

ADOLESCENT GIRLS' ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE



FINAL REPORT 2010



INTRODUCTION

The Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative (AGALI) has worked for the past two years to build the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations in Latin America and Africa to advocate on behalf of marginalized adolescent girls. During 2010, the Public Health Institute (PHI) implemented the AGALI program in Guatemala, Liberia, Malawi, and Ethiopia with a \$250,000 grant from the UN. Through intensive workshops, technical assistance, institutional strengthening, a structured dissemination process, and seed grants, AGALI has strengthened the ability and commitment of leaders and institutions to advocate for laws and policies that respond to adolescent girls' needs, while enhancing young women's ability to develop their own solutions to the social, economic, and health challenges they face. AGALI's comprehensive model strengthens the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations to advance the efforts of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Adolescent Girls (IATF) to promote adolescent girls' human rights, health, education, and socio-economic wellbeing in UN priority focus countries.

Despite the existence of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international agreements that mandate protection of girls' rights and promotion of their socio-economic development, legal and political frameworks in the AGALI focus countries do not adequately reflect these commitments. Furthermore, implementation of existing laws and policies that promote girls' welfare is often constrained by budget limitations, lack of political will, and cultural obstacles. Responding to these stark challenges requires leadership and leverage among policymakers, practitioners, and youth leaders who are committed to advancing the human rights, health, and socio-economic wellbeing of adolescent girls, as well as the active engagement of young women in addressing their own needs. To this end, AGALI enables civil society leaders and social change agents to build their advocacy knowledge and capacity in order to work more effectively on behalf of adolescent girls and young women.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative is to advance the human rights, health, and socio-economic wellbeing of adolescent girls by strengthening the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations. Building on the success and lessons learned in 2009, AGALI's primary objectives during year two of the program were to:

1. Strengthen the capacity of 18 African leaders to advocate for policies, programs, and funding to advance the health, human rights, and socio-economic welfare of adolescent girls in Malawi, Liberia, and Ethiopia. Based on the AGALI model implemented in Latin America in 2009, the Africa program work conducted in 2010 included an intensive regional workshop to enable participants to establish advocacy goals on behalf of adolescent girls, identify key actors and other local resources to enhance their success, and establish process and outcome measures to evaluate their impact.
2. Award six \$10,000 grants to support the advocacy strategies that demonstrated the greatest potential to improve policies and programs benefiting adolescent girls and build their health, social, and economic assets in Malawi, Liberia, and Ethiopia.
3. Provide support for participants' dissemination workshops and capacity building work by enhancing participants' efforts to strengthen the capacity of their own institutions and other local organizations, while building adolescent girls' ability to advocate for their own interests.

4. Continue supporting AGALI Fellows in Latin America who received 2009 seed funds to implement their advocacy strategies by providing ongoing technical support. In February 2011, the PHI resource team and UNF program staff awarded a second year of funding to the strongest of these advocacy strategies.
5. Lay the groundwork to implement AGALI in the new focus countries identified by the IATF. Pending the IATF's selection of new focus countries, PHI had planned to conduct an analysis of local organizations working on key issues relating to adolescent girls in the new focus countries and begin program promotion and recruitment efforts in order to prepare for the third phase of AGALI in 2011.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the second year of the program, the AGALI team achieved significant successes in all of the five principal components of the model. To assess the ongoing progress made through the various components of the program, PHI has used both quantitative and qualitative analysis to monitor participants' achievements on behalf of adolescent girls through their advocacy strategies and outreach activities, in addition to assessing outcomes of the capacity building and technical assistance processes.

