

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS AND SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN 10–14 YEARS OLDS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

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Photo Credit: Rebecka Lundgren, IRH



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**Institute for
Reproductive Health**
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Search >
INSTITUTE

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Partners

Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH), Search Institute

Purpose

Cross-sectional survey to assess the relationship between developmental assets and sexual & reproductive health (SRH)

Duration

October 2013 - September 2014

Location

Post-conflict Northern Uganda

Participants

Girls and boys aged 10 to 14



ASSETS DEFINED



DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS:

critical supports (*external*) and strengths (*internal*) that young people need to grow up healthy, caring, and productive.”



DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS PROFILE (DAP)

WHAT DAP MEASURES

Asset Categories

Asset-Building Contexts

External Supports

- ✓ Support
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Boundaries & Expectations
- ✓ Constructive Use of Time

Internal Strengths

- ✓ Commitment to Learning
- ✓ Positive Values
- ✓ Social Competencies
- ✓ Positive Identity

- ✓ Personal
- ✓ Social
- ✓ Family
- ✓ School
- ✓ Community

SAMPLE ITEMS FROM THE DAP BY SCALE

Items	Asset scale	Context scale
I seek advice from my parents	<i>Support</i>	Family
I feel safe at school	<i>Empowerment</i>	School
I have neighbors who help watch out for me	<i>Boundaries & Expectations</i>	Community
I am involved in a sport, club, or other group	<i>Constructive Use of Time</i>	Community
I am eager to do well in school and other activities	<i>Commitment to Learning</i>	School
I take responsibility for what I do	<i>Positive Values</i>	Personal
I build friendships with other people	<i>Social Competencies</i>	Social
I am developing a sense of purpose in my life	<i>Positive Identity</i>	Personal

All DAP items are answered on the following scale: Not At All or Rarely, Somewhat or Sometimes, Very or Often, Extremely or Almost Always



SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

SRH INDICATORS



✓ Puberty knowledge



✓ Accurate knowledge about pregnancy risk



✓ Supportive relationships

✓ HIV knowledge

✓ Condom knowledge



✓ Intention to delay sex or use condoms

✓ Ability to access to SRH services



✓ Equitable gender attitudes



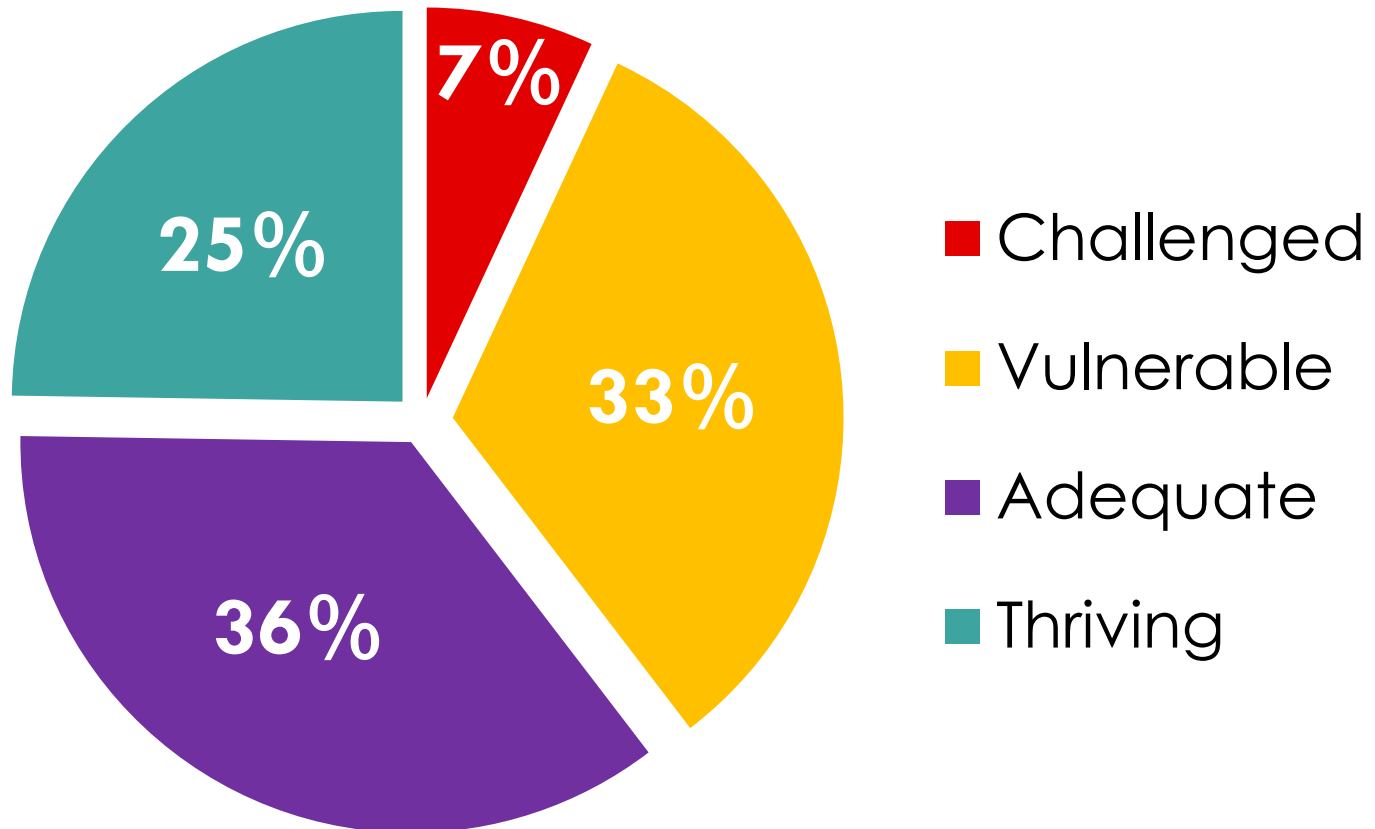
RESULTS

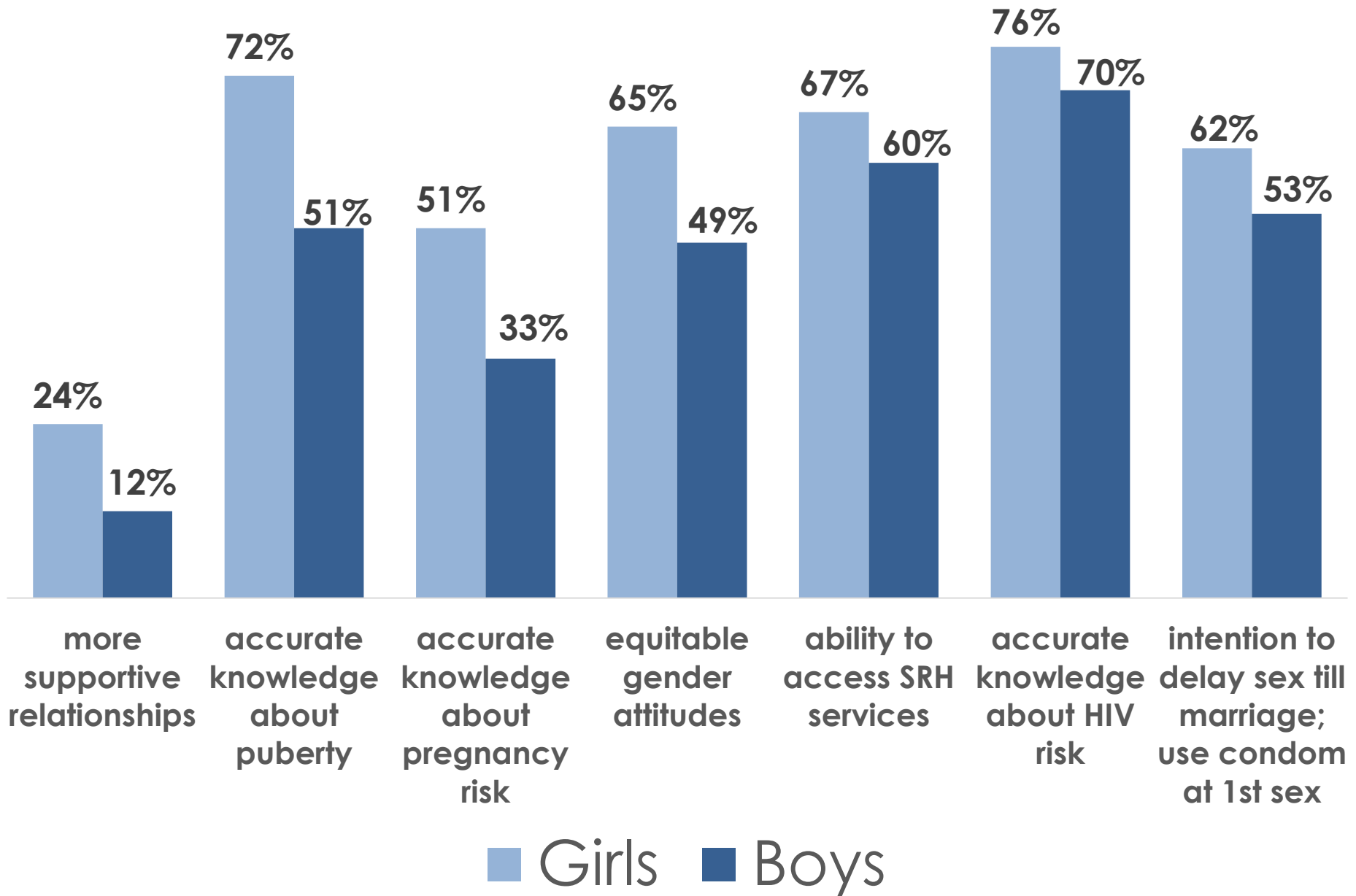
HOW WELL THE SCALES WORK: RELIABILITY & VALIDITY

- ✓ Internal consistency reliabilities measured using Cronbach's alpha
- ✓ Most DAP subscales are either at acceptable (.70 or higher) or promising (.60-.69) levels
- ✓ Significant correlation of asset scales with SRH outcomes as hypothesized supports the DAP's validity.

MOST VYA SCORED ON *ADEQUATE LEVEL* OF ASSET SCORES

% Northern Uganda 10-14 year olds, by
Total DAP Score Quartile, n= 941





YOUTH WITH ADEQUATE AND THRIVING LEVELS OF ASSETS:



71% more likely than youth at the *Challenged* or *Vulnerable* asset levels to have accurate HIV knowledge

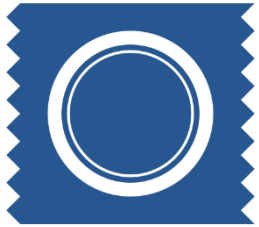


34% more likely than youth at the *Challenged* and *Vulnerable* asset levels to believe they can access SRH services



98% more likely to intend to delay sex until marriage or use condoms

YOUTH WITH THRIVING ASSETS (HIGHEST LEVEL)



57% more likely than all other youth to have accurate condom knowledge



87% more likely to have accurate HIV knowledge



Girls **78%** more likely and boys **2x** as likely as all other youth to have supportive relationships

PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS



- ✓ **Address the vulnerabilities of boys as well as girls** in order to achieve SRH goals.
- ✓ **Improve parents' ability to support** their children; set & monitor appropriate boundaries
- ✓ **Engage communities & encourage youth involvement** in community service & action
- ✓ **Provide youth skill development opportunities**
- ✓ **Establish links with caring adults**