

## Adolescent Girls as Agents of Change, India

FY17 Annual Update

### Project Profile

Project Goal	To empower and educate adolescent girls to be agents of change in their own communities so that they can effect sustainable change in the long run	
Project Outcomes	#1	Adolescent girls are empowered to be agents of change by leading their peers and influencing others in the community for transformation in attitude and behaviour
	#2	The knowledge and confidence of adolescent girls is developed through training programmes, including leadership skills and career guidance, to enable them to make the right choices
	#3	Raise community awareness on the rights of girls through advocacy campaigns
	#4	Promote men’s equitable involvement as caregivers in the lives of their partners and children, especially daughters
Project Beneficiaries (over three years)	Adolescent Girls (13 – 18 years old)	1,200
	Indirect Beneficiaries (including peers, parents and community members)	20,000
	TOTAL	21,200

In its initial phase, the “Adolescent Girls as Agents of Change” project identified young adolescent girls who required education support, guidance and motivation in order to lead a life full of hope and dignity. As of October 2017, the project has completed its first year of implementation. In 2017, the areas of focus were life skills, leadership skill development, reproductive health and nutrition for healthy living and assisting girls for higher and professional courses for better future.

### Adolescent Girl Groups and Savings Training

Adolescent Girl Groups focus on helping adolescent girls to become economically and socially empowered.

- This year **1,200 adolescent girls** were registered in **55 Adolescent Girl Groups** across **24 villages**. In these groups, the girls were taught reproductive health, safety and protection, leadership and personality development, higher education and skill development.
- **15 Adolescent Girl Groups**, after they received financial literacy training, also took on the initiative to start saving.



#### **Real Stories, Real Hope:**

Udan Adolescent group has 20 members. The group gave the girls a safe environment to share and learn collectively, and gave them a sense of security. After undergoing financial training, the group also opened a bank account. Renu, an active member of the group shares, “Through regular workshops on the savings group model, we become economically and socially empowered. We as a group decided to start saving 10 rupees every month and opened a bank account with the mentorship of local Self Help Group members. From these savings, we feel self-dependent. We also decided that from these savings, we will help fellow members of the group in need.”

### Higher Education and Vocational Training

- **500 girls** participated in career counselling camps offered by World Vision's partners ICICI academy, and Punjab and Sind bank.
- **40 girls** were enrolled in Office Administration course offered by ICICI Academy. Upon completing the course, **34 girls** got placements in the private sector.
- **30 adolescent girls** have been identified as requiring support for higher and professional education courses, as their families are too poor to support them.
  - The girls were enrolled in professional courses like Nursing, Computer education, Business Administration and IELTS.

### Life Skills Education

- **1,000 adolescent girls** were given reproductive health and nutrition training. The lessons informed the girls about puberty, physical and mental changes during adolescence, personal hygiene, nutritional needs of adolescents etc.
  - **Hygiene kits** were provided to **1,200 girls** which consisted of items like soap, toothbrush, and sanitary pads.
- **300 adolescent girls** completed their life-skills training. **20 girls** were also trained to be master trainers and conduct village-level trainings for the Adolescent Girl Groups.
- **Play for Peace**, which is a Youth Leadership Development Programme, was implemented for the girls. The main objective was to give the girls opportunities for leadership, realise their potential, and develop a positive self-image. 30 girls were chosen as the first batch of students.



*Girls participating in the Play for Peace programme*

### Child Protection and Advocacy

World Vision is working closely with the *Panchayat* (the main body responsible for maintaining law and order at the village level), as well as with other key stakeholders to ensure the girls are protected and participative.

- **24 Village-level child protection committees** have been formed, one in each village. Monthly committee meetings allow the community people to share their concerns related to the girls' safety in school and within the community.