As a basis for monitoring and evaluation, PHI staff uses the EvaluLEAD framework, a model specifically developed to evaluate leadership development programs that examines the linkages between core program activities, participants, partner organizations, and community impacts. AGALI program evaluation incorporates mixed methods to collect information and data, including: pre- and post-test instruments, tracking of accomplishments, key informant interviews, field observations and site visits, and analysis of the results of the institutional plans. Evaluation information sources include AGALI Fellows, beneficiaries of institutional plans and outreach efforts, and PHI staff and resource team members. Specific accomplishments to date include:

Capacity Building

Following an intensive recruitment and selection process that generated 95 applicants, PHI selected 18 civil society leaders from Liberia, Malawi, and Ethiopia to participate in the AGALI program. Prior to the regional workshop, PHI worked with in-country staff and local consultants to implement one-day meetings for participants from each country. These briefings provided participants an opportunity to network with other leaders working on a range of critical issues affecting adolescent girls and begin collaborating with other AGALI Fellows. To ensure that the new Fellows shared a baseline level of knowledge prior to their arrival at the regional workshop, these in-country meetings highlighted the national context for adolescent girls' issues, the ongoing efforts of the IATF, and existing gaps in girl-friendly programs and policies within each country. The Malawi and Ethiopia meetings were held in country, while the Liberia group meeting was held in Egypt immediately prior to the main AGALI workshop, due to resource and capacity limitations in Liberia.



AGALI AFRICA WORKSHOP – JUNE 2010



2010 AGALI AFRICAN FELLOWS

The regional workshop took place in Alexandria, Egypt in June, 2010. Building upon participants' existing expertise and knowledge of the challenges facing adolescent girls, the workshop enabled Fellows to share lessons learned and best practices from their own work, while developing new strategies to advocate for adolescent girls. The training helped participants to strengthen their capacity to advocate for policies that promote gender equality, recognize the diversity of adolescent girls' experiences and needs, and ensure the active participation of girls in the creation of the

programs that will affect them. Complementing the ongoing work of the IATF, the workshop helped participants develop advocacy strategies that advance public policies benefiting adolescent girls, improve implementation of existing girl-friendly legislation, increase resource allocation to support girl-friendly programs, and utilize national legal frameworks and global conventions to hold governments accountable. Through a guided facilitation process that incorporated ongoing feedback and coaching, the AGALI training culminated with all participants developing advocacy proposals that included specific advocacy goals, objectives, activities, and evaluation plans.

Program evaluations demonstrate that PHI successfully strengthened the capacity of 18 civil society leaders to advocate for a girl-focused agenda in their institutions and countries. During the training workshop, participants conducted in-depth needs assessments and developed comprehensive Institutional Advocacy Strategies to strengthen the capacity of their organizations to implement advocacy strategies that address the unique challenges facing adolescent girls in each country.



"My vision for girls is to see them healthy, empowered, confident, capable, involved, and most of all I want them to be leaders and change agents in their community."
—Makda Mikre, Ethiopia

"The change I hope to create for girls is to provide resources that they can use to be empowered, like education and access to healthcare."
—Hawa Bropleh, Liberia



"The AGALI Program taught me how to be successful in advocacy for adolescent girls, and how to strengthen and build networks."
—Kula Fofana, Liberia

Specific topics covered during the seven-day workshop included:

- Adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health
- National and regional policy and legal frameworks affecting girls
- Girls' educational, economic, and livelihoods opportunities
- Regional, national, and local advocacy strategies to improve girls' welfare
- Resource mobilization, fundraising, and proposal development
- NGO, multilateral and governmental partnerships
- Global conventions for action on girls' issues
- National and regional policy analysis of adolescent girls' needs, programs, and policies
- Analysis of institutional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
- Development of institutional advocacy strategies, including project justification, goal, objectives, activities, indicators, budget, and timeline

AGALI Fellows provided the following feedback in their written evaluations of the Egypt workshop:

- 89% participants strongly agreed that the training increased their knowledge of advocacy and the advocacy process.
- 100% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the training increased their ability and skills to implement an advocacy project.
- 75% of participants strongly agreed that the training increased their interest in working directly with adolescent girls and young women.
- 78% of participants stated that participation in the workshop opened up a network of people that they could contact for ideas and assistance about how to handle advocacy projects to a great extent.
- 89% of workshop participants reported that they planned to conduct an advocacy campaign on behalf of adolescent girls upon returning to their countries.

Increases in participant knowledge of advocacy processes and girls' issues as measured by written pre- and post-tests were statistically significant at the 0.05 level, with a very strong t value of 4.24. This large indicates significant increases in knowledge as measured by the pre-post tests were due to participation in the AGALI training.

