Global Early Adolescent Study
The years between 10 and 14 are among the most critical for human development, but one of the most poorly understood. While the biological processes adolescents experience in this period are universal, the social contexts within which they occur vary considerably. It is a time when norms solidify and young people are expected to assume socially defined gender roles that shape their future health and well-being.

The Global Early Adolescent Study (GEAS) is a longitudinal research study exploring the factors that impede or promote healthy development across adolescence and the impact of gender transformative interventions.

This global comparison offers a unique opportunity to inform policy makers, program planners, health providers, families and young people themselves about gender norm formation in adolescence, their associated health impacts and the interventions that make a difference in promoting gender equality. The GEAS engages adolescents living in a number of the world’s major cities, shedding light on this vulnerable and rapidly growing urban population.
The longitudinal design will follow a cohort of 10–14 year old adolescents in each site annually for up to five years. The GEAS will conduct two types of research.

**OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH:**
GEAS sites function as observational research studies among approximately 1,400 adolescents. These studies provide insight into the evolution of gender norms over time and the impact of gender norms on key behavior and health outcomes.

**IMPACT EVALUATION OF INTERVENTIONS:**
In some sites, the GEAS survey is used to evaluate the impact of interventions aimed at shifting the trajectory toward greater gender equality. Intervention sites enroll a larger sample of adolescents, equally divided into intervention and control arms.

In total, the GEAS will follow the experiences of over 15,000 adolescent boys and girls on five continents.

The GEAS survey instrument is comprised of three measures: a ten-module health instrument, a vignettes-based measure of gender equality and a measure of gender norms. Together, these three components assess a range of factors and outcomes in adolescence including: gendered norms and processes; adolescent empowerment; risk and protection; exposure to violence and adversity; cohesion and connectedness among peers, family, school, neighborhood, and community; and a range of health outcomes.

Our vision is to provide the evidence that will create a more gender equal world for both boys and girls around the world by:

1. Understanding the evolution of gender norms through adolescence
2. Exploring the influence of gender norms on health trajectories
3. Investigating how these processes vary by site and change across time
4. Examining how gender transformative interventions shift gender norms and shape adolescent health in the short and medium terms.
THE PRIMARY OUTCOMES OF INTEREST

- Sexual and reproductive health
- Body comfort and pubertal satisfaction
- Gender-based and interpersonal violence
- Mental health
- School retention

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WHERE WE WORK

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:
The GEAS network is coordinated by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in consortium with research and programming partners around the world and the World Health Organization.

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GEAS Partner Organizations

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Save the Children, Democratic Republic of the Congo and USA
University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
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