Jorge Rolando Barrantes Peláez
 UNE/GANA

 Manuel Elías Chaj
 FRG

 Víctor Manuel Rasáncoj
 Comité Ciudadano S&L-JU

 Julio de la Roca
 CREO

 Jordán Raúl Andrade
 VIVA/ENCUENTRO

 Orlando Quere
 PATRIOTA

 Julio Reyes
 CASA

 Juan Fernando López
 LIBRE

 Alfredo Palmieri
 UNIONISTA

 Fernando Rodolfo Díaz Sandoval
 PAN

 Héctor Arango Polanco
 VICTORIA

FIRMAS DE LOS TESTIGOS DE HONOR:


 Lic. Rudy Castillo
 Auxiliar Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos

 Lic. Denis Rodas
 Grupo Gestor

 Audelmo Sac
 Sacerdote Maya

 Sr. Benito Hernández
 Presidente Junta Directiva Coalco

 Marión García
 Fundaju/Sodeju

 Francisco de León
 Coordinadora Juventud por Guatemala

 Mario Guzmán
 Medios de Comunicación

 Glendy Car
 Diakonia Guatemala

 María Del Rosario Paz
 Directora, CUNOC

ANUNCIO

El texto completo de los documentos originales que contienen las peticiones presentadas por la niñez, adolescencia y juventud y la declaración firmada por los candidatos, se encuentran en las oficinas de CEIPA.



Publicado con el apoyo de:

AGALI GUATEMALA ACHIEVEMENTS

POLICY FRAMEWORK

AGALI GRANTEES SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR:

- Passing of two ballot initiatives, establishing the national Day for Teen Pregnancy Prevention, and expansion of teen pregnancy prevention programs, including increased access to youth-friendly reproductive health services.
- Creation of a national coalition working for comprehensive sex education, which advocated for the Ministries of Health and Education to sign the international Ministerial Declaration “Prevenir con Educación” (“Prevention through Education”).
- Development and dissemination of a Ministry of Health protocol to prevent teen pregnancy and increase birth spacing in young mothers.
- Development of a regional coalition of 42 governmental and non-governmental partners, including two municipal assemblies of adolescents, to create and conduct a policy-oriented needs assessments for girls.
- Creation of a nationwide sexual violence protocol ensuring specialized attention to adolescent girl survivors of sexual violence at hospitals and clinics.
- Budgetary assignation for municipal health and education programs targeting indigenous adolescent girls.



CIVIL SOCIETY

AGALI PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE:

- Reached over 10,000 girls and young women throughout Guatemala with direct service and training programs aimed at empowering them to advocate for their own needs.
- Sustained an active regional network of civil society advocates who share best practices in advocacy for girls’ rights.
- Leveraged \$150,000 in additional funding to implement their advocacy strategies for adolescent girls.
- Enhanced the capacity of over 350 civil society leaders to advocate for policies, programs, and budgets that respond to the needs of girls.



INDIVIDUAL

AGALI HAS:

- Built the capacity and leadership of 40 senior civil society, government, and multilateral leaders to advocate for girls' needs.
- Funded advocacy initiatives implemented by AGALI partner organizations with a total of \$125,000 in seed grants over three years.
- Provided technical assistance funding to Fellows and their organizations in proposal development, media outreach, and lobbying.
- Supported Fellow professional development that contributed to nearly half of Fellows receiving a promotion since initiating their participation in AGALI.
- Presented the work of AGALI Fellows in Guatemala at global conferences, including Women Deliver, the Global Health Council, and the American Public Health Association Conference.



AGALI Fellows 2009



AGALI Fellows 2011

ABOUT AGALI:

The Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative improves adolescent girls' health, education, and livelihoods by enhancing the capacity of Latin American and African leaders to advocate for policies, programs, and funding benefitting adolescent girls. Implemented by the Public Health Institute, AGALI has strengthened the ability of 70 AGALI Fellows to improve adolescent girls' human rights, health, and socio-economic well-being, while empowering young women to develop their own solutions to the obstacles they face.