After the regional training in Egypt, AGALI country-based staff and Fellows hosted cocktail receptions in Liberia and Malawi to raise awareness of the program and the Fellows' work, as well as build national networks of individuals and institutions working on girls' issues. Implementing partners, key national and international NGOs, and UN agencies participated in these events, providing Fellows with the opportunity to network informally with key players working on girls' issues in each country. No reception was held in Ethiopia due to the sensitive nature of advocacy and the proximity of the national elections to the capacity building training.

Technical Assistance & Small Grants Program

Upon completing the AGALI workshop, African participants collaborated with key staff in their organizations to finalize their advocacy strategies and proposals. PHI provided technical assistance to AGALI Fellows and their institutions to both maximize the potential effectiveness of these advocacy strategies, as well as strengthen Fellows' and their institutions' broader capacity to develop proposals. All participants and their institutions that submitted Institutional Advocacy Proposals received intensive technical assistance and support in the development of their plans and proposals, including comprehensive feedback on their plans and proposals from

the PHI resource team, referrals to other funding opportunities and relevant conferences, and ongoing communication with PHI staff and consultants on an as-needed basis.

Upon finalizing their advocacy strategies with their organizations, participants submitted proposals to PHI to solicit funding to implement their strategies. PHI convened a Proposal Review Committee in collaboration with the UN Foundation to assess which proposals and organizations had the greatest potential to successfully advocate on behalf of adolescent girls. PHI received a total of ten final proposals from AGALI Fellows and their institutions, including three from Liberia, five from Malawi, and two from Ethiopia.

To promote the sustainability of Fellows' strategies, PHI awarded grants of \$10,000 each to the six initiatives that demonstrated the greatest potential to improve adolescent girls' human rights, health, and socio-economic wellbeing (see Results section for more details). After awarding \$10,000 grants to the six selected institutions, PHI continues working with local experts to provide participants' organizations with ongoing support and additional technical assistance to ensure successful implementation of the strategies and maximum positive impact for adolescent girls. Ongoing technical support includes assistance in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, as well as connecting participants to key resources, organizations, and networks to ensure that their efforts strengthen the work of the IATF. This technical assistance in Africa will continue during phase three of AGALI in 2011 and may also include the awarding of additional small grant funds to help sustain the organizations' continued work on behalf of adolescent girls, depending on available resources.

Dissemination Process

Throughout the course of the program, PHI supported AGALI Fellows' efforts to conduct trainings for key local actors, including civil society organizations, national networks, and adolescent girl leaders and their advocates in both Latin America and Africa. This organized dissemination process provided participants with financial compensation for the trainings they conduct for local groups in their countries. Complementing the in-depth impacts generated through participants' advocacy strategies, the dissemination process supports AGALI Fellows' efforts to directly increase the capacity of adolescent girls and strengthen the efforts of local institutions working on behalf of adolescent girls in each country. Applying lessons learned during the AGALI workshop to their own dissemination efforts, participants conducted trainings to strengthen the capacity of adolescent girls to advocate for their own interests, enhance the advocacy efforts of institutions and networks responding to the needs of adolescent girls, and increase public support for young women's human rights, health, and socio-economic wellbeing. Leveraging participants' knowledge of the issues, commitment to building adolescent girls' capacity, and professional networks, these dissemination trainings complement the advocacy strategies by enabling participants to expand their own direct work with adolescent girls, disseminate information, as well as build a broader movement for adolescent girls comprising diverse audiences and organizations.

Following the regional workshop, the AGALI Fellows conducted trainings to build the capacity and commitment of their own organizations to advocate on behalf of adolescent girls. Some participants also conducted trainings for other local organizations on a broad range of issues affecting adolescent girls, including gender, youth sexual and reproductive rights, and empowerment. Beneficiaries of these outreach trainings include civil society organizations, educators, and policymakers who can then apply their new knowledge to their work with adolescent girls, as well as groups of young people. This outreach process builds knowledge and support for adolescent girls' issues throughout the region, further strengthens the capacity of the AGALI Fellows who design and implement the trainings, and also facilitates collaboration

between local organizations working on related youth and gender issues in each country. In 2010, at least 235 people in Latin America and 100 people in Africa participated in dissemination and outreach trainings, in addition to those offered by AGALI Fellows at 18 different institutions.

