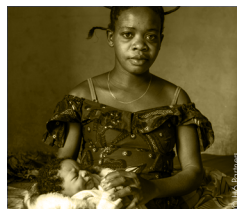


Initiative for Learning and Evidence to Address Teen Pregnancy Among Girls in School in Malawi (I-LEARN)

Teen pregnancy in Malawi

Between 2010 and 2016, the rate of pregnancy among teenage girls in Malawi increased from 25% to 29%.¹ Overall, teenage pregnancies constituted one-quarter of all pregnancies in Malawi in 2016.¹ This has worrisome implications for female education. Between 2014 and 2015, 28% of female secondary school dropouts and 6% of female primary school dropouts were due to pregnancy.²



Understanding the problem and identifying solutions: I-LEARN

In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) will undertake a study, I-LEARN, to provide an understanding of the major causes of teenage pregnancy in Malawi. It aims to identify best practices and interventions to prevent teenage pregnancy among girls, and provide policy and programme recommendations to address these issues.

Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to generate evidence about the causes of teenage pregnancy among girls in school in Malawi that will inform policies and programmes to reduce the school dropout rate due to teenage pregnancy.

We seek to:

1. provide an understanding of the major causes of the increase in teenage pregnancy among school girls aged 15- 19 in Malawi;
2. identify best practices and interventions to prevent teenage pregnancy among girls drawing from regional literature; and
3. provide policy and programme recommendations.

How change will happen

We will begin with evidence synthesis (review of interventions; secondary data analysis) to inform our evidence generation work (focus group discussions; key informant interviews). From our activities, we will derive recommendations to promote the implementation of evidence-informed policies and programmes to address teenage pregnancy among girls in school in Malawi.

We will undertake:

1. an analysis of secondary data to provide an understanding of the major predictors of teenage pregnancy in Malawi,
2. a review of literature of interventions to prevent pregnancy among girls in school, and
3. key informant interviews and focus group discussions in priority districts to gain an understanding of the perspectives of adolescents in school as well as adults who became pregnant as teenagers to inform policy and practice.

¹National Statistical Office (NSO) [Malawi] and ICF. 2017. Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16. Zomba, Malawi, and Rockville, Maryland, USA. NSO and ICF.

²World Bank. Policy Brief: Malawi – Keeping Girls in School: Situation Analysis for Malawi. 2016 May.

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