Since 2009, AGALI has improved the lives of adolescent girls and young women by providing capacity building trainings, grant funding, and technical assistance to leaders in Guatemala, Honduras, Liberia, Malawi, and Ethiopia. AGALI Fellows include civil society leaders, policymakers, health care providers, journalists, educators, indigenous leaders, and young women who implement progressive multi-sectoral advocacy strategies to improve girls' lives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.agaliprogram.org



Policy in Brief



The Child Care, Protection, and Justice Act of 2010

Summary of Sections that Apply to Adolescent Girls

In 2010, the Malawian Parliament passed and the President signed into law the Child Care, Protection, and Justice Act of 2010. This policy brief summarizes the sections of the law that are most relevant to adolescent girls.

DEFINITION OF A CHILD

The law defines a child as anyone under age 16 years (Part 1, Section 2). In cases in which a child's age is not known, the law calls for gathering all relevant information and making a best guess (Part 4, Sections 123-5).

PROTECTION FROM FORCED MARRIAGE, TRAFFICKING, HARMFUL CULTURAL PRACTICES, FORCED LABOUR, AND OTHER PRACTICES

The law (Part 2, Division 6, Sections 78-83) prohibits several activities that adolescent girls may be subjected to, including:

- **Forced marriages or betrothal:** No one can force a child to be married or engaged to be married. This is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.
- **Child trafficking:** Child trafficking is illegal, punishable by life imprisonment. The law defines trafficking as activities such as recruiting, transferring, holding, or receiving a child for purposes of exploitation.
- **Harmful cultural practices:** Subjecting a child to a cultural practice that is harmful to her health or general development is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.
- **Forced labour:** Forced child labour to generate income for a parent or anyone else is illegal. It is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.
- **Use as credit or debt collateral:** It is against the law to sell a child, use a child as a pledge to obtain credit, or use a child as a pledge against a debt or mortgage. Offenders face up to 10 years in prison.

A social welfare officer who believes that a child has been subjected to any of these practices, including prostitution, may take her and temporarily place her in safe place. She is to be brought to a child justice court within 48 hours if possible. The court may decide to put her in foster care or in the care of a social welfare officer (Section 84).

PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN FACING ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT

The law states that children who are in special need of care and protection can be taken by a police officer, a social welfare officer, a chief, or any member of the community and remain in his or her temporary custody or be taken to a place of safety (Part 2, Division 2, Section 24). The child must then be brought to a child justice court within 48 hours (Section 25).

According to Section 23, a child is in need of care and protection if:

- She has suffered, or is at substantial risk of suffering, **physical harm, psychological or emotional injury, or sexual abuse** inflicted by parents, other family members, or anyone else.
 - *Physical harm* is defined as intentional injury to any part of the child's body. For example: abrasions, lacerations, fractures or other bone injuries, sprains, burns, hemorrhaging, loss of consciousness, or loss of teeth.
 - *Psychological and emotional harm* refers to mental or emotional impairment leading to conditions such as anxiety, depression, withdrawal, aggression, or delayed development.
 - *Sexual abuse* occurs if a child has been subjected to participating in activities for a person's sexual gratification or commercial gain, including pornography.
- She is living in or subject to circumstances meant to induce seduction, corruption or prostitution.
- She is permitted to be on the street begging or carrying out illegal selling of goods.

A family member, community member, child care provider, or medical provider who believes that a child has been sexually abused or physically, psychologically or emotionally injured must inform a social welfare officer or a police officer. Failure to report to the authorities may lead to penalties such as imprisonment. (Sections 33-36)

(Continued on reverse)

PARENTAL, GUARDIAN, AND FOSTER FAMILY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The law (Part 2, Division 1, Section 3) states that parents and guardians must:

- Ensure that each child's birth is registered.
- Protect children from neglect, discrimination, violence, abuse, exploitation, oppression, and exposure to physical, mental, social, and moral hazards.
- Provide guidance, care, and maintenance to ensure a child's survival and development. This includes: adequate diet, clothing, shelter, and medical attention.
- Exercise joint primary responsibility for raising their children.

It also states that anyone caring for a child, even if not her parent or guardian, can take any reasonable measures to safeguard or promote the welfare of the child.