Sustaining Latin American Advocacy

In addition to implementing AGALI program activities in Africa, PHI continued to support advocacy efforts initiated during the first year of the program in Latin America. PHI provided ongoing technical assistance to further strengthen the advocacy strategies initiated by the six Latin America participants selected to receive \$10,000 seed funds during 2009. This technical assistance included support with strategy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. AGALI staff also conducted project monitoring visits with all six institutions that received AGALI funding in 2009 in order to assess the organizations' progress and impacts resulting from their advocacy strategies, as well as promote networking and collaboration between grantee organizations.



AGALI-FUNDED ADVOCACY EVENT IN GUATEMALA

Complementing support for the Guatemala advocacy strategies, PHI also implemented a two-day Institutional Strengthening workshop in Guatemala City in August, 2010 focusing on Political Mapping and the national legal and political context for advocacy on behalf of adolescent girls. Working with internationally-recognized experts and government decision-makers, AGALI Fellows and key staff from their organizations identified key state actors and institutions, strengthened their ability to use data and information in advocacy initiatives, and networked with key UN staff working on adolescent girls' issues in Guatemala.

Phase Three

In addition to implementing all components of the Africa-based work during year two of AGALI, PHI also laid the groundwork to scale-up the program during year three of the program. Because the IATF did not select new focus countries in 2010, PHI did not conduct an analysis of newly selected IATF focus countries. However, based on consultation with the UN Foundation, AGALI staff implemented an intensive program model development and scale-up planning process in consultation with nationally-recognized experts. Through this process, the PHI team and UNF staff decided to increase investment in participating countries, focusing on Guatemala and Malawi in 2011, and Liberia and Ethiopia in 2012. The work conducted during 2010 serves as the foundation for PHI's strategy to scale-up the AGALI model in new focus countries in the coming years. As a direct outcome of this planning process, AGALI staff reviewed 45 applications and conducted 35 in-person interviews with Guatemalan candidates for the next round of the program and selected a cadre of 12 new Guatemalan leaders to participate in AGALI in 2011.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

PHI's main challenge in implementing AGALI has been to develop an advocacy training methodology that best meets the diverse needs of all participants. While the majority of AGALI Fellows do exceptional work with girls and young women in the areas of service provision and program implementation, very few have extensive experience working in the area of advocacy.

Furthermore, the regional focus of the program during 2010 somewhat limited the specificity of the training itself in addressing the national and local level context for advocacy in each participating country. Building on lessons learned during 2009 and 2010 and in consultation with UNF, the AGALI resource team decided to shift the capacity building model from an international training format to national level workshops in each participating country. While regional trainings have allowed AGALI Fellows to share good practices with colleagues from other countries and form international networks, the national level workshops planned for 2011 will permit participants to deepen their understanding of the specific legal and cultural factors affecting advocacy in their countries, and build national movements for adolescent girls' rights. This new national focus will also enable the AGALI team to select a much larger cohort in each country (twelve Fellows, rather than six) and tailor the curriculum more exactly to the specific legal, political, and cultural contexts of each country.

Another major obstacle confronting AGALI since 2009 has been the political situation in Ethiopia. The 2009 Civil Society Organization law prevents NGOs that receive more than 10% of their funding from international sources from engaging in advocacy and human rights activities. This law has restricted the work of Ethiopian advocates and in 2010 posed a challenge to the AGALI training and advocacy project development process. In response to this challenge, PHI shifted the location of the 2010 training from the planned venue of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Alexandria, Egypt. AGALI staff then modified the grant proposal requirements for Ethiopian organizations, allowing them to focus on capacity building and awareness-raising rather than explicitly on direct government advocacy.

