

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE AT THE CENTER OF DEVELOPMENT?

In 2015, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Women and Girls at the Center of Development (WGCD) Grand Challenge, to identify effective and intentional strategies to achieve gender equality. Here are a few things we've learned so far:

IMPROVE WOMEN'S FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND INCREASE THEIR ECONOMIC POWER



True financial inclusion for women comes from access to financial products and supportive training on how to use them.



Understanding barriers for women like technological literacy and gender norms that limit their control of assets, help us target development work.

AROUND THE WORLD

KENYA

The BOMA Project: With seed capital, savings accounts and business training, women in Northern Kenya reported more control over livestock and financial decisions at home.

INDIA



Harvard University Evidence for Policy Design: Women given bank accounts, training and direct wage deposits are **34% more likely** to stay in India's workfare program than those given accounts only.

STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S DECISION-MAKING POWER AND IMPROVE HEALTH AND NUTRITION



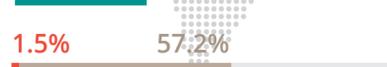
Couples who report making decisions together are more likely to report contraceptive use.



Women's income and decision-making power is correlated with spending on nutrition and health for their families.

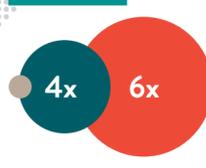
AROUND THE WORLD

KENYA



The BOMA Project: Among women building access to income and business networks, the percent reporting that a child missed an evening meal fell from **57.2% to 1.5%** in two years.

INDIA



Child in Need Institute: Women who report moderate or high decision-making power are **4-6 times more likely** to report ever using contraception.

UNDERSTAND CHALLENGES FOR GIRLS AND PUT THEM IN CHARGE OF SOLUTIONS



Girls identify barriers to empowerment and livelihoods like lack of self-confidence, inadequate sanitation and violence.



Girls design and advocate for solutions and products they want to use.

AROUND THE WORLD

KENYA



ZanaAfrica: Girls designed magazines with accessible character and content to build confidence and understanding around menstrual hygiene and healthy relationships.

SOUTH AFRICA



Wits RHI: Girls designed magazines with accessible character and content to build confidence and understanding around menstrual hygiene and healthy relationships:

- Self defense workshops
- Violence awareness drama

BANGLADESH



Icdrr,b: Girls identified the sanitary products, disposal systems and health education they wanted and delivered recommendations to schools, government and NGOs.

MOVING FORWARD

Learn more at www.icrw.org/wgcdpartners

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