Additionally, the law specifies that a foster parent cannot marry a child he or she is raising. Any such marriage will be void, and the offense is punishable by a K50,000 fine and one year in prison. (Part 2, Division 4, Sections 62 and 69)

LOCAL AUTHORITIES' ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The law (Part 2, Division 5) requires that local authorities:

- **Provide accommodation** for children within their jurisdiction who are lost, abandoned, or seeking refuge. (Section 73)
- **Maintain a register of the births and deaths of children** in the area of its jurisdiction. (Section 76)
- **Maintain a register of children affected by HIV/AIDS.** This includes children who are themselves infected, who are orphaned by HIV/AIDS, who are vulnerable to it, and who are from HIV-positive families and as a result face increased financial, physical, and emotional burdens. Local authorities must ensure that these children: do not face discrimination; have equal access to social and health care services; and are provided with any necessary material support and care. (Section 77)

OTHER NOTABLE SECTIONS

- **Legal Representation:** The law (Part 5, Section 126) states that a child has a right to legal representation. Section 127 states that in some cases, if a parent/guardian cannot afford to hire legal representation, the Malawian government must provide one.
- **Child Justice Courts:** The law (Part 6, Section 132) requires Malawi to establish child justice courts. Section 134 states that, even in cases in which the case is heard by the High Court, the High Court must comply with the requirements of this law. Section 140 states that children cannot be imprisoned.

RESOURCES

<http://www.sdn.org.mw/constitut/intro.html>

<http://www.eisa.org.za/WEP/mal5.htm>

ABOUT AGALI

The Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative

AGALI improves adolescent girls' health, education, and livelihoods by enhancing the capacity of Latin American and African leaders to advocate for policies, programs, and funding benefiting girls.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.agaliprogram.org





Policy in Brief



THE CONSTITUTION OF MALAWI

Summary of Sections that Most Apply to Adolescent Girls:

CHAPTER III, FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Chapter III, Section 13 of the Constitution states that Malawi should promote the welfare and development of its people by pursuing policies to achieve the following goals:

- Gender equality: Malawi must promote non-discrimination, full participation of women in all spheres of life, and policies to address issues like domestic violence, economic exploitation, lack of maternity benefits, and rights to property.
- Health: Malawi must provide adequate health care to meet Malawians' needs.
- Education: Malawi must provide adequate resources in the education sector to eliminate illiteracy, make primary education compulsory and free, and improve access to higher education.
- Children: Malawi must ensure conditions that allow children to develop into healthy, productive, responsible members of society.

In addition, Section 12 recognizes the dignity and worth of every person and requires the State to protect fundamental human rights for all individuals, groups, and minorities. Section 13 also requires Malawi to promote law and order through civic education and the enforcement of laws.

CHAPTER IV, HUMAN RIGHTS

Chapter IV of the Constitution lists Malawi's bill of rights. It includes basic assurances such as the rights to liberty, human dignity, privacy, and engaging in economic activity. In addition, it lists the following provisions that may be particularly applicable to adolescent girls:

- Equality: Discrimination is prohibited on grounds of sex (in addition to race, colour, language, religion, political opinion, nationality, ethnicity, disability, property, birth, or other status). The Constitution also states that legislation may be passed to address inequalities.
- Family and marriage: Every family member is protected against neglect, cruelty, and exploitation. No one can be forced to enter a marriage, whether it's a marriage by law, custom, permanent cohabitation, or reputation. No one over age 18 can be prevented from choosing to marry. Individuals aged 15-18 years can enter marriage with the consent of their parents or guardians. The State discourages marriage when either or both partners are under age 15.
- Rights of Children: All children (defined as those under 16 years) are entitled to equal treatment under the law. Children are entitled to be protected from economic exploitation and work or punishment that is hazardous, interferes with their education, or harms their physical or mental health.