During 2010, the AGALI team conducted a strategic planning process to formalize the program model, plan for scaling up the program, and assess areas of greatest success and potential for improvement. Through this analysis, the AGALI team concluded that although the capacity building and grantmaking elements of the model have shown consistently strong results, the Technical Assistance component has been underutilized. Although AGALI grantees are all offered TA, very few of the organizations have requested this support. Through site visits with each of the Guatemala grantees in 2010, the AGALI team learned that grantees' hesitation to request TA stems from the fear of being perceived as lacking capacity or knowledge in the area of advocacy. Therefore, the AGALI team has decided to modify this component of the program for 2011 – instead of offering direct services and technical support, the program will award small technical assistance grants to AGALI grantees who apply for this additional funding. These small \$1500 grants will enable AGALI grantees to hire local consultants to provide TA for a broad range of issues as per the institutional need, including strategic planning and organizational development, message development for media advocacy, and other specific technical support to strengthen implementation of the advocacy strategies.

Site visits also helped identify breaks in communication between the staff implementing the projects on the ground (often a local partner organization), the larger administering organization receiving AGALI funds, and PHI staff. To address this challenge, PHI has already begun communicating directly with all pertinent staff of the grantee organization and partner organizations as appropriate, rather than just the AGALI Fellow.

Another realization that came out of the strategic planning process is that the AGALI Fellows have not engaged in the dissemination and outreach processes as much as the resource team had anticipated. Through interviews with Fellows, we have learned that although they remain committed to the issues and are interested in disseminating their knowledge, those who do not have previous experience as trainers do not yet feel sufficiently equipped to conduct trainings for other organizations and girls' groups on their own. Therefore, the AGALI team is

incorporating a session into the 2011 training agenda focused specifically on teaching Fellows to conduct outreach and dissemination trainings, as well as selecting a greater number of 2011 Fellows who have some background and expertise in training. Pending availability of funding, the resource team will also organize and implement an intensive Training of Trainers workshop in 2011 as part of the Institutional Strengthening process, thereby strengthening Fellows' and their organizations' capacity to conduct their own training workshops.

A final challenge to the work of the AGALI program has been limited progress from the IATF in moving forward with their own planning process. Although objective five of the 2010 proposal was to lay the ground work to implement AGALI in the new focus countries identified by the IATF, PHI has been unable to move forward on this work because the IATF has yet to determine new focus countries. Pending the decision of the IATF, PHI had planned to conduct an analysis of local organizations working on key issues relating to adolescent girls in the newly selected focus countries and begin program promotion and recruitment efforts in order to prepare for the third phase of AGALI in 2011. Because the IATF has yet to decide upon new focus countries, the AGALI team and UNF program staff have decided that the best use of program resources is to continue building the capacity of new cohorts of leaders in the four existing focus countries for the next phase of the grant. In addition, through ongoing work in the four focus countries during 2010, the AGALI resource team realized the great value and need to continue investing in Guatemala, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Liberia. Although the AGALI program, Fellows, and grantees have made important improvements for girls in each country, extensive work remains to be done and the AGALI team is grateful for the opportunity to deepen our work in the existing focus countries.

RESULTS



PHOTOS FROM AGALI-FUNDED PROJECTS IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Many of AGALI program's most exciting results stem from the outcomes of the AGALI grantees' advocacy strategies. The principal results to date in Guatemala include:

ORGANIZATION & STRATEGY	2010 RESULTS
<p>The Pro-Wellbeing Association of the Guatemalan Family (Asociacion Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Guatemalteca, or APROFAM, Guatemala's IPPF affiliate) implemented "Prevention through Education: Integrated Education in Human Sexuality for Adolescent Girls" in 2010. This project improved adolescent girls' access to comprehensive education in human sexuality and specialized services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched Guatemala's first youth collective for political advocacy, called "Youth Without Censorship." • Secured the cooperation of the Ministries of Health and Education in jointly signing a letter of inter-institutional cooperation focusing on reducing teen pregnancy. • Engaged in successful advocacy for the passage of two ballot initiatives: Initiative 3823 which declared September 26th the Day for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy, and Initiative 2789, which seeks to promote teen pregnancy prevention and access to youth-friendly health services by addressing cultural issues affecting service provision.

