

A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC

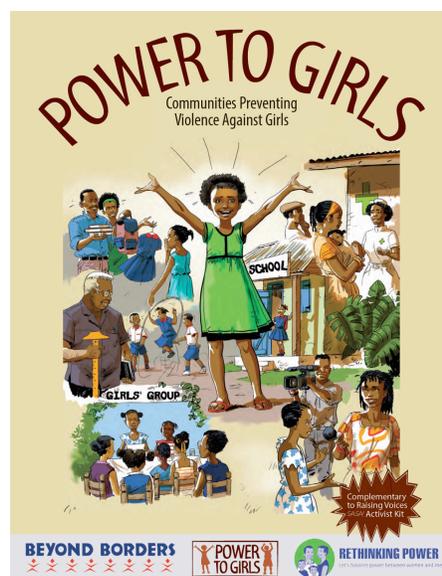
In some countries, a girl is **more likely to experience sexual violence** than to learn to read (UNESCO 2012). Globally, **1 in 4 girls** has experienced sexual violence, and girls aged 15-24 account for **60% of all new HIV infections** among young people (CDC 2015, UNAIDS 2014). The root cause of these problems is power. These statistics are the consequence of attitudes and behaviors that value males over females, and systematically deprive girls of power in their homes, schools, and communities. This imbalance robs girls of their health, safety, and potential. Girls who experience violence may struggle at school or drop out. They are at greater risk for **suicidal ideation, alcohol abuse, unwanted pregnancy, HIV**, and to experience violence both now and when they grow into women. When girls are stripped of their rights, they and their communities suffer as cycles of violence produce unhealthy relationships, poor health and wellbeing, economic hardship, and unrealized human capacity.

GIRLS AND COMMUNITIES AS AGENTS FOR CHANGE

Girls everywhere deserve their safety, voice and agency. **Power to Girls** is a new step-by-step guide developed by Beyond Borders and its community network that helps girls and their communities prevent violence and provide better environments for girls to thrive. It is the first resource to combine **girl-centered programming** with **community mobilization for social norms change** to promote balanced power. This fresh approach:

- Puts girls in charge of change processes and provides **safe, girl-only spaces** to build self-confidence and friendships.
- **Engages boys, girls, men & women** as activists for girls' power, shifting community social norms.
- Promotes power balance in schools through staff training, extracurricular activities, and codes of conduct.

Power to Girls builds on the global evidence base for adolescent girls programming and social norms change programming. Complementary to the Raising Voices SASA! methodology, it follows a **four-phase change process** that moves participants from self-reflection to collective action. All activities and materials are user-friendly, dynamic, and fun. The guide includes outreach materials like dramas, posters, comic strips, and media engagement ideas. Power to Girls also features tools for working with girls, parents and school personnel like activity guides, conversation prompts, and school curricula.



LEARN MORE

To learn more about Power to Girls, please contact Beyond Borders at: s.siebert@beyondborders.net or +1 515 817 3169 English: www.beyondborders.net / Haitian Creole: www.repansepouvwa.org