- Rights of Women: Women, regardless of their marital status, have the right to enter contracts, acquire property, acquire and retain custody of their children, and have equal say in child-raising decisions. The Constitution also includes a call to pass legislation to eliminate discriminatory practices like sexual abuse, workplace discrimination, and deprivation of property.
- Education: All Malawians are entitled to education, including at least five years of primary education.
- Slavery and forced labor: Slavery and forced labor are prohibited.
- Property: Every person can acquire property individually or with others. No one can be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Right to development: Every person has a right to economic, social, cultural, and political development, and special consideration will be given to the rights of women, children and the disabled in this context. The State must ensure equality of opportunity for everyone in access to basic resources, education, health services, and employment. It also must take measures to eliminate social injustices and inequalities.
- Labour: Every person is entitled to fair wages and equal pay for equal work.
- Access to justice and legal remedies: Every person can have access to a court of law or other tribunal to settle legal issue.

ADDITIONAL SECTIONS

- Birth registration: Chapter XIV, Section 146 states that the local government authorities are responsible for registering births in their local domains.
- Implementation and administration of laws: Chapter VIII, Section 96 states that the Cabinet has responsibility to coordinate the activities of government departments and to take responsibility for the implementation and administration of laws.
- Enforcement of laws: Chapter XV, Section 153 states that the Malawi Police Force will provide for the protection of public safety and rights under the Constitution and other laws.

RESOURCES

<http://www.sdn.org.mw/constitut/intro.html>
<http://www.eisa.org.za/WEP/mal5.htm>

ABOUT AGALI

The Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative AGALI improves adolescent girls' health, education, and livelihoods by enhancing the capacity of Latin American and African leaders to advocate for policies, programs, and funding benefitting girls.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.agaliprogram.org



Policy in Brief



THE MALAWI NATIONAL HIV/AIDS POLICY

Summary of Sections that Most Apply to Adolescent Girls:

In 2003, the Malawi National AIDS Commission (NAC) released the National HIV/AIDS Policy, which outlines the government's responsibilities to Malawian citizens with respect to HIV/AIDS and the factors that contribute to HIV infection. This policy brief summarizes the sections of that policy that are most relevant to adolescent girls.

PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Chapter 5 discusses the government's responsibilities to protect and empower vulnerable populations, including (among others) women and girls, children and young people, and people engaged in transactional sex.

Women and Girls

Section 5.2 outlines the Government of Malawi's responsibility to:

- Ensure that women and girls have **equal access** to:
 - Information and education programmes about HIV/AIDS;
 - Means of preventing HIV transmission; and
 - Health care, including women-specific and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.
- Ensure that women and girls have **protection against violence**, including sexual violence and rape.
- Ensure that women and girls have **protection against traditional practices** that are harmful to their health.
- Ensure women's rights to **equality within the family**, including in divorce, inheritance, child custody, property, and employment.
- Ensure women's **rights within the workplace**, including equal pay for equal work, access to senior positions, protection against sexual harassment, and reduction of conflicts between professional and family responsibilities.
- Ensure that girls (and boys), both in and out of school, have **access to life skills education**, which addresses gender inequalities and HIV prevention, care, and support.

- Protect the rights of women to have **control over their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health**. Women must be able to make decisions in these matters free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

Children and Young People

Section 5.5 outlines the Government of Malawi's responsibility to:

- **Strengthen and enforce existing legislation** to protect children and young people against abuse and exploitation.
- Ensure that children and young people have access to **youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and education** so they can protect themselves from HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections (STIs).
- Incorporate **reproductive and sexual health education**, including peer education, into the school curriculum. Ensure that similar information is made accessible to youth out of school.
- Ensure that all **career, traditional, and faith-based counselors are trained** to counsel youth on protecting themselves from early sex, unplanned pregnancy, and STIs.
- Ensure that **traditional initiation counselors** incorporate accurate, appropriate sexual and reproductive health education into traditional and cultural initiation processes.
- Provide **multi-purpose youth centres** to ensure the well-being and development of young men and women, contributing to the prevention of STI transmission. This should be done along with institutions providing education and youth services.
- Ensure that **educational institutions have and enforce policies to prevent sexual abuse, harassment, and exploitation** of students by peers or teachers and school staff, and to prevent staff from engaging in sexual relations with students.