<p>The Association for Comprehensive Research, Development and Education (Asociación de Investigación Desarrollo y Educación Integral, or IDEI) implemented the "Democratic Participation of Adolescent Girls in the Development and Implementation of Integrated Public Policies" project in two Maya Mam indigenous communities. IDEI supported groups of adolescent girls to advocate for girl-friendly policy changes at the local level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convened a coalition of 42 government and civil society institutions to conduct a policy needs assessment. • Founded two municipal assemblies of 22 young people who contributed to the design of local public policies. • Signed agreements with the mayors of two towns to increase girl-centered programs, and successfully advocated for budgetary allocation for girls' programs in one town.
<p>The National Association Against Child Abuse (Asociación Nacional Contra El Maltrato Infantil, or CONACMI) implemented "Integrated Care for Adolescent Girl Survivors of Sexual Violence in Guatemala." CONACMI's project focused on the implementation of a Sexual Violence Protocol, including detection, registration, and integrated care for adolescent girls who are survivors of sexual violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully advocated with the Vice Minister of Hospitals in the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance to implement a monitoring plan for the Protocol. • Created medical personnel implementation guidelines for the sexual violence protocol. • Educated over 20 national and international organizations to engage them in supporting the protocol.
<p>The Guatemalan Association for Child and Reproductive Health (Asociación Frente de Salud Infantil y Reproductiva de Guatemala, or FESIRGUA) implemented "Generating Political Change through Empowered Indigenous Women." This project advocated with the mayors of two indigenous towns in Guatemala for girl-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized a forum for indigenous women focusing on advocacy. • Worked with local youth activists to draft a proposal for opening a Municipal Office of Youth and presented it to the mayor. • Used media advocacy to pressure local government decision-makers to prioritize the health and wellbeing of adolescent girls, including holding a press conference and getting four articles published.
<p>ChildFund Guatemala implemented "I Love Myself, I Take Care of Myself." This project advocated for the authorization of financing for integrated health centers for adolescent girls and the official promotion and use of sexual and reproductive health guides in schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized a youth network of 25 young people from the Department of Sololá to conduct meetings with local decision makers to prioritize girls' sexual and reproductive health. • Trained 70 youth in political advocacy with a focus on sexual and reproductive health. • Created and disseminated radio messages targeting Ministry officials to pressure them to implement their sexual and reproductive health plans.
<p>The Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MISPAS), in collaboration with the Guatemalan Association of Women Physicians, implemented the "Protocol for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Adolescents and Increased Birth Spacing in Adolescent Mothers." This project sought to convince the Minister of Public Health to officially endorse the Protocol for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Adolescents and Increased Birth Spacing in Adolescent Mothers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully developed the protocol on pregnancy and birth spacing and a guide to quality maternal and neonatal care. The official protocol will be released in March, 2011. • Advocated for the prioritization of adolescent health within the Ministry. • Conducted three workshops on teen pregnancy and related issues with key partners, including UNICEF, UNFPA, OPS, and the European Union.

In addition to these important results stemming from the Guatemala grantees' implementation of their advocacy strategies, PHI awarded grants to the six strongest Africa advocacy proposals in November 2010. Because they have been implementing their strategies for over a year, the Guatemala grantees have had more significant results to date than the Africa grantees. Nonetheless, the AGALI team is excited about the potential results that will be generated in 2011 by the funds awarded to the Africa grantees to launch their strategies. These new grants include:

1) The ECC (Ecumenical Counseling Centre) is implementing the "Advocacy for implementation guidelines of HIV/AIDS policy on issues concerning Adolescent Girls" in Malawi. The project's goal is to revise the Malawi National HIV and AIDS policy so that it specifically addresses the challenges facing adolescent girls. ECC will advocate with the National AIDS Commission (NAC) to convince them to review their policy and to develop girl-friendly implementation guidelines.

2) The Development Broadcasting Unit (DBU) of the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation is working on the "Mwana Wa Mzako" project (a Chichewa expression meaning "Another person's child is also yours") in Malawi. DBU's project will advocate to increase the minimum age of marriage from 15 to 18 years via the passage of the Marriage Act by the National Parliament. Using radio, TV, and other outreach tools, DBU will work to build public support and government commitment for the passage of the Marriage Act.

