

Afghanistan – Female Youth Employment Initiative (FYEI)**Project Details:**

- Pilot financing: US\$ 2.05 million
- Target population and location: 1,300 young women age 18 to 30 who are high school graduates from Balkh's urban areas and select districts.
- Lead Ministry: Ministry of Education (MoE)
- Implementing agency: MoE, Deputy Ministry of Administration and Finance, through the Educational Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP) arm.

Implementation Update: The project launch event took place on January 31, 2012 at the Ministry of Education in Kabul. All Project Implementation Staff have been hired, with the exception of the M&E officer whose appointment is being finalized. Social Mobilization (Component 1) activities are underway. The social mobilization team has collected the request forms from 1,400 eligible girls who are eager to participate in the trainings; the target is to collect 2,600 request forms. Identification of the implementing partner is underway; plans are to complete the selection by early October 2012.

Prospects for Scale-up: The Task Team has involved the Ministry of Education during the design phase and the pilot was designed in close collaboration with an existing World Bank – Government education program to take advantage of potential synergies. The Minister of Education has since expressed support to scale up the AGI to other provinces if there is available funding and sufficient on-the-ground success from the pilot. The project is seeking linkages with other Bank programs, for example with the proposed Afghanistan Skills Development Project II and Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Project (AREDP).

Haiti – Adolescent Girls Initiative**Project Details:**

- Pilot financing: US\$ 2 million
- Target population: 1,000 vulnerable young women age 17 to 20 living in Port au Prince.
- Partner Ministry: Ministry of Women's Affairs

Implementation Update: An official launch of the project took place in May 2012. Five "quartiers" of Port-au-Prince have been identified for project implementation and trainees have been recruited. A soft-skills curriculum has been developed for the AGI, building on good practices and existing experience specific to the context of Haiti. Community organizations, training providers, the mobile money provider, and the evaluation survey firm have been contracted and outreach with employers is on-going. A workshop was held at the World Bank office on September 14th to strengthen the relationship between training centers and community organizations, present the M&E strategy, and agree on the project's next steps. The baseline survey is currently underway and the first cohort of young women will begin training in October.

Prospects for Scale-up: Longer-term efforts to bring the pilot to scale will depend on links that can be made to government programs and/or bigger operations in the Bank's country portfolio. There is an immediate interest from the Gender Ministry for incorporating the AGI soft-skills curriculum into a wider range of interventions across sectors and ministries. A workshop to continue this conversation has been tentatively discussed with the Ministry for the month of November.

Jordan NOW – New Work Opportunities for Women (NOW)

Project Details:

- Pilot financing: US\$ 1.05 million
- Target population: 1800 young women graduates from 8 community colleges.
- Implementing agency: Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is also involved in design and implementation.

Implementation Update: The pilot launched in December, 2010. 373 young women were trained in employability skills and 97% of these graduates completed training in November 2010. 301 young graduates successfully used job vouchers to secure employment by the time the incentive payments expired in August 2011.

Evaluation Findings: The analysis finds that the job voucher led to a 40 percentage point increase in employment in the short-run, but that most of this employment is not formal, and that the average effect is much smaller and no longer statistically significant 4 months after the voucher period has ended. The voucher does appear to have persistent impacts outside the capital, where it almost doubles the employment rate of graduates, but this appears likely to largely reflect displacement effects. Soft-skills training has no average impact on employment, although again there is a weakly significant impact outside the capital. The results suggest that wage subsidies can help increase employment in the short term, but are not a panacea for the problems of high urban female youth unemployment.

Prospects for Scale-up: In consultation with government counterparts, the pilot was extended to include a hands-on job matching program in October 2011.

Lao PDR – Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI)

Project Details:

- Financing: US\$ 0.4 million
- Target population: Youth age 18 to 35 (majority of whom are female) from three provincial capitals.
- Implementing agency: Young Entrepreneur Association of Lao PDR (YEAL), National University of Laos and Pakpasak Technical College.

Implementation Update: Project monitoring data shows that 37% of Marketplace Competition participants have started or expanded a small business 7 months after business training. More than 40% of students who used Career Counseling Office (CCO) services have found jobs within 2 to 3 months after graduation. Final data from the first phase will be available in October 2012. Based on these encouraging M&E findings, the World Bank received funding from AUSAID to support the program for an additional 18 months and launch a 2nd round of the Young Entrepreneur Marketplace Competition expanding to additional two provincial capitals. From 171 proposals, STEPS short-listed 80 (of which two-thirds were women-led businesses) to participate in a 10-day certified business training course during October-November, 2012. The World Bank is also continuing its support for the two CCOs and will focus efforts on the development of sustainability plans which fully integrate the CCOs within the schools' plans and budgets.

Prospects for Scale-up: In July 2012, STEPS program received additional funding from AusAID. The STEPS program will continue its activities until December 2013. The STEPS team has been working closely with the PREM team in order to integrate the Marketplace Competition model into larger World Bank initiatives—namely the WB Trade Development Facility Phase II (TDFII). The team is also exploring the possibility of replicating the Career Counseling Office model within TDFII and/or as a flagship initiative under the WB Regional Gender program.

Liberia – Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (EPAG)

Project Details:

- Financing: US\$ 5.2 million

- Target population: 2500 young women age 16 to 27 in Greater Monrovia and Kakata City.
- Lead Ministry and implementing agency: Ministry of Gender and Development (MoGD)

Implementation Update: 1,131 girls received training in the first round (March 2010) and 1,277 girls were trained in the second round (July 2011). About 65% of the girls were trained in business development skills and roughly 35% were trained in job skills. All girls also received life skills training. Post-training all graduates enter a 6-month support period where they are assisted with job searching and placement or otherwise supported to start their own businesses.

