

GIRLS ON THE MOVE PROJECT/ BOYS ON THE MOVE PROJECT



OUTLINE OF PROJECT: Young girls in South African communities frequently do not have opportunities to access reliable information, services and resources to assist them to negotiate gender disparities, make healthy sexual and reproductive choices, and prevent HIV infection. The school environment forms an essential part of the developmental process of young people wherein key socialisation and learning of values, attitudes and behaviours take place. Schools are thus well-positioned to be centres of community learning and social change and are a vital point of access to young girls.

PROJECT AIM: The project aims to provide young girls within Alexandra and Soweto access to gender, sexuality and HIV information, and services and resources in order to mediate gender disparity, unhealthy sexual choices and HIV infection.

APPROACH: 12 in-school modules delivered by selected, trained, young peer educators; dialogues between female caretakers and learners; social media messaging and discussion to underpin in- school modules.

ACHIEVEMENTS: 2011/2012

22 schools

Girls: 1910

Boys: 1103

Dialogues: 12

SMS Messaging: 18652

MXit: 604



ACHIEVEMENTS: 2013/2014

25 schools

Girls: 2125

Boys: 2044

Dialogues: 8

SMS Messaging: 10430

MXit: 243

MAIL AND GUARDIAN NOMINATION: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE AND DRIVERS OF CHANGE AWARDS:

On the 1 November 2012, at a glittering function held at the Constitution Court in Johannesburg called “One night in prison for a better future” LifeLine Southern Africa received an award for two projects – LifeLine Durban’s project with sex workers and LifeLine Johannesburg’s project, funded by Ford Foundation, Girls on the Move. We were gratified and excited by this recognition of our exceptionally valuable project.

QUOTES FROM GIRLS ON THE MOVE LEARNERS IN ALEX AND SOWETO:

“I have gained a lot of things from GOM, for example, I have a right to say no and realize that I cannot raise a child because I am still a child. I also know what the symptoms of diseases like STIs are.”

“I learned that when I am sexually active I have to play safe by using condoms and also rather to abstain. I have learnt that there is no cure for AIDS and I have a right to know my status. I also have my beliefs and I believe that I should not go and sleep around. I have a right to wear whatever I want to wear and I understand that children develop in puberty stage.”

“I learnt to look after myself, not to be pregnant, to look after myself so that I will not be infected with HIV and go to school every day.”

“I learnt that younger teenagers must not rush things that are bigger than their eyes like sex, alcohol, drugs and smoking dagga. When we are teenagers we must learn about our life programme like we must take care of our bodies. Young teenagers rush things like having babies and having sex. Some teenagers have sex and they do not know who the father of the baby is.”

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