



# Adolescent-led Early Warning System and Stay in School Committee innovations support adolescent girls to stay in school and to be HIV-free.

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## INTRODUCTION

The HIV epidemic disproportionately affects adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Recent UNAIDS statistics indicate that in Uganda, 570 AGYW aged 15-24 are infected with HIV weekly and HIV prevalence is almost four times higher among AGYW than their male counterparts. Data indicates that adolescent dropouts in Uganda have some of the highest HIV rates. In Uganda, 65% of those who complete primary school go on to the first year of secondary school, while only 22% of these go on to the final year of secondary school.

## LESSONS LEARNED

EWS strengthens school-community action to respond to causes of girl dropout; AGYW identify their peers at risk of dropping out who are monitored through the EWS and key stakeholders can act to keep them in school.

## CONCLUSIONS/NEXT STEPS

The EWS and SISC innovations address the global challenge of school dropout and adolescent girl vulnerability to HIV. SAGE-DREAMS is showing promising, rapid evidence of impact that is being scaled and may be applicable elsewhere.



Peer Educators from Mubende

## DESCRIPTION

The Strengthening School-Community Accountability for Girls Education (SAGE)-DREAMS program is a two-year U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)-funded project implemented by World Vision, Inc. and managed by John Snow Research and Training, Inc. The project seeks to reduce school dropout and HIV infection among 45,000 AGYW in secondary school. It is implemented in 151 secondary schools across 10 districts in Uganda with some of the highest levels of dropout and HIV infection. The project implements two adolescent-led, adult-supported innovations: 1) early warning system (EWS) and 2) stay in school committee (SISC). The project trained school and community stakeholders and established AGYW-led SISCs in schools and changes student attendance norms by promoting adolescent leadership and community action to reduce dropout. The SISC uses the EWS to track school attendance, behavior, and performance.

14,334 AGYW supported to stay in school, protecting them from HIV infection

815 At-risk AGYW identified and flagged for follow up by the SISC

98% Retention rate in 151 schools in 10 districts

159 Most vulnerable AGYW followed up through home visits by SISC

Preliminary Evidence of Impact (FY 2018)



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