Evaluation Results: Preliminary results from the midline survey of the Liberia EPAG were disseminated in to beneficiaries and project stakeholders, and were presented to the AGI country teams during the AGI Technical Workshop in August, 2012. According to these preliminary findings:

- The program led to a 50 percent increase in employment and a 115% increase in average weekly income among project beneficiaries, compared to those in the control group.
- The majority of the employment increase was driven by the business skills track.
- The program also significantly increases average weekly income and girls' savings.
- The results will be expanded upon and deepened in the coming year, and a final end-line survey will facilitate further analysis of longer-term impacts.

Prospects for Scale-up: The EPAG team is solidifying plans and fundraising for geographic scale up and expansion of modified versions of EPAG project. The project is making three main design changes in plans for Rounds Three and Four: (i) a condensed training timetable to be more cost-effective; (ii) formal agreements with businesses to deliver tailored job training packages—in return, businesses will guarantee job placement for trainees who successfully complete the training; (iii) a savings match scheme will be designed to incentivize savings accumulation for business investment. In addition, the EPAG project is working to strengthen MoGD's Adolescent Girls Unit so that it becomes a driving force for adolescent girls program coordination, monitoring, and policy advocacy in Liberia.

Nepal – Adolescent Girls Employment Initiative (AGEI)

Project Details:

- Financing: US\$ 2.05 million
- Target population: 4,375 young women age 16 to 24 who are socially discriminated, poor and have low education attainment.
- Lead Ministry: Education
- Implementing agency: Helvetas, with 20-25 Training Providers

Implementation Update: Implementation began in February 2010. Three rounds of training have been completed: 810 adolescent girls were trained in 2010; 1664 in 2011; and 1936 in 2012. Livelihood trainings span 39 occupations across 44 districts of Nepal. All trainees also receive life skills training, as well as business and enterprise skills training for those interested in starting their own businesses. Trainees are assisted with job searching and placement or otherwise supported to start their own businesses.

Emerging Results:

- According to the project monitoring data, many of the trainees are now employed: 562 girls from the 2010 cohort; 1164 from 2011; and 1452 from 2012.
- The implementing agency reports that AGI has increased confidence and hence employability of trained young women.
- Results from the impact evaluation are expected in Spring, 2013.

Prospects for Scale-up: Strong links have been established with the Bank –supported Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project. The monitoring system of the AGI has been fully integrated into this national TVET program, ensuring that it is reaching girls and meeting their needs. AGI approaches, such as

providing incentives for trainers to train girls from vulnerable groups, have informed the design of the TVET project. The project team will continue to work closely with the Government to exchange best practices.

Rwanda – Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI)

Project Details:

- Financing: US\$ 2.7 million
- Target population: 2,700 young women age 16 to 24 who are literate from two urban and two rural districts of Rwanda.
- Lead Ministry: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF)
- Implementing agency: MIGEPROF, Workforce Development Authority (WDA), Imbuto Foundation

Implementation Update: The project was launched on April 2, 2012 in a ceremony in Kigali. In May, 2012 a three-day induction workshop was held with MIGEPROF and the project's implementing partners. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize the newly established project team with the project components and implementation steps, and to build their monitoring and evaluation capacity in preparation for a baseline survey and subsequent monitoring activities. A registration and selection process for girls to apply for the Vocational Skills and Support for Entrepreneurship Skills Component has been developed. A communication strategy and campaign to sensitize girls, parents and communities is currently underway ahead of the registration which is to commence October 15, 2012.

Prospects for Scale-up: The Bank project team is working closely with a WB-financed Skills Development Project under preparation to ensure that AGI training modules are coordinated and mainstreamed into the larger Bank project. Conversations have also been held with the Girl Hub in Rwanda (Nike/DFID partnership) in hopes to involve them more directly in the project, possibly around community sensitization and social communication (the Girl Hub Rwanda recently launched a magazine and radio program targeting adolescent girls).

South Sudan – Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI)

Project Details:

- Financing: US\$ 1.9 million
- Target population: 3,000 young women age 15 to 24 from four states.
- Lead Ministry: Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Development
- Implementing agency: BRAC South Sudan

Implementation Update: 100 adolescent clubs, staffed with 100 Adolescent Leaders, have been established in five counties in four states of South Sudan. Between April and June 2012 517 club members were trained in livelihoods skills; the vast majority (328) received of livelihood trainings were in agriculture. A five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on Life Skills was conducted between April and June 2012 for 20 Community Organizers, who then trained 100 Adolescent Leaders under the supervision of the BRAC training division. By June 2012, 3000 club members were trained in life skills by the Adolescent Leaders. A similar ToT model was used to train all 3000 girls in financial literacy. BRAC is also providing savings and credit services to qualified girls; to-date more than 60 groups comprising more than 500 members have been formed in clubs and are in the process of receiving a loan for their business activities.

Emerging Results: According to project monitoring data, 415 trainees are currently employed. Informal conversations with girls and young women show high levels of engagement and confidence, reflected in increased awareness of such issues as protection against rape, early pregnancy, contraception and family planning in general, and increased knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDs.

Prospects for Scale-up: Institutionalizing the program through the public sector is uncertain and will require a strong commitment from the World Bank country team in Juba and substantial resources to create stronger linkages with national policies and programs. Importantly, BRAC is committed to continuing the club activities at the current level even after the life of the pilot. BRAC is also interested in opening the clubs to younger girls and to boys, and in reaching adults with literacy classes.