(Continued on reverse)

People engaged in transactional sex, including prostitution

Section 5.7 outlines the Government of Malawi's responsibility to:

- Ensure that people engaged in transactional sex have access to **confidential and respectful health care**, particularly sexual and reproductive health care, life skills, condoms, and HIV/AIDS treatment.
- Implement **multi-disciplinary interventions** with life skills and sexuality education to support young people engaged in transactional sex.
- Ensure that people engaged in transactional sex take **responsibility for protecting themselves** and their sexual partners.

INTERACTIONS WITH TRADITIONAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND SERVICES

Chapter 6 discusses interactions between cultural practices and HIV/AIDS. The rationale is that the following practices (among others) increase the risk of HIV infection: forced sex for young girls coming of age (fisi), polygamy, extra-marital sexual relations, marital rape, widow and widower inheritance, wife and husband exchange (chimwanamaye), temporary husband replacement (mbulo), and death cleansing (kupita kufa).

Section 6.1.2 outlines the Government of Malawi's responsibility to address the role of cultural practices in HIV/AIDS and to:

- Promote and encourage **monogamous marriages and fidelity**, in partnership with civil society, traditional leaders and religious leaders.
- Promote **correct and consistent use of condoms in marital sex** where there is real or apprehension of HIV infection. Non-governmental partners should work in conjunction with the government on this.
- Ensure the availability of **support services for spouses who assert their rights to safer sex** and as a result are abused or thrown out of the home.
- Ensure that citizens are empowered to **make independent decisions regarding widow/widower inheritance** to reduce the risk of HIV transmission, and that support services are provided to those who are victimized as a result.
- Promote **VCT for those who willingly choose to practice widow and widower inheritance**. This should be done in partnership with civil society, religious leaders, and traditional leaders.

- **Sensitise traditional leaders and their subjects on the dangers of customary practices** like: forced sex for young girls coming of age (fisi/kuchotsa fumbi), wife and husband exchange (chimwanamaye), temporary husband replacement (mbulo), and death cleansing (kupita kufa). The policy specifies that this should be done in partnership with civil society and traditional leaders.
- **Sensitise childless couples and HIV-positive partners on alternatives** like fostering, adoption, and medical options. The policy specifies that this should be done in partnership with civil society, religious leaders, and traditional leaders.

In addition, this section outlines the following responsibilities for traditional and religious leaders:

- Traditional leaders and religious leaders must sensitise their communities on the dangers of widow/widower inheritance and discourage this practice.
- Traditional leaders must stop or modify unsafe customary practices to make them safer or promote alternative customary practices that do not place people at risk of HIV infection.

PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT, AND IMPACT MITIGATION

Chapter 3 discusses prevention, treatment, care, and support. The following sections specifically address adolescent girls:

- **Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT):** The government and its partners must promote and strengthen programmes that prevent HIV infections and unplanned pregnancy, especially in young women of child-bearing age. (Section 3.2.2.4)
- **Treatment of STIs:** The government must ensure that STI treatment services are appropriate for and accessible to women, young people, and vulnerable populations. (Section 3.2.2.5)

RESOURCES

http://data.unaids.org/Topics/Human-Rights/malawi_national_policy_en.pdf

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Policy in Brief



THE MALAWI NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT

Summary of Sections that Most Apply to Adolescent Girls:

In 2009, the Malawian Parliament passed and the President signed into law the National Registration Act of 2009. This policy brief summarizes the sections of the law that are most relevant to adolescent girls.

THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The law mandates that the Government of Malawi establish a National Registration System that records **births, deaths, and marriages** at the village, traditional authority, district, and national levels (Part II, Section 3). The registration system also must include **a registry of everyone in Malawi who is 16 years or older** and is a Malawian citizen or has a permanent residence permit, a temporary employment permit, or a business residence permit (Part II, Section 7). The registry must contain several pieces of information about each person, including **a person's sex, date of birth, parents' names, marital status, and other data** (Part II, Section 8).

At the national level, the registration system is to be overseen by a **Director of National Registration** (Part II, Section 4). At the district level, every **District Commissioner or Chief Executive is designated as the registrar** and is in charge of keeping the registry in his or her district, unless the national government chooses to appoint someone else to this post (Part II, Section 5). The Director of National Registration must provide each district with the necessary forms, books, and instructions to complete the registration processes (Part V, Section 37).

