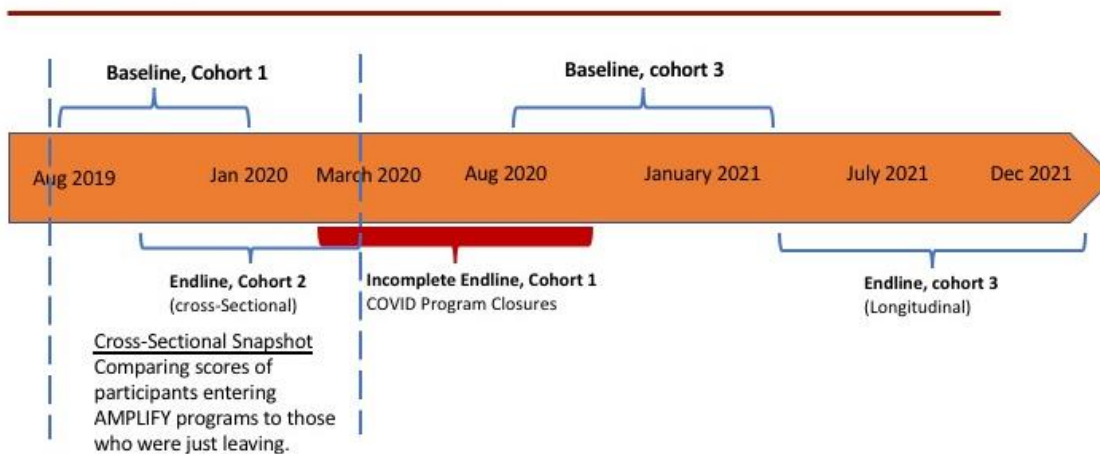


AMPLIFY Girls Research Brief: Longitudinal Study of Agency

Overview of the study:

AMPLIFY partners have worked from 2018-2019, to develop, refine and pilot test a valid psychometric measure of Agency. From 2019-2020 AMPLIFY launched a longitudinal study of girls' Agency which began with cross-sectional baseline/endline data collection to offer a snapshot of AMPLIFY's Agency outcomes across all partners' programs. While progress towards a longitudinal endline was paused by program closures, in Fall 2020, AMPLIFY began a new round of longitudinal data collection and will follow up with the same cohort after 6 months-one year (depending on program length).

Agency Longitudinal Study Timeline



Why did AMPLIFY Develop a Survey to Measure Agency?

AMPLIFY recognizes that:

1. Community driven organizations (CDOs) need good data in order to document their successes and understand their challenges.
2. The most important outcomes of community-driven work are embodied by deep personal transformation.
3. Measuring personal transformation is notoriously difficult even for the largest organizations, but is next to impossible for smaller organizations, with limited resources

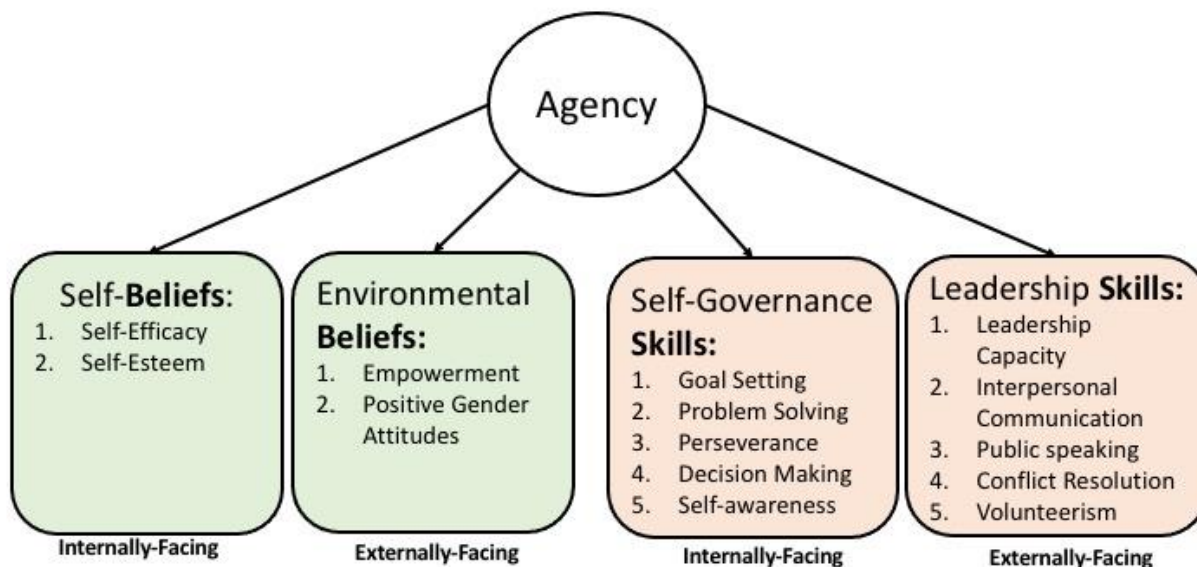
That is why the AMPLIFY Collective has come together to design and implement a survey to measure one of the most important personal outcomes for adolescent girls: Agency.

Why Agency? We believe that in order to be successful girls must believe in themselves and their own abilities AND have the skills they need to affect change in their own lives. We call this capacity 'Agency' and our partners tell us that it is one of the most important outcomes of their collective programmatic work.

AMPLIFY's Agency Survey At a Glance:

The final validated instrument is a multidimensional psychometric tool that identifies four key domains as comprising Agency: Self-Beliefs, Environmental Beliefs, Self-Governance Skills, and Leadership Skills. The survey itself is a 60-item, self-report questionnaire that is currently validated for use in three languages (English, Swahili, and Kinyarwanda) and four countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda).

AMPLIFY Agency Survey



Co-Creating Knowledge:

We believe our process was not only academically rigorous, but offers a locally tailored approach to measurement—one that takes into account differences across community and country.

Survey design process included:

- Quantitative survey of partners' own understanding of agency.
- Detailed literature review of agency.
- Qualitative inquiry on country & organization-specific definitions of agency
- Pilot-testing of draft survey versions
- Statistical analysis of draft survey versions—testing for reliability and construct validity.
- Partner review and feedback of survey questions.
- Translation of survey into local languages.

Why Does Measuring Agency Matter for Global and National Policy? Contributing to the SDGs.

Sustainable Development Goal 4 States that “all girls and boys [should] complete a free, equitable, and *quality* primary and secondary education.” Our definition of Agency encompasses many of the skills that are important for ‘quality education.’ Two out of 10 outcome-targets for SDG 4 (Target 4 Relevant Skills for Decent Work, and Target 7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship) specifically address skills, attitudes and self-beliefs that we believe are encompassed by agency. Both International Organizations and country governments are interested in effective ways to measure soft skills quantitatively in varying linguistic, cultural and social contexts. AMPLIFY’s Agency survey presents an example of how this can be accomplished for East Africa.