**WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MENTOR MAKES**
A Program Factsheet
FEBRUARY 2021

**THE ISSUE**

Adolescence brings physical, emotional, and social changes and challenges. Girls face many obstacles as they navigate thriving and life-changing research. This has shown that for many girls, their world begins to shrink around puberty: the places in their community they're allowed to explore decrease, and opportunities to socialize, meet same-sex friends or mentors (especially if they're out of school) decrease as well. Having a mentor to turn to for advice often means a girl is able to make safer decisions and stay out of harm's way. 42% of them are past program participants. Batonga mentors come from the same schools and in some cases the same extended families as the young women and girls in their programs. 42% of them have past program participation.

**H O W W E ' R E S O L V I N G T H E P R O B L E M**

Batonga vets, recruits, and trains local women to serve as mentors of girls clubs and young women's business circles. The proven benefits of mentoring makes a girl is able to make safer decisions and stay out of harm's way. Research also shows that group mentoring can be even more effective than 1-on-1 mentoring for improving adolescent girls sexual and reproductive health knowledge, school achievement, and social networks as well as helping them decrease risky sexual behaviors and exposure to violence.

**WHAT A MENTOR MAKES**

Batonga's Mentor Program is central to everything we do for and with adolescent girls. Specifically, it helps to:

- Transform individuals.
- Strengthen families.
- Empower communities.
- Elevate women leaders.
- Encourage economic development.
- Build new norms.
- Empower girls and women.
- Enhance girls' sexual and reproductive health.
- Support girls in their daily lives and act as a trusted adviser.

**WHAT DO BATOMGA MENTORS DO?**

Run the adolescent girls leadership clubs.

- Mentor the curriculum to girls in the clubs, and support the creation of activities in each meeting.

Conduct weekly home visits to check in on girls who have been absent from the clubs and their families.

Mentor build trust with parents and caregivers by visiting them weekly and often, and mediate conflicts between girls, parents, and caregivers.

Run Batonga's Radio Program to articulate messages through the radio lessons.

Mentors prepare weekly radio lessons aligned with the topics the program reaches over 200,000 people.

Organize and support the community projects led by girls in the clubs.

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**OUR MENTORS’ IMPACT**

- **Negative outcomes for girls in their household and supporting interpersonal trust and dialogue between girls and their parents and caregivers:**
  - 7,000+ home visits conducted in 2020 for 4,000 girls.
  - 57 mentors.
  - 42% of girls are past participants in the program.

- **Support girls in their daily lives and act as a trusted adviser throughout adolescence for program participants:**
  - 92.9% of program participants say they now have access to a trusted adult for advice.
  - 200,000 people listen to Batonga Mentor Radio Program.

- **Develop women’s leadership and build new norms in their communities and support women’s role in supporting community members, families, and girls:**
  - 200,000 young people.
  - 7,000+ peer visits throughout the year.

**WHAT IS EMPOWERMENT FOR BATONGA GIRLS?**

**How We’re Solving The Problem**

Batonga's Mentors attend at least one mentor training quarterly. They cover everything from teaching strategies, to how to be an effective mentor, to recognizing signs of violence, understanding gender-based violence or how to support empowering young entrepreneurs. Batonga’s mentors not only learn from us but from each other. Peer-to-peer visits throughout the year allow Batonga’s mentors to observe one another in action and co-lead their peer’s clubs.

**Batonga Mentor Radio Program**

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**Mentors**

Mentors, in their roles as trusted community leaders, play a critical role in ensuring that girls have access to safe spaces and gain support from their families. They are able to quickly and easily disseminate information to their communities in times of uncertainty and widespread mistrust. As trusted partners in educating their girls, as well as focal points for advancing safety and well-being in their communities. Mentors are part of Batonga’s Gender-Based Violence (GBV) referral network alongside local leaders and government officials.