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND ADOPTED CHILDREN

Part III of the law states that **a father and mother must register a child's birth within six weeks** (Section 24). However, in cases in which a child was born out of wedlock, the father is not required to register the birth or to be registered as the child's parent unless he voluntarily assents and the mother agrees or his fatherhood has been proven in court (Section 24).

In the parents' absence, others must take responsibility for registering the birth of a child, including the head of the household in which the child was born, anyone who was present at the child's birth, or anyone in charge of the child (Section 24).

To register a birth, a parent or other representative must complete a birth report and deliver a copy of it to the district registrar (Section 24). Those registering a birth after six weeks have passed will incur a fine (Section 25).

The national Director must also keep an **Adopted Children Register** to record cases in which a child order is adopted (Section 28).

REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

Part IV of the law states that **newly wedded couples must register the marriage within three months** (Section 31). To register a marriage, they must submit a prescribed form or deliver a copy of the marriage certificate to the district registrar (Section 31). Those registering a marriage after three months have passed will incur a fine (Section 32).

REGISTRY OF ALL MALAWIANS AGED 16 OR OLDER

Once an area within Malawi is notified that the registration system will begin to take effect, **every person in that area aged 16 or older who meets the citizenship requirements must go to the district registrar** to provide the required data, a photograph, and fingerprints (Part II, Section 10). Every registered person must then be issued an **identity card** (Part II, Section 13). If any personal information recorded in the registry changes, the affected person must report the update within 30 days (Part II, Section 18).

PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER AND OTHER OFFENSES

Failure to register can result in a fine of \$1 million Kwacha and up to five years imprisonment (Part VI, Sections 42). Providing false information or illegally using someone else's identity card can also result in the same punishment (Part VI, Sections 42 and 43).

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The Most Powerful Person in a World of Seven Billion

- Posted by [Emily Teitsworth](#) on October 25, 2011 at 9:38am
- [Send Message](#) [View Blog](#)

Out of the nearly 7 billion people alive today, imagine for a moment what the most powerful individual on the planet might look like. Chances are, you aren't picturing a 12 year old school girl raising her hand to answer a question in science class. But the truth is that the world's 700 million adolescent girls may just be the most powerful agents we have to address the urgent challenges facing our crowded planet.

On average, girls with at least seven years of schooling will marry four years later and have 2.2 fewer children than their uneducated counterparts (United Nations Population Fund, 1990). When an empowered young woman makes informed decisions about her reproductive health—when to marry, when to have children and how many to have—she helps the rest of us build a sustainable, balanced world.

In my work with the Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative (AGALI) of the Public Health Institute (PHI), I've had the privilege to see first hand the incredible changes that girls can bring about in their communities with just a little help and support. In August, my colleagues and I were in Malawi to conduct an AGALI training on advocacy and girls' empowerment. After the workshop, we traveled to the northern tip of the country to meet a young woman named Catherine in her remote rural village.

Two years ago, as Catherine went door-to-door after school selling small goods to help feed her family, she was kidnapped by a much older man who demanded that she marry him. She was 16 years old at the time, the victim of the common local practice of bride abduction. Against the low hum of insects in the grass and the whispers of her younger brothers, Catherine told us of the two terrifying days she spent locked in the man's house, wondering if everything she had worked so hard for—education, financial independence—was about to end, to be replaced by forced marriage, early childbearing, and the loss of her freedom.

Happily for Catherine, her father had received gender awareness training and mentoring from FOCUS, an AGALI partner organization in Malawi. He worked with FOCUS to secure Catherine's release and to ensure that she was able to return to school. Today, she is completing her education and dreams of becoming a nurse. "Yes," she told us, "I still want to get married and have children, but only when it is my choice."

UNICEF reports that 36 per cent of women worldwide aged 20-24 marry or are in union before they reach 18 years of age. In Malawi, this rate is as high as 50 percent. However, Catherine's story shows that with the support of advocates and committed organizations like FOCUS, girls around the world are making choices that will help the other 7 billion of us create a sustainable global community. So, next time you are wondering who's in charge of our planet's fragile future, picture a girl, and know that we are in good hands.