3) Creative Centre for Community Mobilisation (CRECCOM) developed the "Promoting Adolescent Girls' Education" (PRAGE) program to improve educational attainment for teen mothers in Malawi. Pregnant girls in Malawi are often barred from attending school, and not allowed to return once they have given birth. PRAGE's strategy is to advocate for improved school re-admission policy guidelines that will enable teen mothers and other girl dropouts go back to school and complete their education.

4) Talent Youth Association (TaYa) is implementing "Youth Root-Net" in Ethiopia. Working within the legal limitations of Ethiopia's Civil Society Organization Law, TaYa will build the capacity of local youth groups to advocate for improved funding for sexual and reproductive health. The project's goal is to help youth organizations advocate with the Ministry of Health to develop guidelines that will allocate 10% of total national HIV/AIDS and SRH funding to youth-led development organizations.

5) Helping Our People Excel (HOPE) developed the "Sisters Standing Together and Reaching (S-STAR)" advocacy project in collaboration with THINK in Liberia. Both organizations received funding from AGALI to implement advocacy strategies focused on the national Children's Act. HOPE is advocating with key government committees to amend the draft Children's Act to address issues affecting adolescent girls, and with the Legislature to ensure the passing of the Children's Act in 2011.



THINK PARTICIPANTS IN LIBERIA

6) Touching Humanity in Need of Kindness (THINK) is implementing "Advocacy for Amending and Passing of the Children's Act" in Liberia in consultation with HOPE. In addition to joint advocacy activities described above, the two

organizations are conducting advocacy and empowerment trainings for the Children's Parliament and groups of adolescent girls throughout Liberia.

In addition to the results of the Guatemala and Africa advocacy strategy grants, the AGALI team is proud of the other program results achieved during 2010. Emily Teitsworth, AGALI Program Manager, presented the results of the AGALI program at the UNICEF-New School Conference, "Adolescent Girls – Cornerstone of Society: Building Evidence and Policies for Inclusive Societies" in New York in April 2010. Participating in a panel facilitated by the UNF's Executive Director Tamara Kreinin, Emily highlighted the role of capacity building in effective advocacy initiatives, and how to meaningfully involve girls in advocacy initiatives.

In June, 2010, Denise Dunning, AGALI Program Director, facilitated a panel during the Women Deliver conference focused on comprehensive sexuality education, where she shared lessons from the work of the AGALI Fellows in Guatemala. In addition, Denise Dunning wrote an article for the PHI quarterly newsletter highlighting AGALI's results from the first two years of the program (http://www.phi.org/pdf-library/PHI_Voices_for_a_Healthy_Future-Fall_2010.pdf), which was shared by UNF staff with participants at the annual Funders' Network meeting in November 2010. The AGALI team also produced a video of AGALI Fellow Juany Garcia Perez discussing the importance of her advocacy work with adolescent girls in Guatemala, which is featured on Dialogues for Health and YouTube: <http://dialogue4health.ning.com/video/juany-garcia-perez-2711>.

Finally, the AGALI team worked to sustain and expand the program's virtual networks in Latin America and Africa by maintaining active email list serves for AGALI Fellows in both regions. AGALI staff shared relevant news, advocacy and girl-focused resources, job openings, and funding opportunities, and AGALI Fellows regularly updated the group on local and regional events, career news, and advocacy opportunities and successes. These virtual networks have strengthened the AGALI professional network and reinforced the solidarity of these key groups of leaders working on girls' issues.

CONCLUSION

The Adolescent Girls' Advocacy & Leadership Initiative is transforming the lives of adolescent girls by strengthening individual and organizational capacity to advocate for policies and programs that promote adolescent girls' human rights, health, education, and socio-economic wellbeing. During the second year of AGALI, PHI strengthened the capacity of 18 leaders and their institutions to respond to adolescent girls' needs in Africa, and funded six Institutional Advocacy Strategies with strong potential to improve laws and policies affecting girls. In 2010, PHI also laid the groundwork for successful implementation of the 2011 and 2012 scale-up of the AGALI program to be conducted in Guatemala, Malawi, Liberia, and Ethiopia. The AGALI model is increasing the ability and commitment of established leaders to advocate for adolescent girls' access to economic and educational opportunities, health, and human rights, while simultaneously enhancing adolescent girls' capacity to develop their own solutions to the problems they face.