Views: 108

Tags: [7 billion](#), [7billion](#), [AGALI](#), [Malawi](#), [adolescent](#), [adolescent girls](#), [child marriage](#), [early marriage](#), [girls](#)

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Dialogue4Health

Web Forum

At This Point in Time: Women's Health on the Changing Global Stage - Three perspectives on International Women's Day
Tuesday, March 8, 2011 | 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Pacific

On International Women's Day, the Public Health Institute's (PHI) Global Health Program is pleased to feature three presentations on women's health from a global perspective. Adolescent Girls Advocacy and Leadership Initiative (AGALI) will discuss the health and welfare of adolescent girls in Africa and Latin America. Ushma Upadhyay, a Fogarty Fellow at the University of California, San Francisco's Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, will discuss the sexual and reproductive health needs of women in the global South. The session will be moderated by Bethany Young Holt, Director of the Program at PHI, will discuss the impact of chronic and non-communicable diseases on women in the global South. The session will be moderated by Bethany Young Holt, Director of Innovations (CAMI) at PHI.

LISTEN

[Presentations](#) [Resources](#) [Support](#)

PRESENTERS

Denise Raquel Dunning, MPA, MA
 Program Director and Principal Investigator
 Adolescent Girls Advocacy and Leadership Initiative
 Public Health Institute
 Oakland, CA



Denise is the Program Director of the Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative (AGALI), a program implemented by International Health Institute (PHI) that promotes global health and development by enhancing the capacity of Latin American and African leaders to advocate for the health, education and young women.

Denise previously worked in the Population Program at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation on grantmaking and research in Mexico, India, and as a Fulbright Scholar in Honduras, working with the United Nations Development Program to implement hurricane relief efforts following Hurricane Wilma in Mexico City and CARE Nepal.

Currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Sociology at the University of California Berkeley, Denise is conducting research on youth, gender, sexual and reproductive health, and Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, where she focused on international development and health after graduation.

Denise is a native Spanish speaker who also speaks French, Portuguese, and German. (agaliprogram.org)

Ushma Upadhyay, PhD, MPH
 Women's Health and Empowerment Fellow
 Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH)
 Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health
 Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences
 University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)



Ushma Upadhyay, PhD, MPH is a Fogarty Fellow in Women's Health & Empowerment, based at the Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health. Her research interests include unintended pregnancy, gender-based relationship power, and access to contraception for women's empowerment and assessing its influence on contraceptive use, abortion decisions, and fertility in the US and the global South. She is co-author of *Providers*, a Johns Hopkins/WHO publication providing evidence-based guidance on the provision of contraceptive methods. Dr. Upadhyay has a Master of Public Health from American University, an MPH from Columbia School of Public Health, and a PhD from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Jeffrey Meer
 Special Advisor
 Global Health Policy and Development
 Public Health Institute

Washington, DC



Jeff Meer is special advisor for global health policy and development at the Public Health Institute. Based in Washington, DC, he provides strategic advocacy and develops new business proposals for Global Health Projects. In January 2011, he was selected as co-chair of the UN Process and Open Council's NCD Roundtable. Prior to this, he had been Director of International Advocacy for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Earlier in his career, he was Director of CHF International, a large international development nonprofit, where he oversaw private sector fundraising, communications and government relations. He was also Director of the US Association for UNHCR, a private nonprofit that builds financial and political support for the United Nations Refugee Agency, and Security at the United Nations Foundation. Mr. Meer was a foreign service officer with the US Department of State for more than a decade, and worked in Germany, as well as in Washington. During this time, he was a staff delegate to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Mr. Meer has written approximately 100 articles and reviews on a variety of mental health topics, and also published "Sports and Drugs," a book intended for his students at Dartmouth College with a Bachelors degree in French language and literature. He speaks French, German and Cantonese Chinese. He is married with two children.

MD. (<http://www.phi.org/>)

MODERATOR

Bethany Young Holt, PhD, MPH
 Director
 Coalition Advancing Multipurpose Innovations
 Public Health Institute
 Sacramento, CA

**Attachment H
AGALI Newsletter
December 2011**



December 20, 2011

**Welcome to our inaugural
bimonthly update on all things AGALI!**

We have been very busy over the last several months with workshops in Guatemala and Malawi, grantmaking and technical assistance, and a recruitment trip to Liberia to interview candidates for AGALI 2012.

Malawi REHALI Workshop and Seed Grants

Building on the August 2011 AGALI advocacy training in Malawi, 18 AGALI 2010 and 2011 Fellows reconvened for a workshop focusing on budgetary advocacy for reproductive health (RH) in early November. This Reproductive Health Advocacy & Leadership Initiative (REHALI) workshop strengthened the capacity of two generations of AGALI Fellows in budgetary analysis, RH budgeting at the local and national level, and in development of budgetary advocacy strategies to advance RH. Co-facilitators Grace Malera, Executive Secretary of the Malawi Human Rights Commission, and Elita Yobe, AGALI 2010 Fellow, led a facilitated proposal development process that allowed participants to develop draft budgetary advocacy proposals that they then submitted to PHI for funding consideration.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AGALI

PHI is awarding \$5,000 seed grants to the strongest budgetary advocacy proposals developed during the REHALI workshop. The funded projects will work to increase budgetary allocations for RH services at the local level in several critically under-resourced districts in Malawi.

Guatemala Institutional Strengthening Workshop

In mid-November, 22 AGALI Fellows and key staff from their institutions came together in Guatemala City for a two-day Institutional Strengthening (IS) Workshop. Facilitated by the internationally-recognized health and human rights advocate Dr. Mirna Montenegro, the workshop focused on political mapping in the post-election context and on budgetary advocacy for girls' reproductive health. The workshop, which took place only days after the national elections brought a conservative government to power, provided Fellows and key staff of their organizations with a timely opportunity to strategize and develop new approaches to reproductive health advocacy for girls with the incoming administration.

Grantmaking

Between September and November, AGALI awarded \$80,000 in seed grants to partner organizations in Liberia, Malawi and Honduras. In Liberia and Malawi, AGALI grants are sustaining select current grantees for a second year of advocacy work on behalf of adolescent girls. In Malawi, AGALI support also launched four new initiatives advocating on a range of issues critical to girls, including harmful traditional initiation practices and girl-friendly school facilities. You can read more information about our grantees here: [AGALI Malawi Awards Press Release](#).

In Honduras, AGALI is supporting the work of the Advocacy Coalition for Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Rights to improve girl-friendly implementation of the regional Ministerial Declaration "Prevention through Education." Here is a link to a video the Coalition just released supporting the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration that highlights the opinions of civil society representatives, students, teachers and parents.



Honduras Coalition 2011



*Honduras Documentary - Ministerial Declaration
"Prevention through Education"*

Liberia Interviews and Site Visits

After an outreach process that generated over 80 applications, Program Manager Emily Teitsworth, traveled to Liberia in early December to interview 45 of the strongest candidates for AGALI 2012. Over the course of two weeks, Emily conducted interviews, participated in meetings to strategize on advocacy for implementation of the newly-passed National Children's Act, and conducted site visits with AGALI grantees HOPE and THINK. On the last day of her trip, Emily also watched the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony from the Monrovia airport as the Nobel Committee recognized the peace-building work of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and women's rights activist Leymah Gbowee. In January, AGALI and UNF staff will select 18 new AGALI Liberia Fellows to participate in a Spring 2012 advocacy training and proposal development process.



Liberia Recruitment Trip

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The Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative (AGALI) promotes global health and development by enhancing the capacity of Latin American and African leaders to improve the health, education, and livelihoods of adolescent girls and young women.

Implemented by the Public Health Institute (PHI), AGALI strengthens the ability of senior leaders to improve adolescent girls' human rights, health, and socio-economic well-being, while simultaneously empowering young women to develop their own solutions to the obstacles they face.

For more information on AGALI please visit: www.agaliprogram.org or please contact Emily Teitsworth at: eteitsworth@phi.org